

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.

January 2008 Vol. 30, No. 1



Stray shots

By Lt. Col. Theodore Ruminsky
934 SFS/CC

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past." ~ Patrick Henry, Mar. 23 1775.

I believe all experience has value, even if only to confirm what not to do. In November, the wing ORE players redeployed from Gulfport CRTC. Upon their return, I had the opportunity to hear the firsthand accounts, the "war-stories," from our team of security forces



that participated in the ORE. Naturally, there were many stories, both personal and professional in nature, that they will keep with them the rest of their days; usually to be recounted in a fashion that troops have been doing for centuries. These stories

are the essence of experience. It's the "been there, done that" and the lessons you learned and took away from the event.

You may have previously heard the comparison of experience to hardened steel. I like the comparison. Hardened steel is made by managing the raw materials along with time, heat and pressure. Through the process of hardening, the steel becomes stronger, better for its designed task. So it is the same with people. Like hardened steel, there is nothing like time, heat, pressure – experience – to better prepare you for the tasks ahead.

Over the years we all accumulate experience in various ways and forms. Sometimes it is from learning it the hard way in a very personal fashion. It might come from watching the people around us. Often, it's through mentoring from family and co-workers. Regardless, we all eventually reap the benefits of experience. No matter how we gain experience, once gained, it is invaluable to our future success.

One of my favorite benefits of experience can be found in relationships. There is nothing like the experience of shared hardship – time, heat, and pressure - to forge the kinds of strong bonds that military personnel can develop.

Often in those situations, stress is relieved in humorous fashion, and we laugh at the absurd. Sometimes it's easier to recount the funny things than the not-so-funny things. Regardless, at the core is a shared experience that provides mutual understanding; understanding that feeds the body and soul of our closest relationships.

There is irony in experience...it often requires failure to earn it. "If I only knew this when I was younger," a common mantra from those folks amongst us that have a little more seasoning as we contemplate opportunity lost. Perhaps if we had known back then what we know now, we would've been better prepared to deal with some of the challenges we had faced along the way.

While we gain experience in many ways, it certainly helps to live it to get it. This is one reason why we deploy to Gulfport as we prepare for our ORI. Most folks understand there is no substitute for doing. Some argue that "exercises" are not actually doing. Too often I hear complaints (I've made them myself) about "exercise artificialities" that would "never happen" in real situations. No doubt, simulations are not always perfect. But in our line of work, simulations do not carry the potentially grave consequences that come with actual combat. We have to work with what we've got. The CTRCs will have to do.

There is value in exercises. In security forces, it is a universally accepted practice to conduct at least one shift-level exercise on each shift, every day. Over time, our personnel have experienced nearly every kind of situation they're likely to actually face. While every situation is different and must be assessed upon its own merits, each time we participate in an exercise, we gain experience. When faced with an actual incident, they have a vector on how to proceed. So it is the same with ORI prep.

The ORE was a successful mission from both here at the base and at Gulfport. As we set our crosshairs on the ORI, I offer my congratulations to all for a job well-done for a successful ORE. The lessons learned, and the experience gained, are important to our future success. We are better prepared than before to face future challenges. You can go to Gulfport with confidence, I know you have the experience to succeed.

ORI warrior training

January UTA -- Sunday 8-11

--ORI Functional Area Breakout sessions

February UTA -- Sunday 8-11

--Wing Wide ATSO exercise

March UTA -- Saturday and Sunday

--Personnel and Cargo Processing (including alternates)

March 27

--Wing CC call 8-9:30 Fitness Center

March 28

--Transition Point Training

--CCA Training





Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Serving it up!

(above) Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, Col. Allan Swartzmiller, 934th Operations Group commander, Lt. Col. Eric Brandes, Maintenance Group commander and (below) Col. Stephen DeWerff, 934th AW Vice Commander, Lt. Col. Theodore Ruminsky, SFS commander, Chief Master Sgt. Jan Dalton, 934th Command Chief, lend a hand serving the annual holiday meal Saturday, Dec. 1, at the 934th dining facility.



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Wing Commander's Hotline

The hotline provides wing members with a direct link to the wing commander to relay kudos, concerns or suggestions on wing matters.

To reach the hotline, call (612) 713-1115. Remember to leave your name and telephone number.

Before relaying problems, be sure to use your chain of command or call the responsible agency first so it can have the chance to help you.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline

Report suspected occurrences of Fraud, Waste and Abuse to the FWA hotline at (612) 713-1180.



