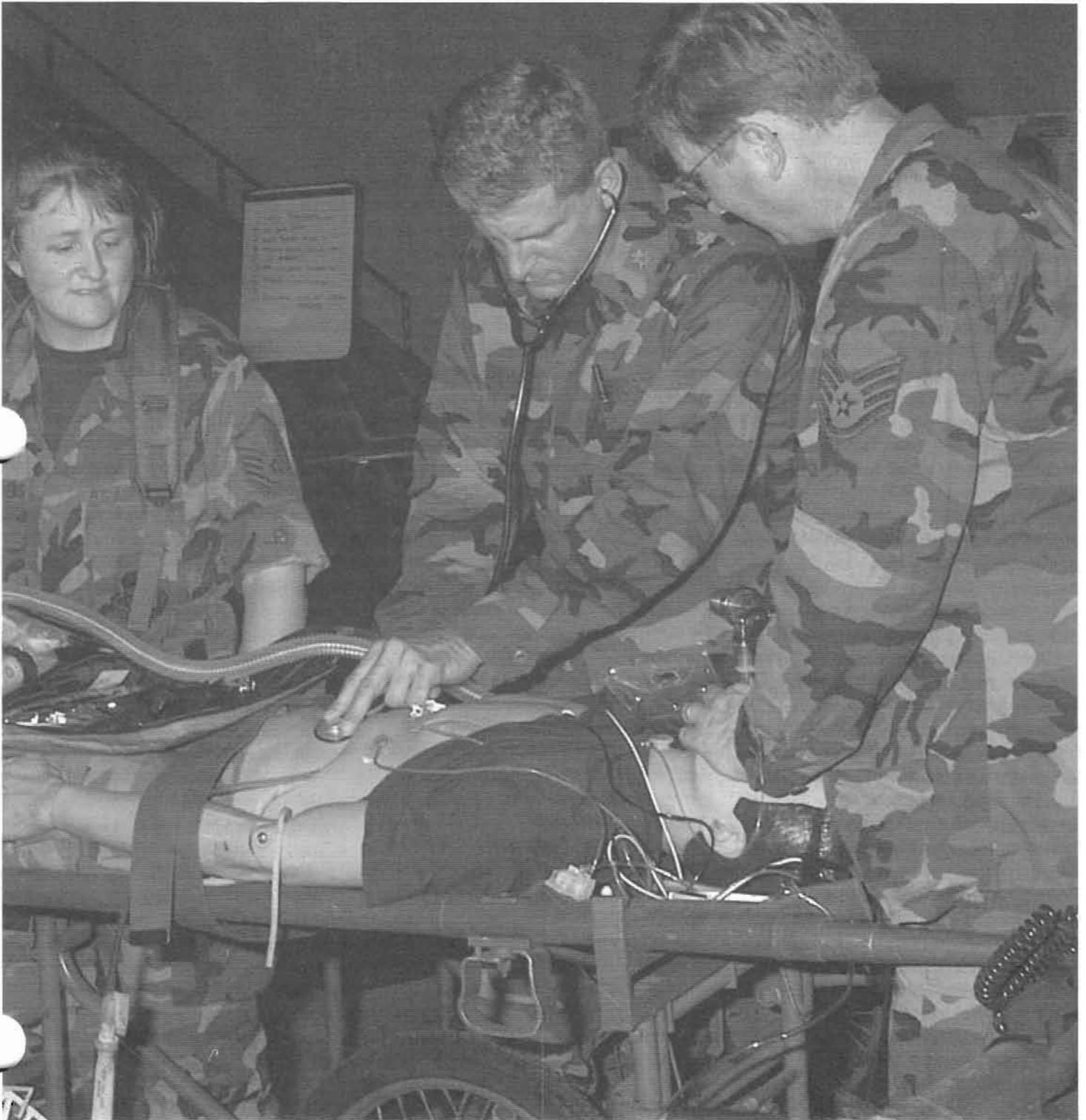


VIKING FLYER



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September 2001

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



President nominates new military leaders



Calling Air Force **Gen. Richard B. Myers** a man of "steady resolve and determined leadership," President George W. Bush tapped the Kansas native to be the next chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference in Texas on Aug. 24.

If confirmed by the Senate, Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton as the top uniformed officer in the U.S. military, and become the first Air Force officer to hold that post since Gen. David Jones (1978-1982).

Bush, speaking before reporters at his ranch near Crawford, Texas, called Myers "the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future. His is a skilled and steady hand."

Secretary of the Air Force James Roche spoke confidently of the general's qualifications for the job at hand.

"I am extremely proud that President Bush has decided to nominate General Richard Myers to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Roche said.

"His long service to our country and extensive knowledge and broad range of experience of command in important geographic and regional assignments will ably serve the president and Secretary Rumsfeld as we proceed into a new era.

"The entire Air Force is proud to have one of our own nominated to this high position of trust and responsibility representing all our men and women in uniform," Roche said. "Should he be confirmed, I look forward to serving with him as we ensure our armed forces remain the best in the world."

Myers is a 1965 graduate of Kansas State University and a veteran of the Vietnam War with more than 600 combat flying hours.

He said he is ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work, building the kind of military envisioned by Bush — one that will meet "current obligations and emerging threats."

"If confirmed," Myers said, "I very much look forward to remaining part of this terrific defense team, captained by a dedicated and principled secretary of defense."

Myers joined the Air Force in June 1965 and has seen a variety of assignments, ranging from squadron and wing commander to inspector general.

Before taking the position of vice chairman of the JCS, he served as commander in chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and commander of U.S. Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



Bush also nominated Marine Corps **Gen. Peter Pace**, currently commander of U.S. Southern Command, to become vice chairman, replacing Myers, who has held that position since

March 2000.

Pace would be the first Marine to serve as vice chairman.

He currently commands U.S. Southern Command in Miami, and is a former deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan.

President Bush announced July 16 his nomination of Gen. John P. Jumper to become chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Jumper is currently the commander of Air Combat Command.

"I am deeply honored to have been nominated to serve as the next chief of



President Bush announced July 16 his nomination of Gen. John P. Jumper to become chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. Currently the commander of Air Combat Command, he will succeed Gen. Mike Ryan, who is retiring.

staff of the greatest Air Force in the world," he said.

