

VIKING FLYER

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934th Airlift Wing
(Air Force Reserve Command)
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.

Cleans, inspects cowling

SSgt. Tony Kanugh from the 934th Maintenance Squadron propulsion flight, cleans and inspects engine cowlings during an Isochronal Inspection. Even before the attacks of Sept. 11, the 934th Maintenance Squadron maintained the fleet of 10 assigned C-130E Hercules with care and professionalism. Nowhere is that more evident than in the unit's ISO Dock, where every aircraft gets a thorough inspection and every function within the maintenance squadron is involved. While the command sets a mission capable rate of 68 percent, the wing's maintainers exceed that, keeping the local rate in the high 70s. Personnel professionalism and dedication to detail enables the 934th Airlift Wing's more than 38 year old aircraft to be some of the safest and most reliable in the Air Force inventory. (Photo by Al Eakle)



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Command of 934th AW changes Feb. 2

The command of the 934th Airlift Wing will change early next month when the unit's present leader moves to a new assignment in Oklahoma.

Col. Dean J. Despinoy has been named to command the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker AFB, Okla.

He is no stranger to the unit or Oklahoma, having served there as the Operations Group Commander three years in the mid 90's.

The wing has two separate flying missions and is also the parent wing to the geographically separated air-refueling group, the 931st Air Refueling Group at McConnell AFB, KS. He commanded that unit as well.

Despinoy will relinquish command of the 934th AW to Col. Gary L. Cook, currently the Director of Operations at

4th Air Force at March ARB, Calif.

Cook was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Central Washington State University in 1974.

The colonel has held numerous jobs in the KC-135 Stratotanker flight arena and has been qualified in all three engine-variants of the aircraft. He is a command pilot/examiner pilot with more than 7,000 flying hours.

He has participated in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Joint Endeavor, Noble Anvil and Allied Force, where he was the squadron commander of tanker operations at Istres, France.

A formal change of command ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 in the Fuel Cell

hangar. Limited seating is available for spectators who wish to watch the ceremony.

Several other Air Force Reserve Command units will witness changes in leadership as well. These include:

Col. Timothy J. Wrighton transfers from the 507th ARW to command the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March ARB, Calif. He replaces Col. Peter T. Bentley, who will retire.

Col. James N. Stewart, commander of the 94th Operations Group at Dobbins ARB, Ga., steps up to command the 908th AW at Maxwell AFB, Ala. He replaces Col. Thomas R. Brown, who will retire. (AFRC News Service contributed to this story)

Local recruiters lead command in exceeding recruiting goal

With headlines talking about rising unemployment, the Air Force Reserve is hiring and continues to do, with local recruiters leading the way in record numbers of recruits for the command this year.

Fiscal Year 2001, which ran from Oct. 1, 2000 through Sept. 30, 2001, was the highest production ever for Minneapolis-St. Paul recruiters.

"We exceeded our goal of 216 people by signing up 286 recruits," said SMSgt. Larry Giles, senior recruiter in the Twin City area.

"This was 135 percent of our goal. Included in that number were 51 non-prior service recruits, the highest number we've even brought in."

Recruiters across the country exceeded their goal of 10,037 people by signing up more than 10,500 recruits (almost 105 percent) and surpassing the Command's end-strength requirement by reaching 100.69 percent.

In previous years, a robust economy, low unemployment and a reduced active-duty pool to recruit from hampered where and how accessions were gained.

This year recruiters across the country captured 5,972 who separated from the active-duty Air Force, 70 more

than last year. They also brought in the highest number of prior-service from other branches in the past five years – 1,902. Last year that number was 1,804.

Accessing the most non-prior service recruits since FY89 also helped meet this year's goal. The number of new NPS recruits was 2,627 compared to 1,903 last year. They accounted for 25 percent of the accessions, a 5.2 percent increase over last year.

Enthusiasm and an outstanding team effort were key to the local recruiters success, said the local senior recruiter.

"We also did more direct mailing to prospective applicants," said Giles. "We mailed information packets to high school counselors and Veterans Administration job service officers."

Three of the Command's 19 recruiters who earned membership in the Century Club came from the local operating location. MSgt. Mark Jones and TSgt. James Fritzen from the Twin Cities, and MSgt. Doug Vaughn (formerly a recruiter in Minot, N.D.), will be recognized for their recruiting efforts early this year.

To qualify for Century Club membership, recruiters must have 100

accessions and/or earn extra points for hard to fill recruiting billets, such as medical personnel.

The commander of Air Force Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard said the terrorist attacks against the United States Sept. 11 epitomize the importance of America's freedom, and members of the Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service play an essential role in maintaining that freedom.

"The more than 10,000 dedicated recruits enlisted this year proudly join our country's 'war against terrorism.'" Sherrard said. "We cannot maintain our level of highly qualified reservists without the dedication of our first link to our command – our recruiters."

"Dedication, motivation and experience are all key qualities of our force and absolute essentials for our forces to be successful in supporting Air Force missions worldwide."

FY02 recruiting is already under way. In September, recruiters experienced a 20 percent increase in leads as patriotism cloaked America following the tragedies at the World Trade Center and Pentagon. (AFRC News Service contributed to this story)

Wing commander names top airmen for 2001

The 934th Airlift Wing commander recently named the 2001 Outstanding Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer, Senior NCO, First Sergeant and Company Grade Officer of the Year award winners.



Top in this year's airman category was **SrA. Troy R. Novak** of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. A medical material technician, he was cited for his work during three operational exercises,

including Pacific Warrior 2001 and Northern Eagle 2001.

Novak "continuously provided critical knowledge support to newly assigned logistic personnel, enhancing training and real-world mission readiness," said Col. Mary K. Hanson, 934th ASTS in her nomination package.

Novak not only saved money for his unit through his knowledge but was able to make sure that his unit was also prepared for deployment to Ft. McCoy, Wis., in support of two other local units during their Operational Readiness Inspection.

Others competing in the airman category included: SrA. Patrick Sommer, 934th Aerial Port Squadron; SrA. David Her, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron; and A1C Robert Stubbs, 934th Security Forces Squadron.

Tops in the NCO category was **SSgt. William J. Liberatore**, the military personnel flight chief of customer support, 934th Mission Support Flight.



Liberatore "was instrumental in responding to new programs, such as changes to the Tri-Care benefits plan and educating others of the changes to the Thrift Savings Plan," according to Lt. Col. Pam LeBlanc, 934th MSF commander in her nomination letter.

While performing mission support, Liberatore "was able to streamline

the Base INTRO Program to better train incoming individuals to the wing and trained other customer service personnel to be able to accomplish the briefings," she said.

As the primary member of the Personnel Support of Contingency Operations Team, Liberatore was able to not only complete the required training for the position but volunteered his time to make sure the PERSCO team was ready to fulfill its mission.

Liberatore has also been selected as the Military Personnel Flight's Reservist of the Year.

Others competing in the NCO category included: TSgt. Mike Gullickson, 934th SFS; TSgt. Laura Kruse, 27th APS; and TSgt. Patrick Smith, 934th CES.



Tops in the Senior NCO category was **MSgt. David L. Hardy**, a squad leader and Phoenix Raven in the 934th SFS.