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All photos are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The deadline for all submissions is the Sunday of the UTA one month prior to publication.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond

On the cover

Two Airmen from the 934th assist young Thomas Amort off a C-130 after it landed in the 'North Pole' during Operation Santa. See story and photos on page 6.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A new life for two tough men

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Perry
934 AW Chaplain

Steve McQueen was a top billing actor who lead a life as tough as the ones he portrayed on the screen. Success filled his life until alcohol and a failed marriage left him empty.

In his despair he attended a crusade led by one of Billy Graham's associates. McQueen made a profession of faith and requested an opportunity to speak with Billy Graham. A connecting flight in Los Angeles allowed Dr. Graham to spend a couple of hours with him in the actor's limousine. Dr Graham shared numerous scriptures in his quest to give spiritual hope and assurance. Steve McQueen struggled with the thought of God giving eternal life to a man who had such a checkered past.

However, in Titus 1:2, he found a promise that spoke to him. It read, "the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago."

He requested something to write down the verse, but Billy Graham gave McQueen his Bible instead.

Later, when Steve McQueen died in Mexico while seeking experimental treatment for his terminal cancer. He passed into eternity with his Bible opened to Titus 1 and his finger resting on verse 2.

Recently the famed daredevil Evel Knievel, died at age 69. Not long ago he was featured on Robert Schuler's program, where he told of his life changing encounter with God.

Regardless of our past, we have the assurance of our eternal salvation because of God's word. This promise is for all who make the decision. Even those that have had their fill of rebellious living are able to ask God for forgiveness and a second chance. This new year ask God for a second chance at life, an opportunity to start over again with a new beginning and the hope of eternal life. He will give it to you, for he will not lie.

Awards Meritorious Service

Maj. David R. Mattson
Chief Master Sgt. David M. Entingh
Senior Master Sgt. Lonnie E. Gillespie
Senior Master Sgt. Clark D. Johnson
Master Sgt. Steven J. Lerbakken
Master Sgt. Dan R. Pekel
Master Sgt. Thomas G. Stratton

Commendation

Capt. Chad M. Ver Steeg
Capt. Michael L. Lucore
Tech. Sgt. Jamie M. Christenson
Tech. Sgt. Martha E. Grimes
Staff Sgt. Joshou D. Nason
Staff Sgt. Erik A. Puffer

Achievement

Staff Sgt. Nicholas G. Huber
Staff Sgt. Heather A. Schlitt

MXS is winner of 2007 AFRC Maintenance Effectiveness Award

934th AW Safety office is winner of the AFRC Safety Office of the year Award for 2007

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Vosen selected as AFRC Ground Safety NCO of the year for 2007



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond

Check it out

Lt. Col. Craig Trammell, 96th Airlift Squadron commander, presents a check of \$400 to Shirlee Peterson, the director of recreation at the veterans home in St. Paul. The money, which was gathered from a collection from 96th AS members, will be used to buy Christmas presents for the veterans.

Around the Pattern



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Col. Tarchick prepares to pin the Air Force Commendation Medal on Tech. Sgt. Martha E. Grimes, Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Nason and Staff. Sgt. Erik A Puffer.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Nason

Col. Tarchick presents Maj. Brian D. Haugen with his retirement plaque. Haugen retires after 22 yrs. of service.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Nason

Master Sgt. Paul Gulenchyn receives his retirement plaque from Col. Tarchick. Gulenchyn retires after 22 yrs. of service.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Nason

Master Sgt. Craig L. Molm receives a retirement gift from Maj. Jeffrey Gorman during his retirement ceremony Dec. 1. Molm retires with 35 yrs of service.



Photo by Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett

Lt. Col. Craig A. Trammell commerates his acceptance of command of the 96th Airlift Squadron Dec. 2 with with his brother Scott and Scott's fiancee Kelly.



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Tech. Sgt. Todd D. Littfin receives a certificate from the Community College of the Air Force for his completion of an associates degree in Applied Science.



Operation Santa



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond

Travelers from Eau Claire, Wis. heading to the 'North Pole' to see Santa Clause board a 934th C-130 Sat. Dec. 1.

**By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams
934th AW/PA**

With Rudolph in the lead and the remaining eight reindeer serving as escorts, a C-130 from the 96th Airlift Squadron helped kick off the Christmas season Dec. 1, as 11 families were "escorted" to the North Pole in Eau Claire, Wisc.

The program originated in 1999 with employees of AT&T who wanted to make Christmas special for children in the area. With help from the Air

Force and Army Reserve, it has grown to be a big deal in the Western Wisconsin area.

"Every year I get my airplane," said Gloria Grabowski, an AT&T employee who serves as the project coordinator. "This year, I was worried, due to the weather, but the 934th Airlift Wing came through for us once again."