"This is an exciting time in our Air Force's history and I look forward to this opportunity as we chart the course for the future.

"General Mike Ryan has maintained the highest standards of service to our nation, and I will do my very best to sustain those standards, expand the vision and ensure that, in the air and in space, 'no one comes close' to America's Air Force."

Jumper joined the U.S. Air Force in 1966 and has commanded a fighter squadron, two fighter wings and a numbered air force.

The general also served in the Pentagon as deputy chief of staff for air and space operations, as the senior military assistant to two secretaries of defense and as special assistant to the chief of staff for roles and missions.

The general is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, mostly in fighter aircraft.

Air Force, Reserve leadership positions change



President Bush nominated Air Force **Gen. John W. Handy** to be the next commander-in-chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mobility Command it was announced in Washington Aug. 6.

If confirmed by the Senate, Handy will succeed Air Force Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson. General Handy is currently the U.S. Air Force vice chief of staff.

General Handy holds a bachelor's degree from Methodist College and a master's degree from the University of Southern California.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,800 hours flown. He has flown the C-130, C-7A, C-141, C-9, KC-10 and C-17.



Command of the 934th Airlift Wing's wartime numbered air force changed in late July.

Maj. Gen. John D. Becker assumed command of 15th Air Force,

replacing Lt. Gen. Walter S. Hogle Jr., who retired.

Becker entered the Air Force in 1970 through the ROTC program.

The general's first assignment was undergraduate pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas.

He has served at command level assignments in aircraft, aeromedical airlift and multiple wing level command positions.

Additionally, Becker was assigned as the executive officer to the commander in chief of USTRANSCOM and commander of AMC at Scott.

In 1998 Becker was assigned to Scott as Inspector General at AMC then in 1999 Becker assumed command of the Tanker Airlift Control Center.



A former staff director is returning to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to serve as vice commander.

Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., director of mobilization and reserve component affairs for U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, will start overseeing the day-to-day operation of the command Jan. 1, 2002.

He will serve in active-duty status and will replace **Maj. Gen. David R. Smith**, who will retire effective Dec. 31.

"Major General Batbie brings a tremendous wealth of experience with his assignment as our vice commander," said Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander.

"His record of excellence speaks for itself. His leadership and in-depth understanding of how our forces can best serve to support Air Force and joint commander requirements will be key to our future successes.

"Major General Smith has served this command in an outstanding fashion in every assignment he has held. His dedication to service and deep caring for his assigned personnel are superb attributes that everyone should aspire to achieve."

Batbie has been advising and assisting the commander in chief of EUCOM since May 2000 in the employment of reserve component forces in joint operations throughout the unified command. He was director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC from June 1994 until September 1998, when he became commander of 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The next vice commander of AFRC joined the U.S. Army in 1966 as an armor officer and then served as a helicopter pilot before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1972.

Smith has been the AFRC vice commander since January 1998 and served as commander of AFRC from

June 1998 to September 1998 when Sherrard's appointment to the job awaited Senate confirmation. (AFRC News Service)

Command of Air Force Reserve Command flying units in Delaware, Florida, Indiana and New Jersey will change hands effective Oct. 7.

Brig. Gen. Peter K. Sullivan, commander of the 512th Airlift Wing, Dover AFB, Del., will replace **Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Joniec** as commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, Ind.

Joniec will transfer to McGuire AFB, N.J., to replace **Brig. Gen. Scott R. Nichols** as commander of the 514th Air Mobility Wing, and Nichols will remain at McGuire to become mobilization assistant to the commander of 21st Air Force.

Col. Bruce E. Davis, commander of the 920th Rescue Group, Patrick AFB, Fla., will assume command of Dover's 512th AW.

Lt. Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, commander of the 914th Operations Group, Niagara Falls IAP Air Reserve Station, N.Y., will command Patrick's 920th RQG. (AFRC News Service)

Several key positions within the 934th Airlift Wing have changed over the past several weeks.

Col. Mark Arnold has become the 934th AW vice commander, replacing **Col. Ron Weight**, who retired last year. Arnold was formerly the 934th Operations Group commander.

Lt. Col. Reinhard Schmidt has become the 934th OG commander. He was formerly the 96th Airlift Squadron's operations officer.

Lt. Col. Michael Hutner has become the new 934th OG deputy commander. He replaces **Lt. Col. Steve Chapman**, who moved in June to Youngstown, Ohio as the 910th Operations group commander.

Maj. Jay Pittman has become the new 96th AS operations officer, replacing Schmidt.

Viking Flyer

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UTA Schedule

Oct. 13-14

Nov. 3-4

Dec. 1-2

Jan. 5-6

Feb. 2-3

Mar. 2-3

Apr. 6-7

May 4-5

June 1-2

July 13-14

Wing celebrates Air Force birthday

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

The Air Force's 54th birthday will be one of the events the 934th Airlift Wing will be celebrating at this year's annual social event, the Military Ball, during the September unit training assembly.

The Air Force has a well-documented and colorful past, but I wondered how many reservists are as familiar with the Air Force Reserve history.

The Air Force Reserve can trace its formal roots all the way back to the National Defense Act of 1916.

The Act stated, in part, "The Army of the United States shall consist of the Regular Army, the National Guard of the United States, the National Guard while in the service of the United States, the Officer's Reserve Corps, the Organized Reserves, and the Enlisted Reserve Corps."

It seems that, throughout history, the Guard and the Reserve have always had their trials and tribulations and a healthy sense of rivalry.

The Dick Act of 1903 confirmed the National Guard as the nation's organized militia.

It wasn't until 1947 and 1949 that legislation established the two as equal components of the Air Force.

In 1949, Lt. Gen. Elwood R. "Pete" Quesada, the special assistant for reserve affairs at Headquarters Air Force, attempted to merge the Air Guard and the Air Force Reserve into a

single Federal Reserve component.

The opposition of the Reserve Officers Association and the National Guard was so verbal that Congress not only rejected the idea but also established the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve as legal components of the Air Force.

Since its establishment, first as part of the Army and then as part of the Air Force, the Reserves have been indispensable.

During the Korean War, 146,000 Air Force Reservists and 46,000 Air National Guardsmen were called to active duty.