As a squad leader and Phoenix Raven, an elite position of responsibility for security forces in the Air Force, Hardy "exemplified himself to not only his fellow squad members but acted as a positive role-model to show others what is expected of a person in his position," said Maj. Barb Dock, 934th SFS commander in her nomination letter.

He maintains his Phoenix Raven readiness and helps to educate fellow ravens in the SFS.

Hardy was activated and is deployed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Others competing in the Senior NCO category included: SMSgt. Dennis McLean, 934th Services Squadron; MSgt. Robert Cluka, 72th APS; and MSgt. Robert Schabaker, 934th CES.

SMSgt. Timothy T. Tamlyn was named the top First Sergeant of the year for his work with the 934th CES.

During the unit's Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection in 2001, Tamlyn was recognized for creating a computer program kit used

during a deployment to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Southern Watch.

The program allowed for gaining units to gain access to all required member items, ensuring each person was fully prepared for deployment and duty processing. This resulted in zero shortfalls at the gaining base.

According to the nomination, "The inspector general from Air Mobility Command labeled the kits a 'best practice,'" according to Lt. Col. Randall V. Hoscheid, 934th CES commander in his nomination letter.

Tamlyn also developed a unit training assembly tardiness/absence program that increased not only attendance but unit retention to one of the highest on base.

As first sergeant, Tamlyn "worked to make sure that time spent by unit members during the UTA was not wasted and worked toward the benefit of both unit and training," the squadron commander said.

Tamlyn has also been instrumental in the planned renovation of the old Navy billeting on base to Air Force offices with eventual government savings of over \$75,000 in planning fees and labor costs.

The other nominee in the First Sergeant category was MSgt. Phillip Sells, 934th SFS.

Capt. Donald C. Brook, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, was named the Outstanding Company Grade Officer of the Year. Brook is a critical care nurse, the Critical Care Air Transport Team Coordinator and Medical Readiness Officer in Charge.

Brook's professional skill, judgment and community service highlight the Air Force Reserve as an organization of the highest caliber, according to Col. Dean J. Despinoy, 934th Airlift Wing commander, in his nomination.

"He has always sought out opportunities to expand his knowledge base and broaden his officership through increased levels of responsibil-

Viking Flyer

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The newspaper is distributed on Friday before the UTA. The deadline for unsolicited submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to UTA.

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UTA Schedule

Feb. 2-3, 2002

Mar. 2-3, 2002

Apr. 6-7, 2002

May 4-5, 2002

June 1-2, 2002

July 13-14, 2002

Aug. 10-11, 2002

Wing commander bids farewell

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

It seems all too soon for me to be writing my farewell article, but here I am trying to express all the gratitude I have for the fantastic job that everyone has done during my time as your commander.

I was told that I could expect to be here about two years when I was given the assignment to Minneapolis – St. Paul in October 1999. My last UTA will be next month, so the crystal ball was pretty accurate.

The past two years have been busy ones.

The 934th Airlift Wing has been involved with the aerospace expeditionary force, homeland defense, and humanitarian missions all over the world.

We have increased in authorized size and maintained our manning at more than 100 percent.

We have received numerous awards, to include the Gen. Thomas D. White Award for Environmental Excellence, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

We have worked hard during RAVs and other exercises and played hard during various functions, not the least being the annual Air Force Birthday Ball.

Finally, we volunteered in mass after the terrorist attacks and are still performing extremely difficult and time consuming missions in a state of volunteerism.

Through it all we maintained great morale and a spirit that is uniquely the 934th AW.



In the career we share, they say you get use to seeing people come and go.

I can easily remember all the good people we have lost to retirement and transfer.

I also know that we have had some fantastic people join us in that same period of time.

It is the new infusion of talent and ideas that keep the wing fresh and gives us the capability to reinvent ourselves when necessary.

Each month when I meet with the 15 to 20 new people coming into the wing, I tell them that they have a golden opportunity to look at the wing from a perspective none of us can and make suggestions for improvement.

I came with fresh eyes two years ago and saw a healthy wing full of tradition and a history of excellence and pride.

I tried to create an environment of fairness and consistency in which everyone could perform at, and grow to, their individual full potential.

Although the work we do is serious, I wanted to help people have fun at what they do and enjoy their time associated with the 934th AW. I also wanted to acknowledge people for their efforts above and beyond normal expectations.

I am sure there is more I could do but on the other

hand, I also know that when I turn this wing over to Col. Gary Cook on Feb. 2, he will be in charge of one of the best wings in the Air Force.

We all are impacted in some way through our association with one another.

I know that I have learned and grew and will come away a better person and better leader from my association with the fine members of this wing. I can only hope that I was able to positively influence some of your lives at the same time.

I will be returning to Tinker AFB to become the commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing. I was the Operations Group Commander there for three years in the mid 90's.

Much has changed since that time, including the conversion from F-16 fighter aircraft to the KC-135 tanker. It will be fun to see how that wing has matured over the years and became a premiere air-refueling wing.

The wing has two separate flying missions and is also the parent wing to the geographically separated air-refueling group, the 931st ARG at McConnell AFB, KS, which I also commanded.

To answer the question many people have been asking me, yes it is a general's position. However, there are plenty of colonels in generals' positions throughout AFRC. Time will tell if this move means a change to my military rank.

Judy will be staying here with the girls until the end of the school year. The family expects to join me in Oklahoma in June.

Continued on Page 10

New job a homecoming, career advancement

ROBINS AFB, Ga. - When Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr. became the vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command Dec. 5, it was as much a homecoming as an advancement in his military career.

Batbie, who served as director of Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs for U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, replaced Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, who retired effective Dec. 31.

As AFRC vice commander, Batbie serves as chief operating officer for the command, overseeing worldwide, day-to-day operation of more than 675 flying and support units, and 67,000 reservists, active-duty personnel and civilian employees.

In addition to operating 400 assigned unit aircraft, the Reserve provides approximately 50 percent of the aircrews for some 300 aircraft assigned to other Air Force major commands.

The general is also responsible, through the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver, for the administrative control of the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program and its 12,000 reservists.

Operations tempo in the command began to escalate in late September as the nation recovered from the terrorist attacks and prepared to wage war on terrorism.

Three months after the initial mobilization announcement Sept. 20, more than 11,000 Air Force reservists

were on active duty for the war on terrorism, compared to the 23,500 called up for the Gulf War.

The general said that despite the partial mobilization, the command will continue its philosophy of relying on volunteers as much as possible during the war.

"Every day we have about 2,000 unit reservists and IMAs on duty as volunteers," he said. "That level of volunteerism kind of mitigates the requirement to call up more folks."

Batbie said public support of the war on terrorism started high and continues to be high, in large part, because of the amount of media coverage.

"This means employers are apt to give more support to the effort, and we are getting that kind of support at this time," he said.

"Airline executives, for example, are asking us what we need from them. We are seeing better communication than in the past contingencies."

Support from families is also strong.

"My gut feeling tells me families are proud of how their husbands and wives, sons and daughters contribute to the nation," the general said.

"The command needs to provide support to these same families while the military member is on duty serving. We are doing a lot but we can always do more for families. Family support is an open-ended business."