Grabowski said she contacts schools, churches and local government agencies in the area looking for people interested in the program.

"Whoever calls back is put on my list until the 40 seat belts are full," she said.

Soon after the families arrive, they're taken to the airplane and buckled in. The C-130 taxis around the airport a few times, simulating a flight to the North Pole.

Upon arrival to the North Pole, elves greet the passengers with a sign denoting the location, while Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive on a Honda Gold Wing motorcycle complete with sleigh sidecar.

The families are escorted into Santa's workshop, where he reads 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' to all of the children, while they sip on hot chocolate and eat cookies.

Presents, donated by the AT&T employees, are passed out to the children before they leave for home.

"The airplane ride was pretty cool," said Gina Klevgard of Durand, Wisc. She and her husband, Brad, brought their sons, Dylan and Cole, to Eau Claire for the festivities.

Gavin Exner had a chance to ask Santa for a race car game, while Danielle Fanetti was hoping Santa would bring a doll.

"I told them they are pretty lucky children to have an experience like this," said Danielle's mother, Tammy Fanetti, who also brought her sister along. "It was a great opportunity and it's pretty special. Thanks for the trip."

As to why she continues doing this every year, Grabowski said, "Other than saying, 'look around,' it's just great to see the expressions on the kid's faces and knowing the families can have a complete Christmas together with no restrictions."

Knowing the 934th Airlift Wing and the 96th Airlift Squadron had something to do with that was very special, indeed.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams

Kyle Hinke anxiously awaits touchdown at the North Pole



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams

Santa and Mrs. Clause arrive on a 104 deer power open sleigh

BRAC getting you down?

934th career assistance advisors will pick you up

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams
934th AW/PA

Now that the migration of newcomers due to the Base Realignment and Closing Commission is near completion, members gained as Overage Status: Code 8 have two years from the date of assignment in order to find a non-ovrage slot.

For wing members in Code 8 status or for those who desire additional career advice there is a little known program at their disposal to help make the proper career choices – the Career Assistance Advisor program.

Currently, the wing has 20 members trained in helping members with career-related issues.

"We simply counsel members regarding their career opportunities," said Master Sgt. Louis Herbes, 934th Airlift Wing career assistance advisor. "We look at avenues like retraining, reenlisting, school extension, bonus

pay and incentives for certain AFSCs."

For BRAC, he said cross-training issues, car-pooling and finding jobs at other Air Force Reserve units, are issues he deals with most often.

Typically, career advisors see around 20 people per unit training assembly. He sees first-term Airmen and NCOs with 15-19 years of service, Sergeant Herbes said.

Master Sgt. Kaija Slautkstins-Byrkit and Master Sgt. Glen Dahn are the career advisors for the 934th Maintenance Group, and they work hard to ensure their personnel know what options they have about their careers.

"We need to make sure that nobody gets overlooked or lost in the shuffle," said Sergeant Slautkstins-Byrkit, formerly a career advisor in Milwaukee. "We try to help resolve problems people may be having before they become huge problems."

Sergeant Dahn said, "We look at

the career progression of our folks. If it doesn't work out here in Minneapolis, there are still some other options. We hate to lose anybody, but if there is nothing here, especially as the BRAC window closes, perhaps we need to look elsewhere."

Sergeant Herbes said there are more issues he deals with than just BRAC.

"We deal with people who no longer want to drill with us," he said. "We try to come up with possible solutions to underlying problem areas like work conflicts, family obligations and school commitments. We have ample sources of information as far as benefits and reasons to stay in the military. It depends on what you want to make the best of your career."

Airman wishing to speak with a career advisor are requested to meet with their supervisor and the unit career advisor before going to the group or wing advisor.



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Wingman Day

Col. Tim Tarchick, the 934th Airlift Wing commander, gives a Wingman Day brief. This annual event is designed to provide Airmen, units and their families the time to revisit the Air Force Core Values and the chance to reinvigorate the concept of Airmen taking care of Airmen.

2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

As you know, the support the 934th receives from its civilian employers is important to its individual success and to the success of the entire Air Force Reserve. I encourage you to nominate your employers for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This is the highest recognition given to employers by the Department of Defense. I can personally attest to the great support given by employers as the employers from last year represent the best our country has to offer. Nominations are accepted online at www.esgr.mil from November 1, 2007 to January 20, 2008.