The Secretary of War, Thomas K. Finletter, said, "We would not have been able to do the job we were ordered to do by the President if we had not used the Reserves."

Of course, countless leaders when describing the Reserves' contributions during Vietnam and the Gulf War expressed similar sentiments.

As a matter of fact, the Gulf War was a big turning point in the way the Reserves were utilized.

It was the first time that the Air Force Reserve was placed in combat prior to the Active Duty and also the first time that Reserve officers were put in charge of subordinate active duty squadrons.

L. C. Lingelbach, as Director of Civilian Personnel, conceived the Air Reserve Technician (ART) program in



early 1954. It was in response to the Air Force's desire to have some full time personnel staffing the Reserve units.

Air Force leadership rejected the concept of Active Duty personnel doing the job because "military personnel should not enjoy indefinite exemption from overseas service, nor be granted what amounts to indefinite tenure at any location." It took several years for the program to be enacted and finally on Jan 10, 1958 the first two Air Reserve Technicians were sworn in.

In today's world the Reserve is not only needed in wartime but is absolutely essential for the completion of daily operational mission throughout the World.

There is much we can be proud of; our past, our current contributions, as well as our future capabilities.

As we celebrate remember your contributions, as well as the sacrifices of your families and employers. Without this team effort our country would be dangerously weaker and vulnerable to defined and undefined threats.

If you have a desire to learn more about the history of the Air Force Reserve, I highly recommend that you read *Citizen Airmen* by Gerald T. Cantwell.

I urge each and every one of you to continue to be the professional and safe force that the country has always recognized as the Air Force Reserve.

Person on the street

What do you like most about Family Day?



"Getting to meet everyone's families. The weekend is a nice change of pace."

Amn. Paul Kraft
934th Mission Support Flight



"Bringing in my family and letting them see what it is I do here and where I disappear to."

Staff Sgt. Wendy Albee
934th Civil Engineering Squadron



"Seeing families come out and being able to show my kids what I do and where I work when I am away from them."

Tech. Sgt. Lynette Petsinger
96th Airlift Squadron



"It's an easy going UTA day."

Maj. Tom Hansen
96th Airlift Squadron



"The annual car show so I can display my 1969 Dodge Charger R/T."

Master Sgt. Bob Schabacker
934th Civil Engineering Squadron



"It gives my family a chance to experience some of the situations that I encounter and meet the people I see and interact with."

Tech. Sgt. Chris Rieland
96th Airlift Squadron



"I am able to bring my husband; he can see where I work, meet my co-workers and be a part of my life out here."

Maj. Kelly Shawback
934th Support Group



"It's a good opportunity to meet other people's families."

Master Sgt. Rosemary O'Neal
934th Operations Support Flight

Promising skies ahead for our Air Force because of you

WASHINGTON —
EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a message from

outgoing Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan. He is scheduled to retire Oct

1 and sends the following farewell message:

"From my perch, as I wrap-up my final tour, I see promising skies ahead for our Air Force...and it's because of you and your efforts.

"Despite tight budgets, you've arrested a stubborn four-year readiness decline. You've made our transition to an expeditionary aerospace force work, enhancing stability in the lives of Air Force members everywhere.

"Your direct feedback helped win Congressional support for many of our retention initiatives and the reestablishment of a full-benefit retirement system. Your voices have been heard and answered with across the board pay raises and targeted bonuses.

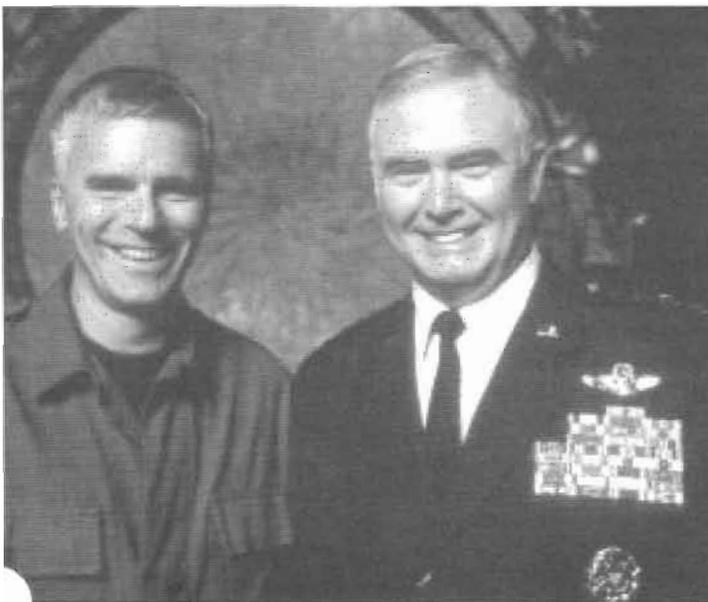
"You have made the

personal choices to continue serving our nation, ensuring we're ready to protect America's interests around the world.

"Your choices, your efforts, your dedication, your sacrifices continue to build the premier aerospace power this world has ever known. My family and I have been proud to serve with you.

"As General (John P.) Jumper assumes the office, he brings the deepest commitment to continued improvements in capability and quality of life for all our people. Together, he and Secretary (Dr. James G.) Roche, will provide superb leadership for America's Air Force in the years ahead.

"Thank you for your selfless service."



During his tenure as Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Michael E. Ryan (right) appeared as himself in an episode of "Stargate SG-1," which stars Richard Dean Anderson (left) (Courtesy photo)

SGLI coverage extends to family members Nov. 1

Air Force WASHINGTON — The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will be extended to provide coverage to family members beginning Nov. 1. The government has always had an excellent estate program to protect family members in case of a servicemember's death, said Maj. Jeffrey T. Keef, chief of Air Force military estate and special pays policy at the Pentagon.

However, little has been available to provide the military member financial protection in the event of a family member's death.

Under the new provisions, spouses and children will be automatically covered if the military member is an SGLI participant, Keef said. The member will have the option to decline spouse coverage if submitted in writing.

The maximum automatic coverage is \$100,000 for a member's spouse, and any lesser amount must be evenly divisible by \$10,000, Keef said.

However, the amount of coverage of a member's spouse cannot exceed the amount of coverage of the insuring member.

Premiums for spouse coverage will be charged based on the spouses's age and will range from 9 cents to 55 cents per \$1,000 of coverage.

