

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.
March 2003, Vol. 25 No. 3

Soldiers at the gates

Army Guardsmen augment
base security forces

Inside:

- ✪ **CE at Silver Flag**
- ✪ **Smallpox**



This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the *Viking Flyer* are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office (Air Force Reserve Command), Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis MN 55450-2100, (612) 713-1217.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The newspaper is distributed on Friday before the unit training assembly.

The deadline for unsolicited submissions is the Monday after the UTA.

EDITORIAL STAFF

934th AW Commander
Col. Gary L. Cook
Director of Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Marge McGlinn
NCOIC
Master Sgt. Al Eakle
Editor
Allen Marshall
Viking Flyer Staff Writers
Senior Amn. Nicholas Olson
Senior Amn. Stephanie Witty
Viking Flyer Photographers
Senior Amn. Chris Guthrie
Amn. Josh Nason



VIKING FLYER

Volume 25, Number 3

March 2003



Silver Flag...Members of the

934th Civil Engineer Squadron traveled to Tyndall AFB, Fla., to participate in the Silver Flag exercise. The course tests the leadership, teamwork and war-fighting skills of deployable personnel from civil engineering and other units... **Pages 6 and 7**

Smallpox...Air Mobility Command has begun implementing a smallpox vaccination plan and so has the 934th Airlift Wing...**Read more on Page 4**

Awards and Decorations...The awards and decorations board is composed of eight people from various units in the wing and meets every Sunday of the Unit Training Assembly in order to make recommendations regarding awards and decorations. Learn more about this group...**Page 8**

Complaint?...The inspector general, Col. Kristin Rudin, explain the IG complaint process...**Page 9**

Correction...In the February edition of the Viking Flyer, the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was incorrectly identified as falling under the 934th Medical Group. The 934th AES falls under the operations group.



On the cover

U.S. Army Soldiers receive training from 934th Security Forces troops. The soldiers, Guardsmen who have been called to active duty, are now augmenting security for the base. The augmentation is part of a larger mobilization by the Departments of the Army and Air Force. Nationally, the mobilization involves 9,000 Army Guard members at 163 Air Force, Air Guard and Air Force Reserve facilities. (Photo by Allen Marshall)



Packing up

photo by Allen Marshall

TSgt. Russ Funaro, from the wing historian's office, displays his pallet-building skills during the cargo deployment exercise held during the February UTA.

Two called up to help with mortuary assistance

Two reservists from the 934th Airlift Wing were called up to help support mortuary assistance in the wake of the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy.

Maj. Neal Landeen and SMSgt. Dennis McLean left Feb. 5 for the Department of Defense mortuary assistance center at Dover Air Force Base, Dele. Landeen and McLean, both members of the 934th Airlift Wing Services Squadron, spent approximately 14 days helping to identify victims and return remains to the next-of-kin.

Col. Gary Cook, 934th Airlift Wing commander, said he was

proud to see members of his unit answering the call to help.

"I know that there was an outpouring of volunteers throughout the Air Force Reserve," the colonel said. "But Maj. Landeen and Sgt. McLean were both chosen because of their extensive experience with mortuary assistance. They've both been great assets to this unit and the Air Force Reserve."

This is not the first time mortuary affairs reservists have been called upon to help. Fifteen members assisted in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C.

Law protects benefits of called-up private sector employees

WASHINGTON - In mid-January, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao unveiled updated information to help reservists preparing to be deployed understand their rights to pension and health benefits coverage available through private sector employers.

"Military reservists should have confidence that while they are serving their country on active duty their job pension and health benefits will continue for their families," Chao said. "That is why we have developed information to familiarize reservists and family members with the federal law that protects these benefits.

"Many troops will be called to serve. This represents a great sacrifice by reservists, Guardsmen and employers who must carry on

Continued on Page 5

AMC implements smallpox vaccine plan

934th has begun vaccinating some targeted groups

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Leas
AMC Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS) — Air Mobility Command is taking every precaution to ensure its people deploying into harm's way are protected from one of the Department of Defense's newest perceived threats, smallpox.