—Col. Tim Tarchick
934th Airlift Wing Commander

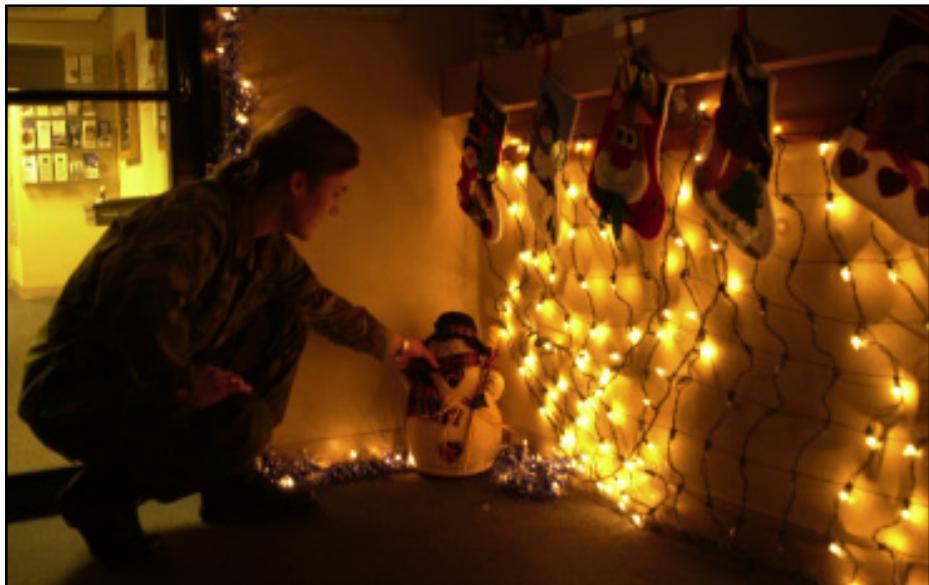


Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond

Maj. Kelly Warren, MSF commander, sets the mood for the holidays.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Nason

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hutchinson delivers the goods on time and on target



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer

Tech. Sgt. Crystal Bell shows off her secret Santa gifts

The 934th holidays with and festivities



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Members of the 934th celebrate the holidays with a catered feast



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond

Major Warren and Senior Master Sgt. Mike Ginapp prepare the MPF for the holidays.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer

Staff Sgt. Tom Olson and son party on high during the December UTA MXG

celebrates the family, food



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond
Master Sgt. John Peterson sets up a greeter in the Security Forces lobby.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer
Santa makes a special delivery to Staff Sgt. Amber Greiner's daughter Emalie.



Photo by Tech. Bob Sommer
Children of 934th members bounce on air and Santa's knee during the MXG and MOF Christmas parties.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Nason



Sergeant Peterson and Tech. Sgt. Tom Theis decorate the Security Forces front entrance.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond
January 2008 9

Viking Spotlight

Chaplain helps veterans fight life's battles

New facility provides resource for prior military to find shelter, jobs, independence from addiction

By Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch
934th AW/PA

From service, dedication and honor, to despair, hopelessness and homelessness. Many of us find it difficult to imagine how one travels from one set of terms to the other. Just as many of us know that 'There, but for the grace of God, go I.'

The reasons and stories are as varied as the veterans of all ages who have experienced the journey from 'three squares a day' to wondering where the next bit of food and shelter is coming from. Many are caught in the vice grips of drugs, alcoholism and mental illness.

Military vets with addictions and socialization problems are not a new story. Societies have struggled with this problem since before Hannibal crossed the Alps. Many have turned a blind eye to those that protected them in the past and many have risen to help their protectors. One person helping is Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chuck Perry.

Chaplain Perry is the case manager at the new Klein Hall Veterans Homeless Program in Chippewa Falls, Wis. State legislators publicly dedicated the new facility Dec 4.

Just being homeless does not qualify a veteran to stay at the thirty-bed facility, according to Perry. "If a man's wife kicks him out of the house, he will not be eligible to stay here. There must be specific barriers to obtaining housing, such as drug or

alcohol abuse or mental illness issues," he said. The non-profit organization must follow strict guidelines to receive a federal grant to operate. "This is not a shelter," Perry explained. "It's a program designed to give the vet the skills necessary to get and keep a job and housing."

The twenty-four month program includes a regime of group counseling, job training, classes in financial management and living skills. "As a former, certified, addiction therapist with a private clinic and the Veterans Administration," Perry explained, "My job will be to help veterans overcome the barriers that keep them from living independently."

Klein Hall was an empty building when presented to the Veterans Homeless Program. "We were told to stay within the VA criteria, and to design a program that will address the needs of the residents." The program also includes an additional opportunity for veterans who have graduated from the program and are employed. For a monthly fee, ten veterans can stay at Klein Hall in the Single Room Occupancy program for an indefinite length of time.