For example, \$100,000 of coverage could be obtained on a spouse younger than 35 for \$9 per month.

There is also a policy conversion option for the insured spouse after loss of eligibility for SGLI, he said.

Children will be covered automatically for \$10,000, and no premiums will be charged the member, Keef said. In cases where both parents are eligible SGLI participants, the child may not be insured by more than one member.

In the event of a family member's death, any insurance in effect will be paid to the insuring member.

If the member passes away before payment can be made, then the amount

will go to the people named as the member's beneficiaries.

"The Air Force sees this as a good deal for its members," Keef said.

"By allowing members who have elected coverage only under SGLI to opt for family member coverage, we are putting them on equal ground with civilians who might obtain family coverage as a rider to their master civilian life insurance policies.

This relieves our members from having to seek out more than one provider in order to acquire coverage for the entire family."

Military personnel flights can expect to receive detailed implementing instructions in September. (Air Force Print News)

Tuition assistance to increase, include master's degree program

Air Force Reserve ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Air Force Reserve Command will increase the maximum amount of assistance and level of course work offered through its Tuition Assistance Program starting Oct. 1.

The maximum aid reservists may receive annually will climb from \$2,500 to \$3,500, and the program will expand studies from a bachelor's degree up to a master's degree.

The changes are part of the Reserve's ongoing effort to attract recruits and bolster retention.

Unit reservists can learn more about the eligibility requirements and program features from the education and training office. (AFRC News Service)

Reserves looking for active duty retirees

The Air Force Reserve is offering active-duty military retirees the opportunity to return to military service. The National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act for FY2001 added Section 12741 to Chapter 1223, Title 10 USC, which permits retired active-component service members who later serve in the Air Force Reserve to elect retirement as members of the retired reserve.

In addition to helping Air Force Reserve Command fill a critical need, active-duty retirees will receive several benefits for continued military service as reservists.

Applicants may apply for the Air Reserve Technician, Traditional Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee or Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Programs.

Air Force retirees who opt to join the Air Force Reserve do not have to meet the requirement of the last six or eight years of reserve affiliation in order to qualify for reserve retirement, according to Reserve recruiting officials. The law specifically excludes that requirement.

Applicants must be fully qualified in the Air Force Specialty Code required, they said. Cross training may be authorized, if in the best interest of the Reserve.

Additionally they must be physically qualified.

The High Year Tenure rule of 33 years total active federal military service does apply.

All individual cases will be reviewed by an Air Force Reserve recruiter for actual eligibility criteria.

Individuals will still retain retiree medical and dental benefits.

Interested people who believe they qualify for the program may contact the Recruiting at (612) 713-5627.

Military TSP enrollments start Oct. 9 for reservists

WASHINGTON — Service members starting Oct. 9 can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available

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nly to federal civilian employees.

The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002.

Persons who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January 2002.

Persons who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site, <http://www.tsp.gov>, or can be obtained at local military finance offices.

Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 6.74 percent.

The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 7.87 percent — and 12.78 percent in the past 12 months ending July 31.



Duluth Mayor Gary L. Doty (left) and 934th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Dean J. Despinoy (right) unveil the "City of Duluth" during ceremonies several weeks ago. This is the sixth C-130 Hercules in the wing's fleet to be named after a Minnesota city (Photo by Al Eakle)

The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 17.43 percent, but it has reported a 14.3 percent loss in the past 12 months ending July 31.

The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund. The I Fund is its international stock index fund. Both funds opened in May, so neither has a long-term track record.

Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the U.S. government against loss. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds — but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the 7 percent limit in 2002. The limit increases by 1 percent per year until 2005, after which contributions will be limited by Internal Revenue Code guidelines.

Members may also elect to contribute any amount of incentive pay or special pay, to include bonus pay.

Like civilian workers covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System, service members generally will not receive TSP matching funds from the government.

Strict rules apply to service members' withdrawal of funds from TSP accounts before they retire.

Federal and state income taxes on investments and earnings are deferred so long as the money stays in the TSP account. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, and early withdrawals are penalized under some circumstances.

Military members who already have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an entirely separate, second TSP account.

The 47-page booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" and other information on military participation in TSP can be found on the Web at www.tsp.gov. The booklet requires the free Adobe Acrobat reader to view.

Huge crowd turns out for Military Expo



Flightsuit Frannie gets a big hug from a young visitor.

**By Senior Amn. Stephanie Witty
Staff Writer**

A great deal of effort went into putting together this year's Military Expo, and that effort paid off as record crowds attended the two-day event on the Air Reserve Station July 28-29.

"The main purpose of an Air Expo is to let the public know that we are here and what we do," said Col. Dean Despinoy, 934th Airlift Wing commander.

"We want them to have a greater understanding of the Air Force, because in order for us to be effective we need their support."

About 50,000 people attended this year's event and had a chance to see not only what the 934th Airlift Wing has to offer, but other Air Force and Navy units as well.

The flightline was filled with many aircraft including the B-1 Lancer, B-52 Stratofortress, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, the F-18 Hornet, the HH-60 Pavehawk helicopter, the T-37 Tweet, the KC-10 Extender, several World War II-era aircraft from the Confederate Air Force, and a few of the wing's C-130 Hercules.

In addition to the aircraft displays there were several squadron booths.

The "Redman" was making an

appearance for the security forces squadron, demonstrating several security forces techniques.

Security forces also offered fingerprinting fun to more than 600 people.

Others offering displays included the 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, 27th Aerial Post Squadron, 934th Services Squadron, and the Air Force Reserve recruiters.

Recruiting plays a very big part of the military expo.

"It is an incredible recruiting tool, but has to be looked at long term," said Colonel Despinoy. "Young men and women coming out will remember this when making future decisions, we want them to be impressed."

"This Expo was superior due to higher attendance, and higher participation from military members, said Col. Paul Groskreutz, 934th Support Group commander and this year's project officer. "We achieved all goals in providing a better product, about what Air Force aviation is and what it does."

The project officer also offered special thanks to the medical staff from the Naval Reserve's Fleet Hospital. They volunteered their time and efforts to make sure that everyone had a great

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**Photos by
Senior Amn. Stephanie Witty,
Senior Amn. Nick Olson
and
Airman 1st Class Chris Guthrie**



A future recruit gets a taste of the job from a Naval Reserve firefighter.