While smallpox as a disease has long been eradicated through vaccination, experts in chemical-biological warfare have recently identified it as a potential threat. As the Air Force and AMC continue efforts in the Global War on Terrorism, emerging threats such as smallpox require a new measure of force protection.

The Centers for Disease Control says surveillance and containment, not mass vaccination, are the best methods of control. Therefore, the Air Force and AMC are only targeting for vaccination military people most likely to be threatened by smallpox infection.

The 934th Airlift Wing is using the same strategy. SSgt. Jason Rebholtz, 934th ASTS, has had the vaccination and said that he is one of 31 people within the wing that have been inoculated.

"People here that have been inoculated are those who are on the medical team, the mortuary affairs team and anyone who is slated to be an AMC-gained or CENTCOM-gained asset," Rebholtz said.

"We are trying to limit the vaccination, not expand it," said Maj. Gen. Roger A. Brady, director of operations for AMC, who heads the command's task force to develop and implement a vaccination plan. "In addition to vaccinating those deploying into the theater of operation in support of U.S. Central Command, we

will focus on those AMC and AMC-gained people who administer the vaccine. Medical professionals who have a high risk of exposure to the disease, such as smallpox medical teams and aeromedical evacuation crews, critical care air transport teams and aeromedical staging facility people will also receive the vaccine."

Since aeromedical evacuation can be performed on nearly all AMC aircraft, the command plans to vaccinate selected aircrews, including Raven security forces, and other mission critical people. In addition, a small number of mortuary affairs professionals will also be targeted. This plan protects AMC's people most at risk of exposure and the command's capability to continue mobility operations in support of the combatant commander, according to Brady.

"The smallpox vaccine is effective, but requires that some precautions be taken," said Brady. "One of our concerns is that it will leave some people feeling like they have a mild case of the flu. Consequently, we'll pay close attention to when we administer the vaccine to reduce the chance that they would have to endure side effects while traveling."

After establishing a base-level Smallpox Vaccination Program Development Team, bases will also make sure the vaccination program is done in stages, so that not everyone in one area is affected at one time and that the mission is not impaired.

Expected reactions from the vaccine are a blister at the vaccination site, which later forms a scab. Other effects include itching at the vaccination site, fatigue, mild fever, headache or muscle ache.

Green explained conservative screening would reduce chances of complications. "We're trying to prevent our people from unnecessarily having any adverse reaction to the vaccine or cause undue exposure of

the vaccine virus to family and co-workers through those vaccinated."

Also, adequate time must be given for those who receive the vaccine to be examined by medical professionals to ensure the vaccination "takes," similar to receiving a tuberculosis skin test to ensure the individual has an appropriate response.

People will receive the vaccination preferably 30 days before they are deployed. Those who have less than eight days before deployment will receive the vaccine at their deployment location, according to Rebholtz.

Reasons for people being screened-out for pre-deployment vaccination are numerous and include those people who:

- ⊗ have eczema or atopic dermatitis
- ⊗ have skin conditions that cause breaks in the skin
- ⊗ have a weakened immune system
- ⊗ are under the age of 18
- ⊗ have specific life-threatening allergic reactions
- ⊗ are mothers who are breastfeeding
- ⊗ use steroid drops in their eyes
- ⊗ are moderately or severely ill at time of scheduled vaccination

Rebholtz added that service members with pregnant women or children under 12 months residing with them will most likely be screened-out.

Command officials also provided clarification for those who are not vaccinated before they deploy. People who screen-out because of medical contraindications of their household contacts will receive the vaccination in theater. Those who have contraindications will still be deployed without the vaccination. Being vaccinated within 72 hours after exposure to smallpox can still protect them.

Law (continued from Page 3)

without the services of these valuable employees during our fight against terrorism and to preserve the freedom cherished by Americans."

"Frequently Asked Questions for Reservists Being Called to Active Duty" provides basic information about how retirement benefits of reservists are protected during service to their country. It also describes the rights of family members to maintain health coverage, including the right to keep coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, as well as health benefit options available to family members.