Batbie said another



Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr.
Vice Commander
Air Force Reserve Command

major challenge that will face the command is being prepared when the war effort eventually draws down, and support by families and employers starts to wane.

He urges everyone in the command to do his or her part to help protect the nation and to reduce the threat of terrorism.

Batbie commanded AFRC's 22nd Air Force from September 1998 until May 2000 when he took the position in EUCOM.

Although he has been out of the country and away from the Air Force Reserve mainstream, the general has kept abreast of what is happening in the command.

"The manning picture has improved dramatically since I left (the command) a little over 18 months ago," he said.

"Down the road, we will still need to recruit people in a very challenging environment. Finding and keeping

quality people will continue high priority for the commands for the foreseeable future. It takes a lot of the pressure off when you've got enough of the right people to do our mission."

"The enlisted grade enhancements that were started when I left here have pretty much been implemented," he continued. "That probably had a lot to do with stabilizing the numbers and quality of people we've got today. My hat goes off to the people in AFRC who made it happen."

The general said training challenges are a readiness issue in some career fields and need the command's attention.

"Our planes have been flying reliably at high rates, so the flying end of the business appears to be healthy," he said. "Despite this, we need to be ever watchful of the development of any negative indicators."

Batbie praised the men and women who serve at the headquarters, in the field units and in the IMA program.

"They are truly outstanding," he said. "Their closeness, stability and quality of work are exceptional. They don't get the recognition they deserve."

"Most organizations don't have nearly the range of experience, responsibility and scope that this command has," he said. "One can't help but want to be a part of a great organization like Air Force Reserve Command." (AFRC News Service)

C-130 crew makes holiday better for ill, disabled children

By SrA. Stephanie Witty
staff writer

Smiling faces and anticipating eyes were everywhere on Sunday of the December UTA when an aircrew from the 96th Airlift Squadron got a chance to make the Christmas holiday a little better for 21 children with serious illnesses or disabilities.

They provided the transportation for the children to meet "Santa" at the "North Pole."

The children arrived at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport, Eau Claire, Wis., with their families. They were then provided walkie-talkies to communicate with Santa before boarding a Flying Viking C-130 Hercules for a trip to the

North Pole.

A crew from the 96th AS taxied the children and their families from the Chippewa Valley Airport to the "North Pole," an airport bay decorated complete with elves.

The children had a chance to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves. Santa then read *The Night Before Christmas*, took his picture with the children, and gave them presents.

The flightcrew included: Maj. Tom O'Reilly and Jim Jirele, pilots; Maj. Craig Trammell, navigator; TSgts. Gene Eberhardt and Rob Mattern, flight engineers; and CMSgt. Tom Foss and MSgt. Tom Thomas, loadmasters.



Some 21 children with serious illnesses and disabilities and their families prepare for a ride to the North Pole aboard a 934th Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules transport. Aircrews from the 96th Airlift Squadron have been supporting an annual Christmas program in Eau Claire, Wis., for the past three years which makes the Christmas holiday season a little better for the children and their parents. (Photo by SrA. Stephanie Witty)

Local NCO helps load French troops, equipment for deployment

by Capt. David L. Englin
16th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — A noncommissioned officer from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron was among aerial port specialists deployed to France who helped load French equipment and troops onto C-17 Globemaster III transport jets bound for Afghanistan between Dec. 17 and Dec. 22.

Typically, the 16th Air Expeditionary Wing units based in Istres, France, perform air-to-air refueling missions for NATO aircraft flying over the Balkans in support of operations Joint Forge and Joint Guardian.

However, when Operation Enduring Freedom

required American C-17s to transport French troops and equipment, the 16th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron, with airmen who specialize in loading heavy aircraft, was there to lend a hand.

TSgt. Richard B. Rowcliffe, 27th APS, was among the airmen deployed to Istres to augment the air transport operations specialists already there.

Together they loaded more than 1,000 tons of French equipment over several days, making the equipment safe for flight, securing the equipment into the aircraft, and performing all of the necessary calculations to ensure safe delivery.

"It feels good to be involved in Operation Enduring Freedom," said

Richard B. Rowcliffe, non-commissioned officer in charge of air transport operations for the 16th EABS. "If I had my choice, I'd be even farther forward."

Rowcliffe, who was a Marine field artillery specialist during Operation Desert Storm, is now an Air Force reservist who spends more than 250 days a year on active duty.

He left the Twin Cities in early December and is expected to be gone about 90 days.

TSgt. Timothy Dickens, an air transport operations specialist with the 16th EABS, said that dealing with French equipment was slightly different, but nothing they could not handle.

"We train to do this all the time," Dickens said. "We came here to do the job, and that's just what we're going to do."

Dickens' home station is the 609th Aerial Port Squadron at Andrews AFB, Md. He is self-employed and has served more than 16 years in the Air Force Reserve.

"This is another example of the total force of active-duty, Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard airmen in action," said Col. Terry L. New, commander of the 16th AEW. "Whether securing the skies over the Balkans or executing the war against terrorism, we're ready for whatever our country asks of us." (Air Force Print News)

Local active duty retiree among first to join the reserve

by SrA. Stephanie Witty
staff writer

A civilian employee of the 934th Airlift Wing is one of the first three Air Force active duty retirees to join the Air Force Reserve in a new program announced six months ago.

Al Eakle put his master sergeant stripes back on Nov. 27, after more than eight years of retirement

from active duty. He joined the wing in October 2000 as a civilian employee in the public affairs office.



The process to join the 934th AW started nearly 6 months ago, shortly after the program was announced by Air Force Reserve Command.

"I was told the process could take this long since all enlisted requests had to be approved by the Secretary of the Air Force."

His situation was unique and made him an ideal candidate for the program, according to the 934th AW commander.

"Al retired from active duty as a public affairs craftsman and came to work for us as a civilian public affairs specialist," said Col. Dean J. Despinoy, 934th AW commander. "As a Reservist he would essentially be doing the same job.

"The wing will benefit from this program by the amount of experience the retiree brings with them. However, each request has

to be evaluated individually to see how it fits into the organization and impacts our reservists. In this case it was a great fit."

There were many reasons why Eakle decided to try the program out.

"I wanted to have a better connection with the traditional public affairs reservists," Eakle said. "The only way I had contact with them was to come in on the UTA weekends. I earned comp time for doing this."

Once he heard about the program he thought that he might as well join the Reserve and get points instead, which would increase his military retirement check down the road. Additionally, as a traditional reservist there is the possibility of a promotion.

Through the program active duty retirees can increase retirement by earning points while serving in the Reserve. At age 60, they can then request a Reserve retirement, which would then add these points to their total active duty time.

Eakle served nearly 21 years on active-duty service in the public affairs career field. A highlight for him was a special duty tour with the "Thunderbirds" as their airshow coordinator.