Military Expo.....

Continued from Page 8

day and did so safely.

The medical staff treated only bumps and bruises, according to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Kim Lesandrini and Storekeeper 2nd Class Jennifer Greenside.

"I very much appreciate the hard work it takes to do this," said Colonel Despinoy. "I just want to thank everybody involved, for without their efforts we couldn't do something like this."



Master Sgt. Russ Carnes from the 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, explains some of the equipment used by the base's firefighters.



Master Sgt. Dave Hardy from the 934th Security Forces Squadron lets a young visitor hit a practice bag during a Raven demonstration.



A future aircrew member tries on flying gear.

Medics refine skills during Northern Eagle exercise

Two 934th Airlift Wing units were among the participants in a tri-service medical exercise in late July, nicknamed Northern Eagle.

The 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron joined with the Minnesota Air Guard's 109th AES and interfaced with Army Reserve medics to participate in the three-day exercise.

It is the third year-in-a-row that 934th medical units have participated in the exercise with their Air Guard and Army Reserve counterparts.

The readiness exercise enabled the 934th AES and 109th AES to receive Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection credit, a first for both units.

For the 934th ASTS, it afforded newer members of the unit an opportunity to practice their Aeromedical Staging Facility mission, and support the two AES' during their EORI.

More than 80 people from both 934th units were involved in the exercise, which took place on the base and at Ft. McCoy, Wis.

The two AES' provided half the people of an aeromedical evacuation operations team and three aeromedical evacuation crews (flight nurses and aeromedical technicians). They formed one combined AES.

The 934th ASTS, in their support role, established a staging facility to provide basic care, administrative support, and transportation for patients entering or exiting the aeromedical evacuation system.

Using a Southwest Asia scenario, exercise participants also participated in various Ability to Survive and Operate activities. These included: personal protective measures; personal decontamination; responses before, during and after an attack; and ensuring continuity of mission performance.

The 934th AES supported two aeromedical missions which evacuated a number of patients.

For the 934th ASTS, the emphasis was training for specific UTCs and Air Force Specialty Codes. It involved primarily doctors, nurses, medical

technicians, administrative staff, dietary and logistic people.

A team from Headquarters Air Mobility Command evaluated the exercise.

"Overall, the 934th AES passed with flying colors," said Maj. Dan Anderson, 934th AES medical administrative officer.

"We received very favorable comments on command and control and medical care provided by the crews."

The 934th ASTS used this opportunity to train their newer folks in their wartime mission.

"We had long days, but feedback from our folks was that they had some good training," said Maj. Barb Schacht, director of medical readiness training.

"We received some great support from the 934th Security Forces Squadron, who provided night operations land navigation training."



On the cover

The team of Master Sgt. Theresa Diamond-Powers, Dr. (Maj.) Gary Peitzmeier, and Staff Sgt. John Atchley, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, practice doing an assessment on a critically injured patient, in this case a mannequin, during exercise Northern Eagle. The 934th ASTS and 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron joined forces with the Minnesota Air Guard's 109th AES and interfaced with Army Reserve medics to participate in the three-day exercise. (Courtesy photo)

Local

First Sgt. position available

The 934th Services Squadron has a new first sergeant position and is looking for someone to fill the job, according to the squadron commander.

"The position is a master sergeant slot," said Maj. Scott Calvert, squadron commander. "Tech sergeants eligible for promotion to master sergeant are eligible to apply. They must be promoted to master prior to attending the Air Force Reserve Command First Sergeant Academy.

Minimum eligibility requirements for the position are in Air Force Instruction 36-2113, chapter 11 specifically addresses AFRC.

The individual selected must agree to attend the AFRC First Sergeant Academy within one year from the date of appointment. Additionally, applicants must have completed a Command NCO Academy, either in residence or by correspondence.

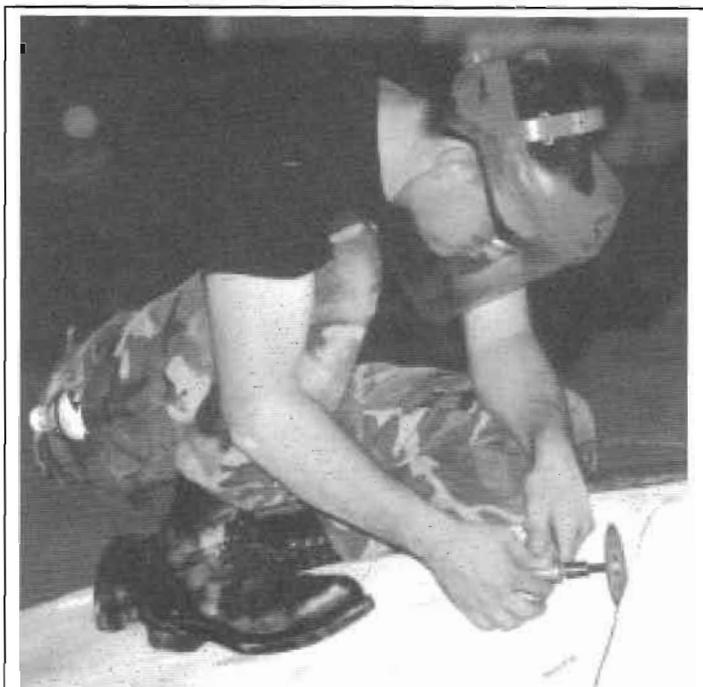
Resumes should be in to me by the close of business on Oct. 14," said Major Calvert. "The board will conduct interviews during the November UTA."

Flying jobs open

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing desiring to take to the skies as a pilot or navigators can do so, provided they have a bachelors degree and meet

several criteria, according to Air Force Reserve recruiters.

"Several changes have occurred in the criteria which



Staff Sgt. Larry Record from the 445th Combat Logistics Support Squadron cuts a seam on a C-130E Hercules cockpit section, which was removed from an aircraft at the "boneyard" in Arizona. Wing personnel are rebuilding the section into a traveling exhibit. (Photo by Al Eakle)

will allow more people to apply," said Senior Master Larry Giles, senior recruiter.

"Applicants for either UPT (Undergraduate Pilot Training) or UNT (Undergraduate Navigator Training) can now apply up to age 29, and must be in training by age 30.