A copy of the questions and answers can be obtained on the department's Web site at www.dol.gov/pwba. The public also may call with questions through PWBA's toll-free employee and employer hotline at (866) 275-7922 or electronically at www.askpwba.dol.gov (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a DOL news release)



Survival training

Courtesy photo

Members of the 96th Airlift Squadron and the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron participated in water survival training during the February UTA. The training was conducted in Key West, Fla.

Community assessment queries reservists

By SSgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - A survey designed to gauge the Air Force's success in building communities is set for distribution in early April.

The 2003 Community Assessment Survey will be sent out servicewide and will include for the first time more than 30,000 reservists and their families.

"We want to find out what people really need and what would help them make their communities and their lives in the Air Force better," said Maj. Jim Whitworth, the Air Force's director of family advocacy research and project officer for the survey. "The assessment goes out to active-duty members, reservists and to their spouses. Many of our reservists and families reside several hundred miles from their Air Force Reserve Command unit, so it is imperative we understand and address the issues they face."

Variations of the assessment have been conducted once every 24 to 30 months since 1993. This year, the total number of people who will be asked to take the assessment is about 1,800 people at each of 85 Air Force installations, and several hundred from each Reserve installation. Those taking the survey will be randomly chosen, and the survey is Web-based and completely anonymous. The assessment will be administered over a six-week period, and 24-hour technical support will be available.

Assessment questions cover basic needs by asking about "key areas necessary for building strong communities," Whitworth said.

One section of the assessment will ask questions specifically for Air Force reservists and spouses. The questions will cover topics such as civilian employers, spouse and member's feelings about the Reserve,

where they live and financial issues.

Assessment results, Whitworth said, will not fall on deaf ears. In fact, bases have used past results to make changes in the services they provide on base, and even in the services and options available to those off base.

Whitworth said the key to the success of the assessments is that Air Force leaders will be better able to help their people help themselves.

"We've found the most powerful way to help people is to help their informal networks - to help people to establish more and better friendships, to help them to get to know their neighbors and get involved in their community," Whitworth said.

Reserve and active-duty members will be notified by e-mail, while spouses will be notified by postal mail. Airmen can complete

the assessment on a designated Web site, and spouses have the option of completing it on paper. The effectiveness of the assessment depends totally on participants' willingness to accurately complete it, Whitworth said. It is designed to take less than 20 minutes to complete.

"Our goal is to make improvements in building stronger communities without guessing, so we need to know people's thoughts and needs," Whitworth said. "If people don't tell us what they need or identify areas where we can improve or what the problems are, it will be much harder to reach our goal."

"We urge all active-duty, Reserve and family members who receive these assessments to take the time to complete the assessment and to help us strengthen our Air Force communities. This assessment is their chance to do that." (AFRC News Service)

SILVER FLAG

934th CES travels to Florida for realistic training exercise

**by SrA Nicholas Olson
Staff writer**

Reservists are often called to act within the realms of real world scenarios. When the time comes, a unit needs to be ready for any and everything that can be thrown at them. January 18-25, 65 members from the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron participated in training that would help prepare them for such events.

Detachment 1 of the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron runs the Silver Flag Exercise Site, located at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. During an average year, the detachment trains more than 6,000 personnel working in the civil engineering and services career fields as part of the Prime Base Engineering Emergency Force (Prime BEEF) training requirements. The primary course lasts five days and consists of classroom instruction and concludes with a field exercise.

"During the week, there can be up to 200 personnel in the camp," said Lt. Col. John Larson. "They are all going through various training classes during the first four days which are in classrooms."

Once the classroom portion is complete, the unit members participate in a full-fledged field-training scenario to show what they've learned. The course tests the leadership, teamwork and war-fighting skills of deployable personnel from civil engineering, services and personnel supporting contingency operations under field conditions. It also measures a unit's ability to function as a team; to "bed down" and sustain air power; and to provide quick recovery after attack, according to the Tyndall AFB website.