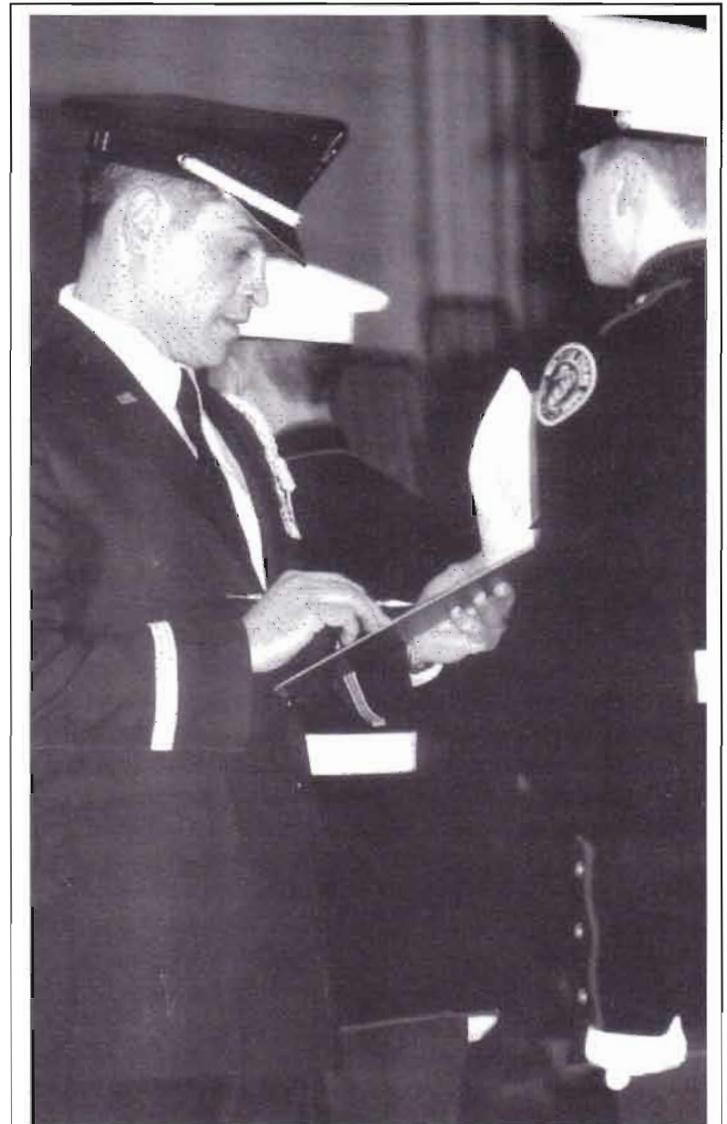
He worked a number of jobs for the first two years after retiring in 1993, and entered civil service as a tour guide, and later, supervisor at the Hoover Dam Visitor Center in 1995.

The one thing he missed most and noticed was lacking in all the jobs he had after leaving the Air

Force was the camaraderie. "But that returned," he said, "after joining the 934th (AW) as a civilian employee, and was really brought home when I participated in my first UTA in December.

"There were a lot of

surprised looks, handshakes and welcomes from people in the Wing this past weekend," he said. "There's some great people here and it felt really good to be one of them as a reservist.



SMSgt. Clarence C. Super, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron and a member of the Base Honor Guard, inspects a Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Corps cadet during a recent drill competition at an area high school. Super, along with CMSgt. Dick Grewe, 934th Airlift Wing command chief, and SrA. Kristen Maloney, 934th Service Squadron and Base Honor Guard member, were among the base volunteers who acted as judges at a joint service Junior ROTC drill competition. (Photo by SrA. Nicholas Olson)

Employer recognition increases since Sept. 11

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, officials at the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve report a 25 percent increase in applications for the "My Boss is a Patriot" award.

"Sometimes our reservists forget the sacrifices made by employers," said Col. Dean J. Despinoy, 934th Airlift Wing commander. "It's a really easy way to recognize employers."

The committee established the award program as a way for members of the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard to thank employers for their support.

Committee officials in Arlington, Va., said the awards are designed to generate good will and enhance "ESGR awareness." They highly encourage reservists to use them.

"During the nearly four years I've served as manager of the Employer Recognition program, I have seen the impact that this program has in garnishing support among employers for approximately 1.3 million members in the seven reserve components," said Master Sgt. Bob Krenke of the National Committee for ESGR.

The committee receives an average of more than 20,000 My Boss is a Patriot award requests per year, but a higher headquarters budget review process caused the program to be suspended from May until October.

Reservists can submit completed nomination forms by mail, fax or on line via the ESGR Web site: <http://www.esgr.org/formMBIAP.html>. Nominations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mail-in or faxed nominations require manual processing and therefore take longer to complete than on-line submissions, according to national ESGR officials. The on-line process will eventually replace the mail and fax processes.

ESGR also changed procedures for on-line submissions. It used to send the certificates to the unit commanders for their approval and assistance in presenting certificates.



"My Boss Is A Patriot"

Award Nomination Form

Please print legibly or type all information requested on this form.
We cannot process your nomination without complete information.

This section pertains to your civilian employer, employer-owner or supervisor:

Nominee's Name: _____
(As it should appear on the certificate)

Business/Company Where You Work: _____
(Write out the company's full name)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

FAX #: _____ Email Address: _____

This section pertains to you, the nominator:

Your Complete Name: _____

Rank: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Your Component: (Check one)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARNG | IRR or
IMA
(Check
one only
if it
applies to
you.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USAR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USNR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USCGR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANG | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USMCR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USAFR | |

This section pertains to your National Guard or Reserve unit:

Your Unit: 934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command
(Please spell out, don't abbreviate.)

Unit Address: 760 Military Highway

Unit City: Minneapolis State: MN Zip Code: 55450-2100

Your Commander's Name: Col. J. Despinoy Rank: Colonel

Date: _____

The certificate of appreciation is forwarded to the unit commander in a presentation folder.
Your boss may be eligible for higher recognition, but only if you take the time to explain!
Please write a few sentences on the reverse side of this form
to explain why your boss deserves this recognition.

"It has been determined that the best procedure for the MBIAP program is to provide the certificate directly to the reserve component member who submitted the nomination," Krenke said. "This puts the certificate in the hands of the service member in a very timely fashion."

Reservists have the option of presenting the certificates themselves, or arranging for their commanders to

help in the presentation. "Certificates can be awarded," Colonel Despinoy said, "wherever the individual reservist wants them presented."

A Dec. 27 Department of Defense news release stated that 789 reservists and guardsmen, including 91 from the 934th AW, had been activated within the state of Minnesota for the war on terrorism. (AFRC News Service contributed to this story)



Phoenix Readiness students from the 815th TALCE unit, Travis AFB, Calif., secure cargo during a pallet drop pickup during the field exercise. (Photo by SSgt. Jeff Williams)

Course teaches how to survive, operate in bare base environment

by SSgt. Jeff Williams
staff writer

In the middle of a cool August New Jersey night, I was lying awake in a cold pile of dirt, M-16 rifle in hand, anxiously waiting for the action to begin.

Without any warning, AK-47 fire opened up on all sides and the calm tranquility of the evening suddenly turned into mass confusion, as the perimeter was breached and the opposition force entered for a crushing blow. Welcome to the Air Mobility Warfare Center.

The AMWC's Phoenix Readiness Program, run by the 421st Ground Combat Readiness Squadron at Ft. Dix, N.J., offers 23 courses in various career fields on how to survive and operate in a deployed bare-base environment.

I went through this two-week program in August, and highly recommend this course to anybody who is eligible to go.