"Another change," he said, "is applicants do not have to have 20/20 vision to qualify for UPT."

Individuals interested in applying should contact Recruiting at (612) 713-5627, or Master Sgt. Mike Ginapp in Career Enhancement at (612) 713-1509.

IGX training available during Sept., Oct. UTAs

Unit training schedulers are scheduling one-day training sessions during the September and October UTA for those individuals partici-

pating in the upcoming IGX.

Classes will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be held in Bldg. 852, room 206.

Individuals should report to training in either BDUs or flightsuits with the TQT bags, AFMAN 10-100 and AFH 32-4014.

Retirees Appreciation Day set for Sept. 21-22

The Twin Cities Air Force Retirees Office, along with the Army Retiree Office and Navy Retiree Activity Office are sponsoring their annual Retiree Appreciation Days Sept. 21 and 22 in the Fort Snelling Historical Site auditorium.

Activities run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the same agenda each day.

A number of speakers and agencies will be available to answer questions from

attendees, officials said.

Among them are Minnesota Veterans Affairs, Department of Veteran Affairs, Tricare Retiree Dental Plan, and Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

The keynote speaker will address the Tricare for Life Program, which begins Oct. 1.

The program is open to all military retirees, spouses and surviving spouses from all branches of the service: active duty, Guard and Reserve.

Seating is limited to 300 people each day, and officials recommend reservations.

For more information, contact either: retired Lt. Col. Lloyd Ward at (952) 854-4110; retired Capt. Will Phillipson at (651) 653-1287; retired Cmdr. Richard Rohleder at (651) 681-9094; retired Lt. James Wright at (952) 890-1449; or retired Command Sgt. Maj. Owen Hefner at (507) 263-2096.

Vets honor POW-MIAs during events Sept. 19

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1350 is inviting everyone to participate in a candlelight march and memorial for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action on Sept 19 in North St. Paul.

The line-up begins in front of the VFW post, located at 2483 E. 7th Ave in North Saint Paul and starts at 6:30 p.m., organizers said.

For more details contact Howie Lentsch at (651) 770-5883, Duane Tewinkl at (651) 578-1322 or Dorothy Peterson at (651) 464-4796.

Promotions

To Senior Master Sergeant

- **Stephen Kozlowski**, 934th Maintenance Squadron

To Master Sergeant

- **Thomas R. Hanley**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Douglas A. Johnson**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- **John P. Kopka**, 934th Operations Support Flight
- **John L. Parenteau**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **John J. Steffen**, 934th Services Squadron

To Technical Sergeant

- **Duane J. Bauer**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Robert E. Benson**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **James E. Cullum**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Carl A. DeWaard**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Randy M. Gottschalk**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Douglas A. James**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Scott Johnston**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Laura M. Kruse**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Glenn A. Lemmerman**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Donald J. Paserba**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Zane A. Ranum**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Richard Rowcliffe**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Max B. Sornoza**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Michael Thrasher**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- **Janice M. Wills**, 934th Airlift Wing

To Staff Sergeant

- **Jovan N. Birkhofer**, 934th Airlift Wing
- **Aaron D. Fisher**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Jennifer Klitchko**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Jordan V. Marcy**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Barbara L. Ostler**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Kristina M. Puffer**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

To Senior Airman

- **Ryan M. Burns**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
 - **David A. Dachs Jr.**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
 - **Daniel A. Dlugiewicz**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
 - **Mark E. Krause**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
 - **Rae Strong**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
 - **Stephanie Wilhelmi**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- The following officers were selected for promotion to captain:
- **Scott A. Brady**, 96th Airlift Squadron
 - **Angela T. Jones**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
 - **Lisa M. Marentic**, 934th Aeromedical



Air Force Reserve recruiter Tech. Sgt. Jim Fritzen watches as kids toss a coin into a cup in hopes of winning an Air Force Reserve T-shirt. Local recruiters were on-hand at an airshow in Duluth recently to provide information about the Air Force Reserve. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Cooling)

Evacuation Squadron

- **Caroline C. Campbell**, 96th Airlift Squadron
 - **Gail A. Gregor**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
 - **David Bloomquist**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- The following officers were selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel:
- **David J. Gerken**, 934th Operations Support Flight
 - **Michael J. Bladel**, 934th Operations Group
 - **Donald R. Fleischmann**, 96th Airlift Squadron
 - **Thomas E. Robinson**, 96th Airlift Squadron
 - **Michael S. Maza**, 934th Mission Support Flight
 - **Carl G. Lindberg**, 934th Airlift Wing
 - **Robert B. Ross**, 96th Airlift Squadron
 - **Lori A. Boyle**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

- **Capt. Brian D. Haugen**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **1st Lt. David W. Bloomquist**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Chief Master Sgt. David Chapman**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Senior Master Sgt. Donald B. Kimble**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Senior Master Sgt. Randy H. Polansky**, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Scott D. Mundy**, 934th Maintenance Squadron

Air Force Achievement Medal

- **Maj. Kelly R. Shawback**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Master Sgt. Sandra F. Dudley**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Tech. Sgt. Eric R. Baumer**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Airman 1st Class Debra L. Dahlberg**, 934th Mission Support Flight

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

- **Maj. Mark J. Montee**, 934th Airlift Wing; (second Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Col. Mark A. Arnold**, 934th Airlift Wing; (first Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Master Sgt. Michael J. Doffing**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Timothy P. Jackson**, 934th Maintenance Squadron

Air Force Commendation Medal

- **Maj. David R. Mattson**, 934th Logistic Support Squadron; (second Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Tech. Sgt. Samuel W. Baty**, 934th Maintenance Squadron; (second Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Tech. Sgt. Diane N. Johnson**, 934th Maintenance Squadron; (second Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Capt. Carol J. Bentley**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron; (first Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey D. Gustafson**, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron; (first Oak Leaf Cluster)

Newcomers

- **Maj. Jack H. Pittman**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Maj. Scot J. Wesolaski**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Capt. Mark B. Thorsted**, 934th Airlift Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Melbourne Roberts**, 934th Airlift Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Paul Salkowski**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Mark D. Totino**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Troy M. Dahl**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Nathan R. Dillner**, 934th Airlift Wing
- **Staff Sgt. David A. Gibson**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron

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Newcomers

- **Staff Sgt. Scott R. Kubacki**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Barry L. Reicher**, 934th Operations Support Flight
- **Senior Amn. Jessica Alioto**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Christopher T. Avildsen**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Senior Amn. James E.P. Burmeister**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Terrence Countryman**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Ryan Dunphy**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Matthew J. Griffin**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Tyrell J. Hoyer**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Dustin W. Hunstiger**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Brett M. Huber**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Christopher T. Jack**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Dustin G. Kruger**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Erik R. Merritt**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Chad M. Oswalt**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Rick A. Schelhass**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Anthony J. Taylor**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Jesse W. Werner**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Stephanie Witty**, 934th Airlift Wing
- **Airman 1st Class Martin Roy Arceo**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Airman 1st Class Jesse Barton**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Ryan R. Christopherson**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class James C. Dorsey**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Derrick M. Girard**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Kevin D. Hegner**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Laishun Mak**, 934th

- Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Brandon A. Schrader**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Amn. Scott V. Dusterhoft**, 934th Airlift Wing
- **Andrew J. Anderson**, plans
- **James N. Erickson**, aircraft maintenance
- **William W. Frederick**, fuels
- **Clarence D. Garrison**, civilian personnel
- **Robin D. George**, communications
- **Christopher T. Jack**, security forces
- **Kathie K. King**, communications
- **Brian G. Lundebly**, security forces
- **Nanette K. Maglinao**, operations
- **Tyrone R. Sharpe**, security forces
- **Jessica A. Tuttle**, military personnel
- **Tak M. Wong**, public affairs

- Maintenance Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Tara L. Venem**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Jesse W. White**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Jovan N. Birkhofer**, 934th Airlift Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Gregory D. McGowan**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Jill M. Sheppard**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Patrick E. Sommer**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron

Reenlistments

- **Senior Master Sgt. Robert A. Behnken**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Master Sgt. Bruce E. Heuer**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Sherri L. Kennedy**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Conrad M. Kluck**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Lee D. Nupson**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Master Sgt. John D. West**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Susan M. Bathurst**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Leonard J. Hubbard**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Sandra P. Regner**, 934th

Retirements

- **Master Sgt. Michael J. Doffing**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Harold J. Gentz**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron
- **Master Sgt. John H. Hoffman**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Timothy P. Jackson**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Robert G. Jacobson**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Master Sgt. Edward D. Johnson**, 934th Communications Flight
- **Master Sgt. Ronald J. Knutson**, 934th Services Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Brian C. Lloyd**, 934th Services Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Timothy L. Mikesch**, 934th Communications Flight
- **Tech. Sgt. Scott D. Mundy**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Manuel J. Soto**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Anthony J. Zacheretti**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron

Online subscription

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 _____

Wing roundup

934th CF

A retirement ceremony was held for **Master Sgt. Ed Johnson** during the July UTA.

Senior Amn. John Herrick, a member of the base honor guard, participated in the Eagan 4th of July parade.

Six members of the squadron trained and made final preparations for an upcoming IGX.

Staff Sgt. Stephanie

Robinson was an honor graduate of the basic photography technical school.

The flight welcomed **Staff Sgts. Charles Schuppan** and **Ryan Schwieger**, and **Senior Amn. Curt Richter**.

Submitted by Senior Amn. Chris Krug, unit public affairs representative, (612)-713-1626.

934th CES

Staff Sgt. Jason

Holm, Equipment, successfully graduated from the most recent Leadership Development Program.

Tech. Sgt. Mike Cleve-

land, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Building 729 project on base that involves several CES work centers, reports that the project is currently 22 percent complete with an estimated completion date of Aug. 2002.

The unit is preparing for the upcoming Air Expeditionary Force deployment for rotations in Nov. through Feb.

The Engineering shop continued site surveying at Camp Katherine Parsons in Watertown last month.

The Readiness shop worked on exercise scenarios last month in preparation for the unit's upcoming bivouac at Camp Ripley in Oct. Work center personnel will be performing as exercise evaluators during the exercise.

The Electrical shop attended a pole climbing class the last two UTAs to remain proficient in their task qualifications. The course was instructed by an NSP instructor with over 39-years of experience.

The Structures shop worked on the roof of bldg. 729, placing down plywood and rubber.

The Power Pro and Equipment



Master Sgt. Curt Nelson and Tech. Sgt. Al McCann from the 934th Maintenance Squadron were among the base volunteers who painted a house under the base's annual Paint-A-Thon program.

shops worked on the installation of cement slabs around different buildings on base.

Fire Department personnel will be deploying to Puerto Rico next month in support of Coronet Oak.

New coins are being designed for the squadron. Once received, they will be a great way for unit members to display their pride.

A new squadron website is being developed by **Tech. Sgt Chris McNamee**. Once the website is up and running it will allow unit members to access unit information to keep updated on UTA events, deployments, updates, etc.

The unit hosted a retiree reunion yesterday at the Fire Barn. It was fun seeing and visiting with past members of the unit and another chance to thank them for their faithful service to our squadron. A squadron-wide picnic was held in their honor.

Staff Sgt. Brian Knutson, HVAC shop, completed his career develop-

ment course.

Senior Amn. Jason Rohman, Fire Dept, upgraded to 5-skill level

Staff Sgt. James Palo, Equipment, upgraded to 7-skill level

Capt. David Ordahl, and his wife, **Tamara**, were the proud parents of a new baby girl when little **Sarah** was born on July 7.

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

The unit is busy preparing for the Hennessy Team visit during the September UTA. The Hennessy Trophy is the Air Force competition for the best dining facility.

The dining hall will be closed for lunch on Sunday during the September UTA.

Submitted by Senior Amn. Kristen Maloney, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1496.

934th SVS

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: Monday from 4-11 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

Sundays: Closed

Mondays: Dining room closed. Lounge open from 4-11 p.m.

Tuesdays: Fresh catch is the special in the dining room.

Wednesdays: Daily special in the dining room.

Thursdays: Daily special in the dining room.

Fridays: Prime rib or lobster special in the dining room.

Saturdays: Prime rib for two in the dining room.

Sept 26: Membership nite buffet. Member only event. Annual meeting at 7 p.m.