"You are literally picking everybody up and moving them theoreti-



The 934th Civil Engineer Squadron participated in a training exercise where warfighting and teamwork skills were tested in a



photos by 2nd Lt. Albert Bosco
Tyndal AFB Public Affairs

Silver Flag exercise at Tyndall AFB, Fla., in January. Leadership, realistic, field-training environment.

cally 100, 200 miles away to a bare location,” said Maj. Donald Kom. “It is basically picking up a small city and you can’t sleep or do anything until your tasking. Basically, if you don’t complete your tasking, you don’t get to sleep.

“On one hand, you are trying to set up your city and bed down your people. At the same time, you have aircraft coming in,” said Kom. “You’ve got the runway damaged; you have a chemical attack. There are all different variables you have to deal with while trying to accomplish the mission.”

“It varies from unit- to-unit as to how long it takes to complete the scenario,” said Larson. “The exercise itself is about 36 hours long.”

“Every task has to be completed before the scenario ends,” said MSgt. Mike McGuire. “It doesn’t matter if it’s 2 a.m. that night or 6 p.m. the next day.”

“They’re constantly throwing activities at you during the scenario,” said Kom. “It’s difficult enough having to set up a small city without having to come into a location where the runway is already damaged. Suddenly you have to go and repair the runway because they want to start landing aircraft just hours after you arrive.”

During the scenario, there is very little that is actually simulated. Actual aircraft and equipment are used as well as craters in the runway and bombed out buildings.

“We had a barrier that we had built run into by an F-15,”

said Larson. “Everything they teach you in three days in the classroom is compressed into a short, intensive scenario.”

“It is a good team building event,” said Larson. “You have a lot of different specialties in CE that were able to work together and, if another group fell behind or needed help, you saw everybody pitching in saying ‘We are going to get through this exercise together.’”

“It was a challenge to get everyone to get all of the people together,” said Kom. “We had a motto: One team, one fight.”

“You saw officers putting up tents and senior NCOs volunteering to drive trucks,” said Kom. “Everyone was willing to pitch in and help get the mission accomplished.”

“We were fortunate to have a number of chief master sergeants and master sergeants with us in the group,” said Larson. “There were enough to handle the administrative requirements of the camp. It was good to get a chance to work with the active duty and Guard as a total force,” said Larson.

Colonel Gary Cook, 934th Wing commander, came down and had a chance to go through the site.

“It was amazing to me to see how real the scenarios were,” Cook said. “They didn’t simulate damage to the runway, they actually blew holes in the runway. It is one of the most realistic exercises I’ve ever seen.”

“The members of the units really got a good chance to show off their skills,” said Larson. “Our various shops are getting the war skills training they need,” said Larson. “It is a good final test of our abilities.”

After the exercise was complete, the cadre performed a “hot wash” debriefing. The inspectors gave their opinions on what went well or what needed work during the exercise. Kom said the hot wash gave the unit some good ideas to help them prepare for activations, mobility and Air Expeditionary Force taskings.

“Right now they could pick our unit up and ship us anywhere,” said Kom. “With that same equipment we would do very well.”

The 934th Civil Engineer Squadron goes to the Silver Flag Site every four years as part of mandated training.



Little is simulated at the Silver Flag exercise. Actual aircraft are used as well as very real craters.

Awards and decorations

8-member board strives to preserve integrity of program

By Senior Airman Stephanie Witty
Staff Writer

Ever wonder what happens when an awards package is submitted? Look no further than the Awards and Decorations Board, responsible for reviewing any submitted packages.

The group is responsible for approving, disapproving, and/or downgrading award packages on behalf of the wing commander, who serves as the final approval authority.

The objective of the board is to "foster morale, incentive and esprit de corps," according to the 22nd Air Force Guide. "A well managed program helps to improve retention."

Our goal is to preserve the integrity of the Awards and Decorations Program and ensure the program is well managed, said Col. Kristin Rudin, 934th Airlift Wing Inspector General.