Our instructors, SSgt. Jeff Capenos, and TSgt. Ken Davis, both had a wealth of information to share about their experiences, and had great senses of humor that enabled us to stomach some heavy topics in a light-hearted way.

My public affairs classmates, 1Lt. Jeff Roberts, 2Lt. Roe Bushey, TSgt. "Buzz" Ritchie and SrA. Oshawn Jefferson, were all light-hearted guys who took the training seriously but helped make it fun in the process.

The first week was spent in the classroom taking such courses as camouflage concealment and cover, convoy and vehicle operations, host nation sensitivities, terrorism awareness, field craft and field hygiene, along with career specific classes.

I was assigned as one of the two Humvee drivers for the PA staff during the course, and was responsible for the overall vehicle condition and ensuring that we reached our destinations on time.

We were treated to an awe-inspiring live fire demonstration that featured such weapons as the Mark-19 grenade launcher with tracer rounds, a flare gun, a 60-caliber machine gun, the M-16 and some of the newer weapons in the Air Force ground combat arsenal.

This occurred right after we had our weapons familiarization including live firing on a Russian made AK-74. It gave me a deeper appreciation for those who serve on the front lines of combat today.

The second week applied the classroom to the field through a remote five-day field training exercise designed to test the knowledge and skills of the participants. It is not a course to teach you how to do the basics of your job, but to improve upon pre-existing skills and apply them to the field of combat operations.

During the first day of the field exercise, Col. Mike Mickelson, and MSgt. Tommy Baker, from Air Force

Reserve Command Public Affairs, visited us. We discussed how the Phoenix Readiness program applies to AFRC, and the quality of the instructors.

While spending five days in the field with only one shower and working 12-hour days does not seem like a whole lot of fun, it was extremely rewarding when we overcame all of the challenges that were presented to us, including the cleaning of the rifles following the redeployment phase.

Part of what made this experience so great was interacting with some of the people from different career fields. A lot of times people are so focused on doing their own job that they don't realize how their actions impact people from other career fields.

Phoenix Readiness provided an opportunity to learn first hand through a training environment in a safe and effective manner.

Mistakes were made and that's the beauty of training in a program like this - you can make a mistake or two, learn from them and nobody gets hurt or killed.

I was apprehensive enroute to Fort Dix, not knowing what to expect.

While there I tried to make the best of every learning opportunity and worked hard to overcome the "weekend warrior" stereotype that some members on active duty still give us reservists.

I learned a lot in the process and cannot speak highly enough of this program. Next stop - AEF.

Society expands aid for Reservists during annual tour

In times of our country's need, the Air Force Reserve Command may call unit members to active duty, yet there are times when the mission can put a traditional reservist in financial straits.

On Nov. 6, the Air Force Aid Society expanded the eligibility to for servicemembers to receive emergency aid while on annual tour.

The program was originally intended for tours of 30 days or more but has been expanded to include 15-day annual tours. The funds are for things such as leave for a death in the family, automobile repair while on a temporary duty assignment, or base living needs.

The emergency aid program is available through family support services on base. Reservists and their families can apply to receive loans or grants to help them in emergency situations. Money provided to airmen is based on donations to the AFAS fund.

"Air Force Aid Society looks at a person's situation in a case-by-case basis," said Linda Rosso, chief of Air Force Reserve Command's family matters. "When the wife of a reservist who was not on orders had difficulty giving birth to premature twins, AFAS stepped in to pay the medical bills. People who have extreme hardships should seek assistance, regardless of

their duty status."

Although the funds are made available to all reservists, it should not be considered an advance on their paycheck, explained Rex Hodge, director of family services for the 934th Airlift Wing.

"The funds are for people that have a real need for emergency aid," said Hodge.

Unit members or their family may contact Hodge at Family Services during the week to find out more about the program and to learn about their options if problems should arise. The phone number is (612) 713-1516.

Brook named Company Grade Officer of the Year

Continued from Page 3

ity, spearheading projects to develop both Medical Readiness Training and the CCATT programs," according to the colonel.

Brook has "an enthusiastic, can-do attitude that is exhibited in all aspects of his duty performance. His personal standards are of the highest level and set an outstanding example of living the Air Force Core Value for all service members."

He worked to reengineer the entire medical readiness training program, and "was vital to the unit's

success" at the Pacific Warrior 2001 Operational Readiness Inspection, establishing training and preparation plans for 32 personnel.

He led the entire squadron through a wing Ability To Survive Operation exercise, which trained 74 personnel. He coordinated training scenarios for facility security checkpoints, Unexploded Ordnance sweep teams, and Nuclear Biological and Chemical defense training.

Brooks took control of patient movement from the Aeromedical Staging Facility during National Disaster

Medical System exercise with local disaster response organizations. Three aircraft were loaded with over 100 simulated patients; he was instrumental in meeting all of the mission launch times.

Brook was selected to participate in the Inspector General jumpseat program, gathering valuable information for training programs, deployment/mobility area, logistics section, and medical readiness. His observations and recommendations have been extremely beneficial to program managers.

Boss says farewell, thanks everyone for efforts

Continued from Page 4

I will, of course, come back here as much as possible until that time. It is quite possible that you may see us out and about.

Please feel free to stop us and chat. You can also let me know how the "new guy" is doing.

If I have one regret it would be that I was unable to muster wholesale support of the ROA and the clubs.

People take advantage of the benefits we realize as reservists and few understand that much of what we have is due at least in part to the ROA.

It takes an incredible amount of work to get a bill passed in Congress or change a law.

People maintain membership in APA, AMA, the union, and countless other career related organizations. Why there is even a question about maintaining membership in ROA is beyond me.

Similarly, we have a truly unique club, well supported by retirees but not so by active reservists. It is a place where you can share a common bond and maintain the traditions we hold so dear. Remember, if we don't maintain

our traditions there is no one else that will.

Few words accurately express the sentiment of a commander leaving his command.

I will borrow words that were most recently stated at the retirement of Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, AFRC vice commander. He borrowed the words as well but I have yet to see anyone improve on them. "It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your commander. The privilege is coming to a close, but the honor will remain for the rest of my life."

*Program offers commission***News in**

The Military Equal Opportunity Office (MEO) has an officer vacancy that will be filled through the Deserving Airman Program.

The board to select from potential candidates will be held during the March UTA.

Officer candidate packages must be completed before Feb 28 and submitted to MSgt. Mike Ginapp/DPMS, Bldg 852, room 110, ext 1509.

He can provide assistance and answer questions regarding the officer application process.

Questions regarding the duties of the position and career field should be addressed to the Chief, MEO, Lt. Col. Carolyn Lohman at (612) 713-1221.

Interested members must be able to attend Officer Training within the next year. Attendance at two technical schools are required to become fully qualified in the career field.

Firing range off limits

The 934th Airlift Wing firing range, located on Fort Snelling grounds, is off-limits to unauthorized people. Trespassing is illegal and dangerous.

For additional information, contact the 934th Security Forces Squadron, 760 Military highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2000 or call MSgt Steven Anderson at (612) 713-1815.

Meetings

Jan. 10- Local 1997, American Federation of Government Employees meeting at 11 a.m. in the Enlisted Club.

Jan. 12- Chapter 858, Air Force Sergeants Association meeting at 10 a.m. in the Bloomington American Legion Post 550, corner of 94th Street and Lyndale Avenue South.