NGO Club

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

Lunch: Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 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 June 3 and 17; July 15)

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

Sept 26: Membership nite buffet.



Unit sports representatives are taking signups during the September UTA for a weight lifting competition scheduled during the November UTA. For more details, contact the Fitness Center staff at (612) 713-1496.

Lodging

Lodging rates changed July 1 to \$19.00 for Visiting Airmen Quarters/ Visiting Officer's Quarters and \$27.50 Distinguished Visitor quarters.

Rates will change again Oct 1 to \$23.00 for VAQ/VOQ and \$31.50 for DV quarters.

The North Country Lodge's front desk operations will open at Bldg 707 (new facility) at 3 p.m. Sept. 15. Rooms will not be available in the new facility until on/about Oct 10. Bldgs 711 and 716 will still be used until that time.

All guests should report to Bldg 707 for check in and check out. After hours arrivals will also report to Bldg 707.

Electronic key boxes are located in the lobby of Bldg. 711 for guests who arrive after-hours.

These boxes are programmed with the last four numbers of the guest's social security number.

The guest simply follows the easy step-by-step instructions located near the boxes to retrieve their room key.

They will enter the last four of their ssn and the box will open. They will retrieve their room key from the box and then follow the instructions to close the box.

The key boxes will move to Bldg 707 on Sept. 15.

The grand opening of the new North Country Lodge is scheduled for Oct. 13 at 1030 in front of the new facility, Bldg 707.

Phases I and II will provide an additional 127 guest rooms.

When the entire project is complete (Phases III and IV remain), there will be a total of 307 guest rooms.

Reservations for Bldg 711 will continue to be provided offering 105 guest rooms to include suites, private rooms and shared bath rooms.

Bldg 716 (junior enlisted) will be operational until late October. Bldg 707 offers VQ (Visitors' Quarters) rooms - meaning any grade, any room - except for General Officer Suites.

Fitness

The Fitness Center will be closed on Sunday, Sept. 9 for Family Day.

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.

OWC

The Officers Wives Club is sponsoring a benefit event to raise funds for the Family Support Center on Oct. 18 at the 934th Airlift Wing Officers Club.

A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m.

Sherm Booen, a well-known speaker on Minnesota aviation, will be the guest speaker.

The dinner will cost \$20 per person and is open to everyone.

Additionally, we will accept tax-deductible donations, said an OWC spokesperson, which will be given to the Family Support Center. The facility assists all military personnel in time of need.

Reservations for the dinner can be made by calling Roberta at (763) 494-3597.

Medical support moves toward “one-stop shopping”

Cooperative effort needed to maximize effectiveness during transition from annual periodic physical examinations to new Reserve program

People who are sick and tired of spending a significant part of their drill weekend at the medical clinic having their body poked and prodded in areas that didn't hurt to begin with are not the only one's who feels this way.

The 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron will join other Air Force Reserve Command units when it implements an innovative approach to medical support known as the Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, or PHA for short.

PHA, which starts Oct. 1, is a major shift from the past, according to Master Sgt. Tim Atchley from the 934th ASTS. It provides a more thorough health history assessment evaluation than the previous annual physical, he said, but evaluations focus more on in-depth evaluations when data suggests health problems may arise.

According to Atchley, the old program was clinical in nature, and less focused on prevention.

The PHA focuses on prevention through identification of potential lifestyle related health-risk issues, such as special operational duty exams, suicide risk screening, pre-fitness test screening, and family history indicators.

PHA is a move away from the cycle of clinical exams every five years to a focus on the individual's risk factors to include age, gender, medical history, and military occupation to determine the scope of the assessment.

The sequence of short and long flying physicals for rated officers/NCOs remain essentially unchanged.

The PHA is required every year, with greater ancillary and paraprofessional testing on intervening three-year cycles.

For the two years in between, you will still be required to complete the Reserve Component HRA form to

annotate any changes to your lifestyle/interval health history.

If health problems are not annotated, a clinical exam is not required.

But just when people think they are off the hook, they should be aware that they are subject to an annual dental exam, which the ASTS is incorporating as part of the PHA process.

“We found that during the Persian Gulf War people had chronic dental problems, which were not identified and were difficult to treat in the field,” said Atchley.

The dental staff is now conducting initial exams as part of the PHAs.

A private dental assessment (DD Form 2813) is available on the “W” drive in the ASTS folder, which may be used during the intervening two years when only the HRA is required.

Unit fitness monitors can assist people with obtaining this form.

In addition, each member is required to receive an annual IPPD to evaluate for the presence of tuberculosis.

The goal is also to have the IPPD and all other immunizations due within the next year to be given during the PHA; implementation of this initiative is in progress.

The exceptions will be flu shots, which will be given in the fall and those immunizations with a periodicity of less than one year.

For members receiving occupational exams, such as audiograms or other workplace specific evaluations, these will be conducted at the same time as the annual PHA.

This set of medical requirements makes for a busy annual visit.

The program's success will require the cooperation of each unit member.

PHA's are due in the member's birth month and expire one year later.

The ASTS provides each unit scheduler a list of those members due their PHA six months beforehand and immunizations three months prior to expiration.

It is the responsibility of the

scheduler and the unit member to work together to comply with the requirements.

While some reschedules and/or “no shows” are unavoidable, it is very important to keep an appointment, if possible.

This is a challenging workload, and staffing may not be available to accommodate “last minute” surges.

Current wing policy states that those with expired medical requirements will be placed in a “no pay, no points” status until all requirements are completed.

It is important to note that the annual PHA is not the whole picture.

Any member with a change in medical status between PHAs (such as injury, illness, pregnancy, etc.) must report these to the ASTS to be certain that their medical profile is current, their worldwide qualification is correctly reflected, and their duties are consistent with their medical condition.

Additionally, it is a commander/supervisor responsibility to report a known medical condition of an assigned member to the ASTS for review.

The PHA program clearly provides the potential to reduce annual visits to the clinic while increasing the overall medical readiness of the force.

The ASTS is up to the challenge and will be working hard to make things flow as quickly as possible while still providing the professional level of medical support needed.

It will take a cooperative effort to maximize the effectiveness of the transition from the traditional periodic exam to the RCPHA.

Success is achieved only when each member's medical status is current and accurately reflected.