The awards process begins at the unit level. Supervisors may submit people for awards by working through their unit awards and decorations monitor, the first sergeant, and commander, according to Rudin. When the package has been com-

pleted, it then goes to the MPF Customer Service Section which then quality checks the packages and prepare them for the board. Then all board members review the packages and make a unanimous recommendations for the approval, disapproval, downgrade, or occasionally upgrade of the package.

The board which is governed by AFI 36-2803, the AF Awards and Decorations Program and the 22nd AF Awards and Decorations Working Guide, looks to ensure that awards meets basic requirements, looking for specifications in the justification, not generalities, according to Rudin. The award must meet the appropriate level of justification for the grade and years of service.

People submitting an individual for an award should be sure to use the individuals OPR/EPRs for the awards justification, and add any information not covered, according to Rudin. It is also helpful to become familiar with the 22AF Working Guide so that award packages are correct the first time.

Some of the biggest mistakes

that can be made in submitting an award are not having enough justification for the level of the award, no commander signature, dates not matching on the Décor 6 citation, and write up, said Rudin.

The board plans on implementing feedback forms within the next few months, said Rudin. The board enables communication between its members and commanders, especially if an award is downgraded or disapproved. It can provide reasoning behind why specific decisions have been made.

Current board members

Col. Mark Arnold
Col. Kristin Rudin
Maj. Maureen Banavige
Maj. Dennis Brown
CMSgt. Richard Grewe
SMSgt. Clark Johnson
MSgt. Don Johnson

Deployment offers tax options

Not filing is not one of them

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Mobilized Air Force reservists deploying overseas are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff judge advocate officials here.

Deploying reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize their spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have their non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file their joint tax return on their behalf,

or use an extension if authorized.

Before deploying:

If reservists have not received their Form W-2 in the mail, they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay Account" on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

Most active-duty locations offer a tax assistance program.

Members can electronically file returns and opt for direct deposit of any refund into their checking accounts.

Authorizing another to file:

To allow someone else to sign and file their return, reservists must:

- Be unable to sign the return because of disease or injury,
- Be absent from the United States for a period of at least 60 days before the due date for filing the return, or
- Get permission from the Internal Revenue Service office in their area to have another person file on their behalf.

They can authorize their agent to

Continue on Page 12

IG explains complaints process

by Col. Kristin Rudin
Wing Inspector General

The most effective way of resolving most complaints is through your chain of command, or an appropriately established grievance channel. Complaints can often be resolved by seeking assistance through your chain of command, and you are encouraged to seek this avenue first. There are two reasons why. The first reason is because commanders and supervisors are charged with not only performing their unit's mission, but also with taking care of unit members. The second reason is commanders are empowered to solve problems and resolve issues within their organizations.

Another avenue for seeking assistance from within the unit is the first sergeant. Although not a part of the chain of command, the first sergeant parallels the unit chain of command and is one of the most capable individuals to handle concerns of unit members. He or she is there to help.

Should you find, for one reason or another, that you are unable to resolve your issue through your chain of command or unit first sergeant, the wing IG is another avenue. In fact, it's your right to contact the IG at any time. Public law states that you cannot be restricted from contacting the IG or punished for doing so.

For more information on airing grievances, just want to talk, or feel you have been restricted from contacting the IG, I am located in Room 260, Bldg. 760, and can be reached at ext. 1298 or by e-mail at:

Kristin.rudin@minneapolis.af.mil

Chaplain describes the "free gift" available to all

We all have heard the saying, "The best things in life are free". I would like to tell you about a gift that is absolutely free to you but was purchased at a great price.

Christmas is well behind us now. The gifts we received were purchased with a lot of forethought and love. They were meant to bring happiness, to last a long time and for us to use often.

But buy now the newness has worn off. Some gifts are sitting on a shelf in the closet awaiting the next yard sale. Some were returned to the store; did not fit, wrong color. Some are broken or even lost. Some were very costly but now have little value. The joy and usefulness they were intended to bring are gone.