Although Klein Hall operates on federal grants, donations are a large part of its anticipated success, said Perry. He stated that many local residents have called to donate their time, assistance and whatever items they could.

"The community has really turned out to help. We received a lot of furniture from a Navy Reserve Center that has closed. Chippewa Valley Technical College, will be helping us with training and job skills. The American Legion, Am Vets and the Veterans of



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond

Chaplain Perry in his study at the 934th chapel.

Foreign Wars, have offered to help purchase treatment program materials designed to help the veteran master his addictions. 'What can we do to help?' is the most-asked question."

Socialization skills are also a goal, according to Perry. Residents will enjoy activities such as fishing, bowling, canoeing, hiking and more, all supported by local veterans who will serve as volunteers.

Perry, a Vietnam and Iraq veteran, has 31 years of Air Force active and reserve duty. He is a former F-100 crew chief, and he is the only person with clinical experience at Klein Hall. The other employees are a retired Navy

Continued next page



Klein Hall, a 30 bed facility now part of the Veterans Homeless Program, was officially dedicated Dec. 4.

Continued from page 10

Recruiter, who is the site manager, a retired Air Force veteran is the kitchen manager and cook, and an office manager, whose son has served in Iraq. In addition to his full time position, Perry is also a part time prison chaplain at the Stanley Correctional Institution, and will remain there until they find his replacement.

The new facility is currently accepting applications, with plans to begin taking in residence shortly after the Dedication of the Klein Hall

facility on Dec. 4. There are approximately thirteen vets currently on a list, awaiting VA approval. Most applicants come to the homeless program via referrals from other group homes, shelters and County Veterans Service Officers. "This home is being developed for the most, needy veterans," Perry said.

Chaplain Perry is looking forward to the challenges of creating and running a new program dedicated to helping and protecting those that protected us in the past.

"I am excited about this tremen-

our unit.

After some deep thought, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Longsine has decided to stay (reenlist) for the next six years! YAY!

After a fulfilling career, Master Sgt. Craig Molm is retiring, his last day was Dec. 28, 2007. Good Luck, Craig!

MXG

From the 440th, we are happy to have Master Sgt. Kaija Slaukstins-Byrkit as our second Career Advisor.

Say a temporary adios to Tech. Sgt. Dan Roth as he will be TDY to sunny Edwards AFB, Calif. for 30 days in support of the AALC project.

On a sad note, Ricky Smasal's 11 year old daughter, Montana, is currently undergoing treatment for her second round of cancer. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

MXS

Deployments: Tech. Sgt. Gary Robbins recently returned from a deployment to McMurdo Station, Antarctica. McMurdo Station is Antarctica's largest community. It is built on the bare volcanic rock of Hut Point Peninsula on Ross Island, the farthest south solid ground that is accessible by ship. Gary valiantly filled a NY Air National Guard shortfall on short notice to fly with our friends from out East to the far end of the earth to support flying missions in support of the scientific community stationed at McMurdo. In Gary's travels way down under he had the good fortune to make it to the South Pole as well as shake the flipper of a penguin. Well done Gary!

Riddle: Where on earth can you go 5 miles north, 5 miles east, and 5 miles

south and end up where you started? Answer in next month's column.

Awards: Tech. Sgt. Jud Wasylow was awarded the rarely presented Joint Service Commendation Medal for his six month tour to Iraq in support of the Iraqi Air Force. Master Sgt. Dan Pekel received a Meritorious Service Medal. A number of individuals were recognized as Airman/NCO/Sr. NCOs of the quarter both past and present. Among these were, Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pawlik, Master Sgt. Al McCann, Master Sgt. Tim Payton, and Senior Master Sgt. Rory Ernst. Congrats to all!

Training: A couple of Tech School graduates were cited for standing out amongst their peers: Tech. Sgt. Mike Harste of the AGE shop and Airman 1st Class Eric Koske of Hydraulics Shop. Staff Sgt. Chris Tenney and Tech. Sgt. Steve Rosera emerged from the halls of academia with their long pursued CCAF degrees, hear hear!

A very special thank you to Bar-B-que Bob Suter who provided the outstanding eats for the MXS Christmas party this weekend.

934th CF

Members continued going through "after-action" motions and reviewed "lessons learned" in preparation for the upcoming ORI. Welcomed prior-service newcomer: Senior Airman Eric O'Reilly. Congratulated Tech. Sgt. Charles Schuppan to promotion to Master Sgt. Honored Master Sgt. Paul Gulenchyn with retirement ceremony after 22 years of service.