Jan. 14- Air Force Association general membership meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Officer's Club.

Viking Victor

Name: MSgt. Lonnie E. Gillespie

Unit: 934th Services Squadron

Job Responsibilities: First Sergeant

Education: Nine classes left to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Aeronautics, Embry-Riddle University.

Hobbies: Water skiing and reading.

Civilian Occupation: Manager of Line Maintenance, Northwest Airlines, Minneapolis-St. Paul

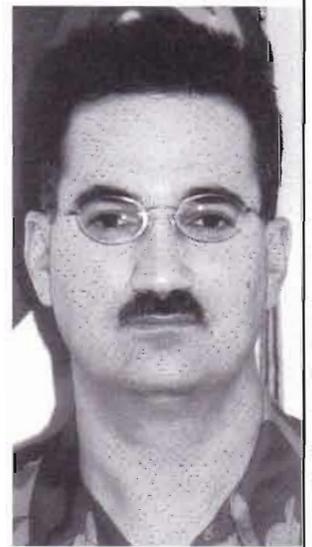
Professional Organizations: Air Force Association

Goals: To be a positive role model for my son, to be a better citizen, and First Sergeant of the Year.

Family: Son Lukas, age 9

Miscellaneous information/personal comments:

"I, not only can promote the morale and welfare of the services squadron, but also indirectly promote the morale and welfare of the wing, because the wing is our customer."

*Safeguard DD Forms 214*

After years of being advised by various military agencies to file Department of Defense Form 214s at their local courthouses for safekeeping, officials are now telling people who are retiring and separating to consider how well those documents may be protected.

E-mail reports circulated among veterans recently raised the issue of courthouse documents being public record — thus potentially being available to unscrupulous people.

The concern arose that veterans filing their DD Form 214 — a certificate of release or discharge from the military that contains personal information — with their courthouse would be opening themselves up to identity theft or fraud.

The previous recommendation to file at a courthouse was intended to make it easier for veterans or their families to access their forms when applying for employment insurance benefits or updating military records.

Even though officials don't think most veterans should be personally worried, it's certainly in everyone's best interest to take an extra measure of care to ask how well their private information is protected, they added.

"We're pleased that local government agencies are showing concern

with this issue," she said. "And we support any efforts to help protect the privacy of veterans."

Officials say each person should also take steps to protect their DD Form 214 as they would any other sensitive document like wills, marriage and birth certificates, and insurance policies, officials said.

"This should be handled on an individual basis because documents are not recorded and maintained the same in all counties in all states," Anderson said.

AFSA chapter to elect officers

Chapter 858 of the Air Force Sergeants Association is soliciting volunteers to run for office and service as chapter officers.

Positions open are President, Vice President, and Trustees. Elections will be held Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. in the Bloomington American Legion Post 550, corner of 94th Street and Lyndale Avenue South.

Individuals interested in serving should send a short note to Acting President Chapter 858 Mark Davidson, 10007 Harriet Ave. S., Bloomington MN 55420 or email: LDavidson7@juno.com by Jan 16.

Call Davidson at (952) 884-6077.

934th SFS

Like Thanksgiving, on-duty security forces were given a Christmas feast. All the food and preparation for two meals was done by Security Forces personnel.

Some members of the squadron recently went to lunch at a local Korean restaurant. When they went to pay, the owner came over and told them their bill had been taken care of by an older gentleman.

The cops lined up, shook his hand and thanked him. MSgt. Steve Anderson gave his unit coin to the gentleman as a small thanks from us. The gentleman said he wanted to say thank you to us for all the hard work we do.

Two weeks earlier something similar happened in the same restaurant to another group of cops.

A Korean woman wanted to thank someone in the military. She said that when she was a young orphaned girl living in Korea, some Army guys sort of adopted her. They fed her and took care of her.

She was very emotional about it, but she knew that she would never find the guys that showed such kindness to her. So she wanted to thank someone in uniform. She said that these guys probably saved her life by taking care of her.

These acts of kindness made the security force squadron members proud to wear the uniform, especially during times like these, they said. The feeling they got when these people came up and thanked them was something money can't buy.

Submitted by TSgt. Barry W. Haukoos, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1008.

934th LSS

The Supply section spent the December UTA preparing people for AEF commitments. Members of the unit took time off at lunchtime on Saturday for a holiday gathering held in transportation.

A number of unit people were returning from and deploying overseas during December. One person came

back from Turkey; four from Spain; 10 people are leaving for Spain; and three for Germany.

TSgts. James Mueller, Michael Salmon and David Wagoner and SSgt. Eric Drexler received certificates of appreciation for their efforts during an AEF deployment to Kuwait in October and November.

SrA. Brian Hoff was a distinguished graduate from the Interservice mechanics school.

Submitted by MSgt. Craig Molm, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1351.

934th CES

SSgts. Tom Shimota and Brad Hegge completed seven-level school last month.

Six Firefighters were activated for one year and sent to Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

The unit received their annual flu shots this UTA, with a lot of sore arms to go around.

The Air Force Achievement Medal was awarded to 80 members of the unit for their participation in the ORI earlier this year. The medals were presented during the monthly commander's call.

The unit's Structures shop worked on the picture framing in the hallway of the CE building.

The unit's Equipment shop will be working on snow removal on Friday's of the upcoming winter UTAs.

The unit's HVAC shop spent the month servicing no heat calls around the base, and presently have two individuals serving on an AEF in the United Arab Emirates.

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

934th SVS

The squadron has been busy with the 14 port mortuary volunteers returning home in October, and the AEF team deploying in November.

MSgt. Ruth Duffy has been supporting the AEF since September at Estres AB, France. She returned home Dec. 2. She will be leaving for Spain for 45 days as well.

The squadron also has people deploying to Edwards AFB, Calif., and Bolling AFB, D.C.

Submitted by SrA. Kristen Maloney, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1636.

Newcomers

Capt. David S. Edwards, 96th Airlift Squadron.

2Lt. Jennifer M. Morgan, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

TSgt. Michael I. Humenny, 934th Logistics Support Squadron

TSgt. Kenneth Roth, 934th Logistics Support Squadron.

TSgt. Robert D. Rude, 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

SSgt. James A. Rudh, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

SSgt. Richard D. Taylor, 934th Communications Flight.

SrA. Kurt F. Lahners, 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

SrA. Robin D. Oliver, 934th Logistics Support Squadron.

SrA. Curtis J. Storm, 934th Services Squadron.

SrA. Ricky L. Zenner, 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

A1C Crystal Baures, 934th Mission Support Flight.

A1C Jacqueline Burns, 934th Operations Support Flight.

A1C Tye W. Keppler, 934th Communications Flight.

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Twin Cities Base Exchange

Monday- Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Military Clothing Sales Store

Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday and Monday Closed

Royal Hot Plate

Monday- Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sun. Closed

Barber Shop

Monday- Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Flying Vikings buzz local hockey arena

by SrA. Nicholas Olson
staff writer

Things Minnesota winters are famous for: frigid climates, lutefisk, snowmobiles, ice fishing and hockey.

One favorite for some of the members of the base is representing the Reserves as part of the Flying Vikings hockey team.