Wouldn't you like to receive a priceless gift that will never be lost or broken and will increase in value with time; a gift that will bring real happiness, peace and hope?

This is just the gift that every one of us needs. The best news is the gift is free. Paul tells us in Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* In chapter five he tells us three times that this is a *free gift*. There is nothing you can do to earn it. There are no strings attached. It is yours free. All you need to do is say,



"There is nothing you can do to earn it. There are no strings attached. It is yours free. All you need to do is say, 'Yes Lord, I want it.'"

-- Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Perry

with North Korea and Iraq and the possibility that many of our soldiers could be in harms way. What better time is there than now to accept God's free gift of eternal life.

Let me end with a couple of questions. First, how old are you? Add 100 years to that and think to yourself for a moment. Where will you be in 100 years?

If you did not like the answer to that question or were uncertain, please pray this simple prayer with me aloud: *Father I believe that Jesus, your Son died for my sins. I have many sins. Please forgive of all my sins. I welcome you Jesus into my life to be my Lord and Savior. Help me now to live for you. Thank you Lord for the free gift of eternal life amen.*

I hope you prayed that prayer with me. Please let me know if you did. If you are about to deploy or if you are staying here this is just the gift you need. It cost Jesus His life.

"Yes Lord, I want it".

I received this gift of salvation 25 years ago. I have never lost it or broken it. I haven't returned it. It has become more precious to me the longer I have it. I know where I stand with God. I know where I will go when I die. Oh, what peace that gives me. Oh, what hope in the face of uncertainty and oh, what a gift! It keeps on giving.

Taking into consideration the uncertainty of war

If you have a story idea for the Viking Flyer, please call the Public Affairs office at ext. 1217.

Services News

The Club welcomes Chef Erich Schumacher. He has new specials planned.

Officer's Club (612) 713-3678

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

Dinner: Wednesday -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.

Lounge menu available from 1 to 9 p.m. Tues-Sat

Sundays: Closed.

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

Tuesdays: Dining room closed. Lounge menu available 1-9 p.m.

Wednesdays: Mar. 5 - Meat Loaf, Mar 12 - Pork Saltimboca, Mar. 19 - Turkey Medallions, Mar. 26 - Pork Porterhouse Tuscan Style

Thursdays: Mar. 6 - Mixed Grill Skewer, Mar. 13 - Braised Lamb Shanks, Mar. 20 - Double Loin Chop, Mar. 27 - Roasted Chicken Breast

Fridays: Mar. 7 - Craw Fish Bourbon St, Mar. 14 - Grilled Halibut Steak, Mar. 21 - Tournados of Salmon, Mar 28 Lobster Thermidor - RSVP required.

Saturdays: Mar 1 - Prime rib for two, Mar 8 - Roast Duckling, Mar 15 - Prime Rib for 2, Mar 22 - (Retiree Night) T-Bone Steak, Mar 29 - Prime Rib 2.

Special events: 18 Mar - 2-4-1 Steak Special (RSVP) Mar. 22 - Retiree Night, T-Bone Special

Enlisted Club (612) 713-1655

Play Bingo at the Enlisted Club every Friday night at 5 p.m. The Club is no longer open for breakfast

Lunch: Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dinner: Friday night only from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Open until 9 p.m. on UTA Friday. Dinner available at Officers Club Wed-Sat.

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: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: Daily specials for lunch plus

regular menu.

Fridays: Evening Specials; Mar 7 - Grilled Pork Chop, Mar 14 - Liver & Onions, Mar 21- Coconut Shrimp, Mar 28 - Seafood Platter

Saturdays: Open for lunch from 11-12:30 p.m. on Mar 8 and Mar 22

Club management urges Enlisted Club members to eat at the Officers Club Wed - Sat.

Club Membership applications are available at all Services Facilities.

Special Events 2 -4-1 Steak Event held at the O Club for ALL members

North Country Lodge

Reservations: Call 1-888-AF-Lodge or (612) 726-9440. Effective 7 Feb 03, Space Available reservations may be made two weeks in advance at North Country Lodge (until further notice). Previously, Space Available reservations were only available 24 hours in advance. For more information call Tammy Davis, Lodging Manager, at 612-713-1978.

Fitness Center

(612) 713-1496

Operating Hours

0500-2100 Mon-Thu

0500-2000 Fri

0800-1600 weekends

Closed Federal Holidays

UTA Activities

The annual bowling outing at the Burnsville Bowl will be held the March UTA. For more information, contact TSgt Stacy Campbell at the Fitness Center

Officers' Wives Club

20 March Luncheon and style show presented by Herberger Department Store RSVP to Roberta Gronemann 763-494-3517 or Jan Olson. 952-470-8879

Bridge weather permitting

The Officer's Wives Club meets for bridge on the second and third Tuesdays of the month. Call Germaine Reuterdaahl at (952) 881-0107 for more information.

Evening bridge meets on the first and third Wednesdays. Call Roberta Gronemann at (763) 494-3517 or Inez Gugisberg at (651) 481-1983 for more information.

Wing Coins

The following individuals received wing coins recently from Col. Gary Cook, wing commander:

SSgt. Nicky Sweet, 934th Operation Support Flight

TSgt. Joe Waitros, 934th Security Forces Squadron

TSgt. Diane Johnson, 96th Airlift Squadron

MSgt. June Beinhorn, 934th Security Forces Squadron

SMSgt. Samuel Swann, Command Post

Mike King, Rothe

New Commanders

The following individuals were recently appointed commanders of their respective units:

Maj. David Mattson, 934th Aircraft Maintenance squadron;

1st Lt. Jeff Gorman, 934th Maintenance Operations Flight, vice Maj. David Zenner

934th Maintenance

More than \$3,600 was raised for Roger Smith at VFW Post 6690 in Mendota, Minn. There was a dinner, dance and silent auction.

The Logistics Group began its migration to the new squadron set-up and new squadron names. MXS split into Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Maintenance Squadron. MXS will lose Capt. Jay Smeltzer to the 910th AW at Youngstown, OH. His successor has yet to be named, but Maj. Mattson will be his stand-in.

TSgts. Lee Hanson and Dan Roth both scored 91 percent on their Crew Chief CDCs.

SSgt. Bryan Back attended 7-level school and earned a 93 percent on the final test at Sheppard AFB for the Heavy Maintenance Craftsman course.

MSgt. Kluck attended the AFRC SNCO LDP at Robbins AFB, Ga.

TSgt. Blake Andrist completed 7-level Sheet Metal School for Structural Repair at Pensacola, Fla.

TSgt. Dean Plank won an autographed football by Brett Favre from the Green Bay Packers. A special ticket was bought for a raffle held in behalf of Ricky Smasal's daughter.

MSgt. Orvin Melaas retired Feb. 1. SrA. Deatherage was promoted to staff sergeant and SSgt. Mills was promoted to tech sergeant. Capt. Jay Smeltzer received a Meritorious Service Medal.

The unit welcomes SSgts. Jim Hartman, Christopher Geraets and Mark Verdugo; as well as A1C Chantell Ramey. *(Submitted by TSgt. Richard Rheinhardt)*

934th Airlift Wing

The Airlift Wing staff congratulates Janet Daton who was named the 22nd Air Force Outstanding Safety Civilian of the Year.

SMSGt. Dean Swann was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal and has retired. MSgt. Scott Struss received a Commendation Medal and has retired.

SMSGt. David Hammer was an adjunct instructor for the 3-Level Historian Course at Maxwell AFB during the month of January. SSgt. Todd Littfin was married Jan. 4 and SSgt. Rodney Schaffer was married Jan 8.

The Military Equal Opportunity office welcomes TSgt. Dawn Flipp to the staff. *(Submitted by SSgt. Nathan Dilner)*

934th Civil Engineer

SrA Daniel Deranek successfully completed a pest management recertification course at Sheppard AFB, Texas, as part of his duties as an Environmental Journeyman.

CMSGt. David Angerman was presented a certification of appreciation for performing in a recent Honor Guard detail.

SMSGt. David Halverson and TSgt James Palo were presented certificates of appreciation from Security Forces for their participation as security forces augmentees last year.

The unit welcomed new member SrA Kurt Lahners to the equipment shop. Lahners is retraining and is presently TDY to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo, to attend his 3-level technical school.

The unit devoted part of the February UTA preparing for the upcoming annual tour deployment to Barksdale AFB, La. The first crew of unit members are due to arrive at Barksdale AFB in March.

Several unit members participated in the base-wide mobility exercise during the February UTA. Unit members were able to hone their skills in the areas of Increment Management, Weapons Couriering and Mobility Processing.

The unit's Equipment shop put in long hours this past UTA working snow removal. It was a chance for equipment operators to work on their heavy machinery skills and also to help fellow base members get around better.

In between the January and February UTAs, several members of the unit's Power Production shop received training on the new base generator lo-

cated in building 853 (old mail room).

SSgt Danford Young married Mellanie Anderson on Dec. 31, 2002. The couple will be residing in Alexandria, Minn. *(Submitted by MSgt. Mike McGuire)*

934th ASTS

The ASTS participated in the Wing Cargo Processing Exercise. Medical Readiness and Medical Logistics members mobilized ATC, palletized weapons and A-bags, documented hazardous material, performed weapons currier functions and increment management functions.

Unit personnel have received comprehensive training on the small pox and anthrax vaccinations. As this unit will provide these vaccinations for any contingency or deployment requiring them, designated physicians, nurses, and immunization personnel received the small pox vaccination in February.

Due to successful recruiting for the ASTS, we expect to gain a number of physicians, nurses, and medical technicians in the near future. The ASTS welcomes new members: SrA Steven Boggs, SrA Constance Diaz, SrA Jason Lemire, SrA Michelle Odean, SrA Christina Perrault, SSgt Patrick Sherry, and 2Lt Mark Testerman. *(Submitted by TSgt. Shirley Houin)*

934th AES

During the February UTA, 22 aircrew members completed water survival training in Key West, Fla.,

At home, several unit members participated in the "Feb Ex" cargo deployment exercise.

TSgt. Merle Fischer retired with the Base Honor Guard participating in his ceremony.

SMSGt. Joesph Brinza, the unit's first sergeant for many years, will be retiring in March. TSgt. Christopher Sayre has accepted the first sergeants position.

Five unit personnel returned recently from a 90-day deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. *(Submitted by Maj. Carol Freerks)*



Future Pilot?

photo by Allen Marshall

A youngster tests out the interior of the 934th Airlift Wing's mock C-130 cock pit which was on display at the Mall of America Feb. 8 and 9. The cockpit was part of the wing's exhibit at the Government on Display event. More than 35 federal agencies participated and an estimated 360,000 people toured through the Mall of America during the two-day event.

Mail programs for troops suspended

Just recently, the Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Transportation suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Service Member" mail programs to troops who are deployed.

Units and individuals are prohibited from participating in any form of "Any Service Member" to include letters, cards and donations of goods.

Anyone who is approached with a request for assistance for delivering mail or donations to deployed troops should forward the request to Public Affairs for the appropriate response. The public affairs office will encourage them to donate to worthy causes and visit or send mail to VA Hospitals.

The Public Affairs office can be reached at ext. 1217.

Tax options *continued from Page 8*

sign and file by using a special power of attorney or by using IRS Form 2848, which is available on the Web at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/f2848.pdf> (instructions at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i2848.pdf>).

Filing a joint return:

In this situation, a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 is not required. Married couples filing separate returns cannot take advantage of this option.

Using an extension:

Deployed military people can usually take advantage of a filing extension for service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area.

Before claiming these extensions, reservists should check with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer to ensure that the area where they are deployed has been declared a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area.

To find out what a state requires when reservists are deployed, they should consult with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer. Some states have rules that are similar to the federal rules. (AFRC News Service)

NEXT UTA is April 5-6