Wing Roundup LRS

LRS would like to welcome Tech. Sgt. Sean Goggins from General Mitchell ARS, Wis. and Staff Sgt. Amanda Williams from active duty at Ellsworth AFB, SD.

Senior Master Sgt. James Mueller and Senior Master Sgt. Steve Orwig were both deservedly promoted to new ranks during the month of December.

Tech. Sgt. Scott Sippel will soon transition to retirement status. The ceremony and celebration is tentatively scheduled for Saturday of the February UTA at 3:30 p.m.

Lastly, LRS kicked off the season with a fabulous holiday party. This Wingman Day event included "meet and greets" and several team-building sessions.

SVS

The Services unit would like to congratulate Senior Airman Kathleen Quist who was promoted Dec. 1, 2007, and also Senior Airman Kevin Egan who was awarded his Community College of the Air Force degree. A welcome back goes out to the squadron members who participated in the ORE this last month and who returned to their normal work stations for the December UTA. The Services' unit would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season .

MOF

Please welcome Tech. Sgt. Jeff Evanson in Analysis and Tech. Sgt. Chad Christensen in the MOC from the 440th. We are happy to have them join





Viking Vibes



Mardi Gras

Celebrate Mardi Gras at the Mardi Gras Buffet Jan. 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Officers' Club. Enjoy authentic New Orleans food, plus drink specials, music, beads and so much fun. Free for club members. The cost for guests and non-members is \$10. For more details, call (612) 767-1960. All ranks and military branches welcome. Bring your friends and let the good times roll!

Super Bowl party

Join the fun and cheer for your team at the Super Bowl Party Feb. 3 at Officers' Club lounge starting at 3 p.m. Start 3 p.m. There will be a Build-Your-Own Bloody Mary Bar. For more details, call (612) 767-1960.

Food delivery

The Services Club's pizzeria delivers pizzas, pasta, salads, sandwiches and more anywhere on base, including lodging, Tuesdays through Fridays 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call (612) 713-1672.

Officers' Club specials

In January, every Tuesday is Chili Night at the lounge. Warm up with some delicious chili for \$7.95. In February, try the burrito special for \$8.95 at the lounge every Tuesday. Every Friday is Seafood Night at the dining room. There is a different seafood special every week.

O'Club lounge

The new lounge hours at the Officers' Club are Monday through Thursday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Don't forget to ask about the Wines of the Month and the Winter Warmers.

O'Club catering

The Officers' Club catering office is open Tuesday through Saturday by appointment only. Call (612) 767-1960 ext. 202. For catering at the Services Club, call (612) 713-1674.

Fitness class

The fitness center will offer a free 45-minute spin class followed by a 15-minute abdominal class Jan. 5 at 4:30 p.m. The class will be held in the group exercise and will be led by Tech. Sgt. Melissa Coppage, who is a certified spin instructor. For more information, call (612) 713-1496.



Personal training

Need a little help to rev up your fitness regimen? Get help from a certified personal trainer at the fitness center. Call (612) 713-1496.

Massage

Relax and try a Swedish, sports or rehabilitative massage with a certified massage therapist at the fitness center. Rates vary. Pick up a brochure at the fitness center. Gift certificates are available. Call (612) 713-1496.

Winter rentals

Enjoy the winter season! Rent winter sports equipment, including ice fishing gear, toboggans, snow tubes and more at the base Outdoor Recreation Center at Bldg. 778. Club members receive a 10-percent discount. Military units get a 20-percent discount. Call (612) 919-5134.

Lodging shuttle

North Country Lodge offers a shuttle service to and from lodging to the Mall of America, Veterans Hospital, Humphrey Terminal, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Officers' Club, Light Rail Station, 88th Regional Readiness Center and 133rd Air National Guard Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person one way. This service is available to everyone on base. Lodging guests can make arrangements at the front desk. Those not staying at lodging can call (612) 726-9440.

Space A

Guests who want to use Space A at North Country Lodge, reservations must be made 30 days in advance if there is low occupancy for a three-day period. Reservations can be extended if space is available.

Valentine's Day Dinner

See back of Viking Flyer for details.



Air Force to transform financial services

By Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
Secretary of the Air Force Public
Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force financial services are undergoing a major change that will save millions of dollars and return hundreds of Airmen to the fight, said a senior Air Force financial management official here Sept. 12.

As part of a two-year plan, the Air Force Financial Services Center will open its doors Sept. 14 at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., in what began the largest single transformational effort the Air Force financial management field has ever seen, said John G. Vonglis, the principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management.