The team's season, which began Nov. 25, consists of 14 games and is played between eight teams total. The Flying Vikings consists primarily of reserve members, said Senior Master Sgt. Gary G. Wallenhorst, a third year player for the team. The team plays every Sunday through the end of March at Highland Ice Arena in St. Paul, said Wallenhorst.

Wallenhorst and Master Sgt. Joe Bystedt, a sixth year player, both from the 934th Maintenance Squadron,

coordinate the team, which does not have a traditional coach. The role of coordinating requires arranging the organization of the team, making sure the players have what they need, such as uniforms, and making sure that everyone gets playing time.

The team's record was 0-2 as of Dec. 2. The previous season's record was 1-10-2.

"We'd like to win obviously, but let's face it, we play because we enjoy the game," said Bystedt. "Having fun is priority one."

The games usually are played at 9 p.m. at the Highland Ice Arena and anyone can watch the team play. The puck drops for this weekend's game at 9:10 p.m.

NOTE: The following is the team's schedule for the remainder of the

season. All games played at Charles Shultz Memorial Arena (Formerly Highland Park Arena)

Jan 6- 9:10 p.m., Highland – North, Air Force vs Deloitte – Touche.

Jan 13- 10 p.m., Highland – South, West Whalers vs Air Force.

Jan 20- 10:20 p.m., Highland – North, Air Force vs Air Guard.

Jan 27- 9:10 p.m., Highland – North, Air Force vs Burlington.

Feb 3- 8:50 p.m., Highland – South, West Sharks vs Air Force.

Feb 10- 10:20 p.m., Highland – North, Air Force vs St. Paul Police.

Feb 17- 8:50 p.m., Highland – South, Keane vs Air Force.

Feb 24- 10 p.m., Highland – South, Deloitte – Touche vs Air Force.

Mar. 3- 10 p.m., Highland – South, Air Force vs West Whalers

Base institutes winter parking restrictions

Winter parking rules went into effect Nov 15, and will remain in force until Apr. 15.

Overnight parking is prohibited in all parking spaces except for long term parking areas, and buildings 711, 716,

and 707 parking for lodging guests, according to security forces officials.

They said vehicles left overnight in any other space will be ticketed by Security Forces and could be towed if needed to facilitate snow or ice removal.

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Medals

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt. Robert J. Arkulary, 96th Airlift Squadron, first oak leaf cluster.

SSgt. James M. Rutz, 934th Services Squadron.

Air Force Achievement Medal

MSgt. John L. Parenteau, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, third oak leaf cluster.

TSgt. James R. Regner, 934th Maintenance Squadron, third oak leaf cluster.

TSgt. Earl C. Robinson Jr., 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, third oak leaf cluster.

Kudos

SMSgt. Clarence C. Super Jr., 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, first oak leaf cluster.

SSgt. Daniel D. Fitzmaurice, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron. **Cliff Fox** from transportation received a Wing plaque and Commander's Coin in appreciation for his hard work during his tenure as President of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1997.

Certificates of Service were recently award to **Terrance Carr**, aircraft maintenance; **Brad Erickson**, transportation; and **Russell Ingalls**, supply, in recognition of 30 years service in the government.

Certificates of Service were

recently award to **Michael Asper**, civil engineers; **Bruce Farmer**, supply; **Mike Ginapp**, military personnel; **Steve Hanson**, aircraft maintenance; **Cynthia Murry**, contracting; **James Regner**, aircraft maintenance; **Nancy Ripley**, logistics; and **George Tackaberry**, aircraft maintenance, in recognition of 20 years service in the government.

Certificates of Service were recently award to **Don Fletcher**, logistics; **Thomas Knopik**, security forces; and **John Tverberg**, aircraft maintenance, in recognition of 10 years service in the government.

Wing Commander's Coins were recently presented to **Maj. Mo Banavige**, 934th Logistics Group; and **MSgt. Elizabeth Johnson**, 934th Maintenance Squadron.

Military coins symbolize pride amongst the ranks

It is not too shiny and does not dangle from a servicemembers chest but to those that possess them it is a matter of pride.

It is a military coin.

As far back as Roman times, the military coin has come to symbolize pride amongst the ranks.

With different versions such as medallions, munitions and actual currency pressed with the insignia, the idea of the unit coin has been handed down through the history of United States war involvement.

The US history of the coin can be traced back to pilot who was shot down during World War I.

A wealthy lieutenant, feeling pride in his unit, ordered bronze coins for all the members of his flying squadron. He wore his around his neck in a small leather satchel.

Not long after receiving the coins, the lieutenant was shot down behind enemy lines and was captured by a German patrol.

To discourage him from attempting an escape, the Germans took away all forms of identification except the satchel. He was taken to a small French town near the front.

The night of his capture a bombardment gave the pilot an opportunity to escape.

Donning civilian clothes, he made his way to safety only to find himself at an impasse.

He had stumbled onto a French outpost that had been infiltrated by the enemy dressed in civilian clothes and was weary of strangers.

The American was unable to prove his identity and was nearly executed until he produced the coin.

His captors, recognizing the squadron insignia on the coin, contacted the proper authorities and, instead of shooting him, offered him a bottle of wine.

To insure that the coins would be with the squadron

members at all times, a challenge would be issued and the loser would be required to buy a round of drinks for the winner of the challenge.

This tradition has survived for many generations and has become a matter of pride for uniformed servicemembers.

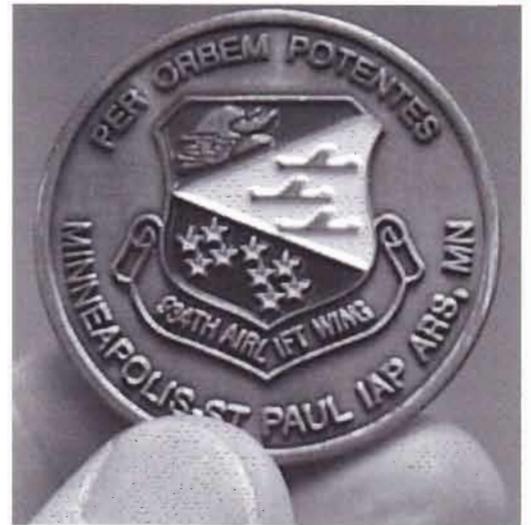
While this may have saved the life of a pilot many years ago, the coin tradition still remains an unofficial matter of pride in the military.

Although coins can be purchased for some units, the presentation of a coin by a unit commander can be a matter of camaraderie and esprit de corps.

There are two coins with the 934th Airlift Wing emblem on them: the silver Commander's Coin; and the bronze coin offered for sale by the Reserve Officers Association.

The Commander's Coin is individually numbered and presented by the wing commander.

"I started the program when I first arrived," said Col. Dean Despinoy, 934th



AW commander.

"It's an instantaneous award to recognize the efforts of individuals."

The coin number is then logged with the wing historian, as a part of the history of the wing.

The bronze coin is available for sale at \$10 from CMSgt. Dick Grewe, 934th AW command chief.

"I've got some from other bases but they were never numbered or kept track of," said MSgt. Suzanne Grant from the Military Personnel.

"This seems to give them more significance.

"I was given a coin from a pilot when I made master sergeant," said Grant. "He gave it to me for doing a really good job.