Over the next year, the center will consolidate routine transactions currently handled by 93 base finance offices worldwide to a single location. It will ultimately serve as a one-stop shop for Airmen's financial matters and concerns.

"(The AFFSC) is a significant investment for the Air Force. It will save the Air Force \$210 million and return approximately 600 positions back to the warfighter," Mr. Vonglis said.

"We are taking a very structured approach to our transformation," he said. "The first phase of the transformation will provide a seamless transition for our financial services customers."

The AFFSC will take over many of the "back office" processes typically handled by base finance offices such as travel vouchers, pay requests and allotments. These processes are moving to the AFFSC one base at a time, starting last October with Air Force Space Command bases.

The most visible change will take place during the second phase in October 2008, when the AFFSC will stand up a 24-hour contact center where Airmen with finance needs can

contact a representative by telephone, e-mail or the Internet.

"While people are far more important than machines, the need to recapitalize our Air Force is compelling. In that sense, we can no longer afford to operate the way we have in the past," Mr. Vonglis said. "Without abandoning the sterling customer service we are known for, transactional document processing will shift from base level and be picked up by people at AFFSC."

Financial managers at the 934th Airlift Wing are preparing for this transition.

"We will still provide customer service to our members."

--Michael W. Burgess,
Chief of FM at the 934th AW

"We are scheduled to migrate our military pay and travel processes out

to Ellsworth AFB in mid-April," said Michael W. Burgess, the chief of financial management at the 934th AW. "Beginning then, this office will be responsible to ensure travel vouchers and military pay documents are correct and complete before scanning to the Air Force Financial Services Center. We will still provide customer service to our members. For instance, we will be able to "view" the member's scanned pay order and voucher to see that they are being worked at AFFSC, and the member can still call us with pay inquiries."

The AFFSC is currently staffed by 75 active-duty Air Force members. The remaining workforce is projected to arrive by March 2008.

"We have the technology, the wherewithal and the capability to do this," Mr. Vonglis said. "We're at the cusp where there will be some confusion and angst, because we're removing a comfort zone and venturing into something new. But we'll get through it and move forward."

"The confidence our Airmen have (in financial services) today should only get stronger," he said. "This is truly working smarter and making people more efficient. I'm confident folks will be extremely satisfied."

Promotions (to)

Master Sgt. Angela A. Kiblin	934 ASTS
Master Sgt. Daniel R. Mellesmoen	934 SFS
Master Sgt. Charles D. Schuppan	934 CF
Tech. Sgt. Bradley N. Taplick	27 APS
Tech. Sgt. Peter A. Mangone	934 AW
Staff Sgt. Britton J. McDaniels	934 MXS
Staff Sgt. Cassandra Q. Carter	934 MSG
Staff Sgt. Christian S. Doggett	934 OSF
Staff Sgt. Adam R. James	934 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Michiel J. Kiel	934 AES
Staff Sgt. Kara C. Sundet	934 ASTS
Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Umentum	934 SFS
Staff Sgt. Jodi A. Wortman	934 AES
Senior Airman Daniel R. Holland	934 MXS
Senior Airman David J. Desormey	934 MXS
Senior Airman Kathleen S. Quist	934 SVS
Senior Airman Korey J. Stern	934 MXS
Airman 1st Class Matthew M. Skaro	934 MXS
Airman Michael P. Berish	934 SVS
Airman Ricardo J. Rivera	934 SVS



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael J. Edmond

Bearing gifts we traverse afar

Tech. Sgt. Christine Jerde, from 27 APS at the 934th Airlift Wing, unloads presents for the Adopt a Veteran Program. Members from the 934th bought gifts for veterans at the veterans home in St. Paul, which will be passed out to them on Christmas Eve.

SERGEANTS UPP & ADAM



Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

Beautiful December

*By Senior Airman Amaris Carter
934 MSG*

Shimmering through the air
The snowflakes fly
Accustom to the season
Lay lovely
Furnishings of white
So perfect a day's end
Just before sleep
In moon's light
Only to awake
An arriving dawn
While flickering
Silver sparkles
Gently kiss sunlight
What more could you ask for
Something so enchanting to receive
A timeless treasure
During
Beautiful December

New colonel selects

Lt. Col. Eric Brandes
Lt. Col. Mark Vijums
Lt. Col. Moe Banavige
Lt. Col. Craig Bogan
Lt. Col. Phil Sweet
Lt. Col. Cherie Roberts

After Senate confirmation, officers will be promoted in increments announced by HQ USAF/REP.