"To me, the coins have a significance" she said. "It let's you know that they appreciate you."

To find out more about the history of unit coins, visit the Air Force Reserve Command website at: www.afrc.af.mil/Units/10af/heritage_3.htm

Rules of the coin

1. *The coin must be carried at all times. You can be challenged for it anywhere, at any time. You must produce the coin without taking more than (8) steps to retrieve it.*
2. *When challenging, the challenger must state whether it is for a single drink or a round of drinks.*
3. *A lost coin, or failure to produce said coin, results in the challenger being bought a drink or a round of drinks. This type of transaction could be expensive, so hold on to your coin. Once the offender (challengee) has bought you a drink, you cannot continue to challenge him/her.*
4. *If all who are challenged produce their coin, the challenger loses, and must buy the drinks for all the respondents. This, too, can be expensive. So, challenge wisely.*
5. *Financial counseling is available from the First Sergeant/Commander-only after the round of drinks has been purchased.*
6. *Under no circumstances can a coin be handed to someone in response to a challenge. If a person gives his/her coin to another, that person can keep the coin. It's theirs!! However, if the coin is placed down and another person picks it up to examine it, this is not considered "giving" and that person is HONOR BOUND to place the coin back where they got it. He/she cannot challenge while he/she holds the other person's coin.*
7. *Rules of the game must be explained to new coin holders.*
8. *No holes will be drilled in the coin.*

Restored wagon wheel adorns entrance to Officer's Club

by SSgt. Jeff Williams
staff writer

A newly restored wagon wheel now adorns the front entrance to the Officer's Club in memory of one of its long serving members.

The wheel was recently dedicated to the memory of Lt. Col. Tom Christianson, who retired from the 133rd Airlift Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard.

Christianson also served as a pilot for Northwest Airlines. He died in August 2000 while on duty flying a DC-9 aircraft.

The wheel, refurbished by Stan Nelson, was used on a wagon that once belonged to the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry and 4th Cavalry units,

and was later used as a chandelier in the club.

Maj. Glenn Nyquist, a retired Marine and close friend of Christianson, along with Col. Dean Despinoy, 934th Airlift Wing commander, unveiled the restored wheel during a short ceremony outside of the club on Dec. 1.

"The wheel has been part of the club for many years, and will now become part of it for years to come," Despinoy said. "It also serves as a reminder of the dedication by the members to the military that should be shared and appreciated."

Christianson's wife Karen, and son Kipp, also attended the ceremony.



Col. Dean J. Despinoy (left), 934th Airlift Wing commander, and retired Marine Corps Maj. Glenn Nyquist, unveil a restored wagon wheel outside the entrance to the Officer's Club. The wheel, once used by the Army's 3rd Infantry and 4th Cavalry has been an ornament at the club for many years. Nyquist (Photo by SSgt. Jeff Williams)

Officers Club

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

Dinner: Tuesday – Saturday from 5:30 to 8:30 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. Bar menu available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sundays: Closed.

Mondays: Dining room closed. Lounge open from 4-11 p.m., and closed Jan. 21

Tuesdays: Special in the dining room. Closed Jan. 22

Wednesdays: Daily special in the dining room is pasta.

Thursdays: Stir Fry Night in the dining room.

Fridays: Different seafood special in the dining room.

Saturdays: Prime rib for two in the dining room.

Jan. 8- Two-For-One Steak Night.

Jan. 18- All-you-can-eat seafood buffet, open to both Officer and Enlisted Club members. Cost is \$19.95 per person. Reservations are required.

Feb. 20- Gourmet dining. Membership and reservations required. 40 person limit. Reservations start Feb. 5.

Enlisted Club

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

Beginning Jan. 2, breakfast service will switch to cafeteria style as customers will go through the cafeteria line and have a choice of the breakfast buffet or order off the ala carte menu.

Lunch: Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dinner: Friday-Saturday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Open to 9 p.m. on UTA

weekends.

Lounge: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-9:30 p.m.;

Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.;

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

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Chefs special for lunch in the dining room. Monday Night football, with chili, hot dogs and pizza available in the lounge.

Tuesday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room

Wednesday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room

Thursday: Different All-You-Can-Eat buffets for lunch in the dining room

Friday: Different specials for lunch and dinner in the dining room.

Saturdays: Closed for lunch

except Jan. 19. Different specials for lunch in the dining room.

Jan. 5- Advisory Board meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Jan. 18- All-you-can-eat seafood buffet, open to both Officer and Enlisted Club members. Cost is \$19.95 per person. Reservations are required.

Jan. 25- Bingo Party and Two-for-One Steak Night for members. Reservations are required. Bingo Party starts at 5:30 p.m.

Fitness/recreation

The UTA volleyball and racquetball competitions continue. Start organizing your bowling teams, we will begin to take sign ups in January for the March UTA event. Contact SSgt. Deb Hanson at 612-713-1-GYM for details.

Individuals interested in taking a snowmobile trip to Yellowstone National Park can do so through the Malmstrom AFB Outdoor Recreation Center.

Trips are scheduled for Feb. 15-17 and Feb.

17-19. A number of pricing packages are available and costs run anywhere from \$217 to \$328

each. Packages include two nights lodging, insurance, one tank of gas, \$20 meal coupon, Grizzly Discovery fee, Yellowstone Park fee and transportation for the Malmstrom AFB Outdoor Recreation Center.

All registrations require a \$25 per person nonrefundable deposit with the balance due by Feb. 1.

For more information or to register, contact Jeff Paulowski at DSN 632-4202 or (406) 731-4202.

OWC

The Officer's Wives Club meets for bridge several times during the month.

Individuals interested in playing on the second and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. should contact Germaine Reuterdahl at (952) 881-0107. Individuals interested in playing on the first and third Wednesday should call either Toberta Gronemann at (763) 494-3517 or Inez Gugisberg at (651) 481-1983.

The OWC would like to thank everyone who donated to the recent fundraiser for the Family Support Center. They raised more than \$2,000 which will help local military members and their families.



Sally Sahr from communications, Bernadette Lunde from the military personnel flight and Becky Ogden from command section administration, entertain the audience with their impersonation of a famous singing trio.

Employees treated to laughs at annual CWF Christmas event

The Civilian Welfare Fund hosted their annual Christmas party Dec. 19 for base employees.

Attendees were kept in stitches by the antics of Tim Payton, Tammy Davis, and a number of volunteer singers who

gave the crowd a slightly-different version of The 12 Days of Christmas.

The event raised more than \$147 for the Trinity Mission, a local charity which provides help to people in need.



Santa's Secret Service (AKA Tim Payton from aircraft maintenance) had the crowd in stitches with his comedy routine.



Tammy Davis from lodging kept the crowd laughing as the mistress of ceremonies during a rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas.

Photos by Al Eakle



Col. Dean Despinoy, 934th Airlift Wing commander, and Gene Henrickson from civil engineering belt out the version of the twelfth verse of the 12 Days of Christmas.



CMSgt. Dick Grewe, 934th Airlift Wing command chief, and Debbie Manselle from services, sing their version of the third verse of the 12 Days of Christmas, while Jan Dalton (left) from safety looks on, awaiting her turn to sing.