Calendar

Time	Activity	Location	POC
SATURDAY			
0730 to 1600	Newcomers Flight	Per schedule	MSgt Besser, x1755
0800 to 1200	AFOQT/AFCT Testing	Bldg 852, room 206	SMSgt Lunde, x1501
0800 to 1430	MPF ID Cards Open	Bldg 852, room 105	TSgt Jorgensen, x1085
0830 to 1200	Disaster Prep, CONOPS Refresher	Bldg 760, room 130	SMSgt Johnson, x1934
0845 to 1130	Physical Exams	Bldg 840	SMSgt Hanson, x1642
0845 to 1130	Sick Call	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612 ?
0845 to 1130	ASTS Laboratory Draws (All lab draws)	Bldg 840	MSgt Kaufmann, 16330
845 to 1115	Hearing Exams	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612
0900 to 1000	Deployment working group meeting	Bldg 862	
0900 to 1000	Documenting TQT	Bldg 760 room 130	SMSgt. Johnson x1934
0900 to 1130	Immunizations	Bldg 840	SMSgt Brausen, x1617
0900 to 1000	First Sergeants Council Meeting	Wing CC Conf Room	CMSgt Dalton, x1211
0900 to 1000	Unit Deployment Meeting	Bldg 760, room 194	TSgt Rice, x1788
0930 to 1130	Medical Outprocessing	Bldg 840	SMSgt Goetz, x1642
1215 to 1615	Certifying HAZMAT	Bldg 862	TSgt Rice, x1788
1230 to 1600	Physical Exams	Bldg 840	SMSgt Hanson, x1642
1230 to 1500	Immunizations	Bldg 840	SMSgt Brausen, x1617
1230 to 1330	Enlisted Advisory Council	Wing CC Conf Room	CMSgt Dalton, x1211
1230 to 1600	Hearing Exams	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612
1300 to 1600	Medical Outprocessing	Bldg 840	SMSgt Goetz, x1642
1300 to 1600	ASTS Labatory Draws (HIV only)	Bldg 840	MSgt Kaufmann, 1633
1300 to 1600	Sick Call	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612

SUNDAY

0700 to 0730	Catholic Services	Bldg 725, Chapel	Chaplain Svoboda x 1226
0830 to 1130	AF testing Appt. Only	Bldg 852 Rm 206	Gary Hayda, x1515
0830 to 0930	HRDC Meeting	Wing CC Conf Room	Col. DeWerff x 1204
0900 to 0930	Protestant Services	Bldg 725, Chapel	Chaplain Svoboda x 1226
1000 to 1100	Chief's Council Meeting	Wing CC Conf Room	CMSgt Dalton s 1211
0730 to 1600	Newcomers Flight	Per schedule	MSgt Besser, x1755
1215 to 1615	Increment Manager Training	Bldg 862	TSgt. Rice x1788
1300 to 1400	LOD Review Meeting	Bldg 760, CC Conf Room	SMSgt Atchley x1607
1400 to 1500	Wing Commander's Call	Bldg 821, Maint. Hangar	Capt. Hamiel x1202
1500 to 1530	Catholic Services	Bldg 725, Chapel	Chaplain Svoboda x 1226



UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88TH	Navy/Marines
Feb	2-3, 9-10	9-10	2-3	9-10
Mar	1-2, 15-16	15-16	1-2	8-9
Apr	3-6, 19-20	19-20	5-6	12-13
May	3-4, 17-18	17-18	17-18	10-11
Jun	7-8, 21-22	21-22	7-8	14-15
Jul	NA, NA	NA	12-13	19-20
Aug	2-3, 16-17	14-17	2-3	9-10
Sep	6-7, 20-21	20-21	6-7	13-14

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 due to gun fire. If there is a valid need for entry, contact Master Sgt. Anthony Gamboni at 612-713-1815.



Valentine's Day Dinner

Feb. 14 * Officers' Club * 5:30 p.m. - 8:30

p.m.

Menu

Soup: Lobster Bisque

**Salad: Wild Field Greens with Dried
Cherries, Candied Pecans,**

Blue Cheese & Balsamic Vinaigrette

**Entrée Choice: Butter Poached Monk Fish,
Wild Rice & Asparagus or**

Blackened Rib Eye

**Side Dish: Twice Baked Potato &
Asparagus**

Dessert & Glass of Wine

\$60 per couple

All ranks & military branches welcome.

**Reservations required. Call (612) 767-
1960.**

**Book the Romance Package, which
includes dinner, a room at North Country
Lodge & complimentary gift basket, for
only \$150 per couple.**

**Limited number of packages available, so
call today!**



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Public Affairs Office
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Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100**

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To the family of: