

# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

June 2009 Vol. 31, No. 5

## RESERVE



## Inside:

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Top Airmen announced

Volunteering Viking



# Dads and deployments

By Col. Ronald A. Wilt  
934th Operations Group commander

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome Jean and I received during the change of command week at the beginning of March. From the formal events to the informal socials during that short week, we really felt like family. As the new commander of the Operations Group, I hope to provide the positive focus in meeting the needs of the nation, community and families.

As you know, we have sent many of our friends and family members on a long tour to defend freedom. I am proud of their sacrifice and honored to say that the Flying Vikings are getting the job done. In my remarks at the change of command, I spoke of teamwork, family and civilian careers. For those who are continuing the operations at home station, it is our job in supporting the operations overseas, to keep the bond with the families and employers.

My history with deployments span from active duty deployments to Europe during the Cold War, small two week deployments to Panama all the way to supporting operations with active duty – Provide Promise, Joint Guard, Provide Hope and Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom.

Most of my deployments ranged from 60 to 90 days in length. Our troops are gone for 120 days plus. I have total respect for their sacrifice. They are truly living up to the Air Force core values- Integrity, Service and Excellence. Those of us at home station can do our part as members of the Viking team by communicating and assisting families and employers of those deployed.

One of the Air Force priorities is to develop and care for Airmen and their families. In preparing for deployments, we have developed Airmen by organizing, training and equipping them to be mission ready. We also have the responsibility to care for them and their families. I hope that all members of the 934th see our Airlift Wing as an extended family. We want to provide support to all our Airmen and their families, like the warm welcome Jean and I received in becoming new members of 934th.

This month we will celebrate Father's Day; many of us will have dads overseas. As much as we miss them, they miss us too. Be sure to write, call and bake for our Dads. Let them know that we miss and love them. It is the little things that mean the most. This Father's Day takes on a special meaning with our Dads deployed; it reminds us of how important Dad is. That will strengthen our love for Dad. Sometimes he was the one who had to discipline us, but he was also the one who taught us how to catch the ball, cast a fishing rod and make camping fun. Be sure to let him know how important he is in your life.

I am continually honored to service with the men and women of the 934 AW. I thank you all for your service and hard work. I know you all will keep up this level of performance as we continue this year. Have a great summer.

## VIKING FLYER

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### Inspector General Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Members should attempt to resolve Fraud, Waste and Abuse issues and personal complaints at the lowest possible level using command channels before addressing them to a higher level or the Investigator General. The immediate supervisory command chain can often resolve complaints more quickly and effectively than a higher level not familiar with the situation. The IG system should be used when referral to the command chain would be futile or there is fear of reprisal.

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### On the cover

Family and friends wave goodbye as a 934th Airlift Wing C-130 taxis out carrying the Reservists to their deployment in Southwest Asia. More than 150 from operations and maintenance deployed in May. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

# Call to ARMS! Automated Records Management System offers quick access

By Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett  
934th Public Affairs

All 934th Airlift Wing personnel are called to ARMS, the Automated Records Management System, to access personnel files. The system, accessible through the Air Force Portal, is available 24 hours a day using the Common Access Card card to access the system.

Service members no longer need to rely on hard copy files accessible only during normal business hours of

the military personnel flight. Now, records needed immediately are accessible with just a few clicks.

"A lot of people don't know that it exists," said Master Sgt. Louis Herbes, chief of personnel relocations.

The system holds records such as DEERS, SGLI, awards, decorations and promotion and transfer orders, said Ginger Porter-Foster, civilian, chief of customer service, 934th Military Personnel Flight. It will also hold performance reports and DD-214's, said

Herbes. Members can see, print or save the documents, he added.

Annual tour orders and travel orders will still be available through AROWS-R, said Porter-Foster. The MPF will still have access to the records but we're trying to make the service member more self-sufficient, Herbes said.

'I walked all the way over here for nothing,' is a response often heard at the MPF said the customer service chief.

## VIKING VOLUNTEER

COL. TIM TARCHICK

### Where do you volunteer?

This was a mission trip to Cameroon in Africa sponsored by my church (Bethlehem Baptist Church) along with Joni and Friends Ministries. It is a program called Wheels for the World where they deliver wheelchairs to people who need them. As of 2008, the Wheels for the World program has delivered more than 50,000 donated and refurbished wheelchairs to people in more than 100 countries.

### When do you volunteer?

I wish I could volunteer more often but I carved time out of my schedule to attend my church's mission trip March 29 through April 10. After this experience, I definitely plan on volunteering for another mission trip like this very soon and I am going to take my family.

### Why did you choose to volunteer?

I volunteered because I've always wanted to do a mission trip for the past 10 to 15 years but never got the chance. Through some divine intervention, this opportunity was made available to me.

### Who did your support help?

We fitted 175 disabled children and adults with wheelchairs. These people were disabled either through disease, accidents or birth defects and some had never seen a wheelchair before. Many spent their entire lives being carried everywhere because they had no way to be independent. We gave them some hope and a chance of a better quality of life.



Col. Tim Tarchick assists with wheelchair fitting in Cameroon, Africa. (Photo courtesy of Joni and Friends)

### How did this volunteer opportunity help you?

It was life impacting. It's not what you get out of life, it's what you give. The Bible says in Luke 12 that "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required." I have been blessed with so much so it was a privilege for me to give back to those less fortunate. We filled a need while spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

### What would you advise others who want to volunteer?

Don't wait, do it now. There are so many people out there who need your help. The need is out there, sometimes it can be in your own backyard. But the rewards far outweigh your personal sacrifice.

For more information on Colonel Tarchick's volunteer opportunity with Wheels for the World, visit [www.joniandfriends.org/pg\\_wheelchair.php](http://www.joniandfriends.org/pg_wheelchair.php). Do you volunteer? We would love to hear about it. Send an e-mail describing your volunteer experience to [934AW.PA@minneapolis.af.mil](mailto:934AW.PA@minneapolis.af.mil) and you and your charity might be spotlighted as the Viking Flyer's next Viking Volunteer.

# Wing announces 2008 top Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Josh Moshier  
934th AW Public Affairs

The 2008 calendar year was a big one for the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. The Operational Readiness Inspection in Gulfport, Miss., was a rousing success, and Airmen from all sections of the Wing deployed around the world.

For a few select Flying Vikings, 2008 just got better as they were announced as the wing's annual award winners.



## Company Grade Officer of the Year Captain Dennis Mishler 934th Operations Support Flight

During the 934th and 910th Airlift Wings combined ORIs, he was solely responsible for setting up computer support for both wings in the Mission Planning Cell, worked closely with Intel to coordinate all of the missions/taskings, briefed most of the missions, and completed the notional mission tasking planning that was

briefed to the inspector general of Air Mobility Command.

As scheduler for Operation Coronet Oak, he supervised numerous multi-national 100-member Total Force Team missions in support of SOUTHCOM to include ensuring 24-hour United States Presidential support for the high visibility Asian Pacific Economic Corporation meeting in Lima, Peru.

Captain Mishler was hand-selected to be the Wing POC for the Joint Precision Airdrop System, the lead PADS operator instructor and one of three initial cadre of instructors, he quickly embraced these new responsibilities training four PADS Operators and leading the JPADS instruction for 29 crew members deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom within a four week period.

## First Sergeant of the Year Master Sgt. Christopher Neitzel 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

Sergeant Neitzel took his show on the road, serving as the 746<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Airlift Squadron First Sergeant during deployment to Southwest Asia in support of ongoing operations, as well as acting as the sole first sergeant during the wing's ORI.



While on deployment, Sergeant Neitzel revamped the squadron's lodging system, aiding in mission effectiveness by ensuring crew integrity. He also managed two emergency Red Cross notifications, reuniting Airmen with family less than 24 hours from the initial call.

Back home, Sgt. Neitzel played an integral role in designing and producing the 96<sup>th</sup> AS first-ever squadron coin. He also graduated Cum Laude from Cardinal Stritch University, filled in as director of the local March of Dimes chapter and served as wing liaison with Ronald McDonald House.

## Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Master Sgt. David Livingston 27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron

Sergeant Livingston set himself apart from his peers while serving as a ramp shift supervisor at the busiest Aerial Port in the Department of Defense while on a 123-day deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

During this time, he coordinated work on more than 5,900 successful sorties and the movement of 5,050 short tons of cargo. This included 520 short tons of class 1 explosives for frontline war-fighters, helping bring the fight to the enemy.

Sergeant Livingston set the standard for junior enlisted, achieving his Community College of the Air Force Associate's Degree. He also helped organize an event that raised more than \$4,700 for the unit's Christmas party, and serves as adjutant for his local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.



## Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Staff Sgt. Matthew Countryman 934th Logistics Readiness Squadron

The 934 AW's NCO of the Year delivered large numbers in 2008, playing a role in the refueling of 837 aircraft with almost 1.6 million gallons of JP-8 fuel.



During the ORI, Sergeant Countryman aided in servicing 44 aircraft with more than 100,000 gallons of JP-8 and another 1,000 gallons of liquid oxygen, as well as putting in extra duty hours to assist in issuing an additional 368,000 gallons of JP-8 fuel.

Sergeant Countryman continues to pursue his education at St. Cloud State University, compiling a 3.8 grade point average while majoring in electrical engineering. He also volunteers his time with the YMCA for Kids and aides children of divorced and separated parents or deceased parents with positive coping mechanisms.

## Airman of the Year Senior Airman Kristoffer Bornetun 27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron

Airman Bornetun distinguished himself while on deployment to Bagram AB, processing more than 50,000 passengers and 48,000 tons of cargo on 4,200 sorties.

He served as a driving force in returning more than 2,200 pallets valued at more than \$2.4 million.

While currently pursuing a law enforcement degree at Saint Cloud State University, Airman Bornetun maintains a 3.3 grade point average. As a member of his unit's annual fund raising event, he contributed to generating more than \$4,200 in donations for local and Air Force charities, and also took the initiative to construct a basketball court in his unit's work area to provide fellow Airmen with a recreational activity and enhance his unit's Fit to Fight capability.

"I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments of our wing's annual award winners," said Col. Tim Tarchick, 934 AW commander. "These outstanding Airmen



## UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88th	Navy Marines
June	6-7	19-20	6-7	13-14
July	11-12	None	11-12	18-19/25-26
Aug.	1-2	14-15	1-2	8-9/22-23
Sept.	12-13	18-19	12-13	12-13/19-20
Oct.	3-4	10-11	TBA	TBA
Nov.	7-8	21-22	TBA	TBA
Dec.	5-6	12-13	TBA	TBA

### Remember

All community activities in which you will be representing the Department of Defense (Air Force) or will be participating in uniform (parades, speaking engagements, school career days, etc.), must be cleared through the Public Affairs Office by calling (612) 713-1217.



### Welcome to the FOLD

Col. Ron Wilt, 934th Operations Group commander, briefs members of the Federal Outreach Leadership Development group during a tour April 23. The group is comprised of Federal Employees desiring to expand their leadership skills and learn about other federal agencies. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)

## D-DAY REMEMBERED— THE 96TH CONNECTION

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**Editor's note: This is the second in a series of three articles detailing the 934th's connection to WWII historical events.**

On a dreary, overcast June afternoon in Exeter, England, Cpl. William Wildes attached nozzles to the wings of the green and white C-47 Skytrain aircraft formerly known as the "Pride of Minnesota." Pouring approximately 100 gallons of fuel into each wing, he did it exactly like he had done several times before in the previous months for the training missions to prepare for the Normandy invasion. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary, except the white invasion stripes and the large "6Z" that was painted onto the fuselage earlier in the day.

"The planes were fueled in the afternoon of June 5th. We didn't know where they were going. We just fueled them like normal," said Cpl. Wildes, a special vehicle operator for the 96th Troop Carrier Squadron. "One pilot had 'Pride of Minnesota' inside an arrowhead painted on the nose, but they made him take it off when they put the invasion stripes on for D-Day."

By evening, each of the 45 aircraft belonging to the 440th Troop Carrier Group was laden down with paratroopers from the 3rd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry



The "Pride of Minnesota" displays the 6Z markings for the D-Day invasion. (Courtesy Photo)

Regiment, 101st Airborne Division for the flight across the English Channel.

Among the notables flown by the 96th TCS was the famed "Filthy 13," a demolitions platoon from the 3rd Battalion Company Headquarters. Each member wore a Mohawk-style haircut and face paint and collectively they were tenacious fighters. They also dropped Cpl. Bobbie Rommel, a relative of General Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, who was leading the German resistance in Normandy.

But not everything went without a hitch.

"I heard that somebody ran into the deicer boot and tore it up. They replaced this one plane and put another plane in its place. The crew chief was a guy named Bluestone. I remember him well and I fueled his plane," the corporal recalled.

"It was all an unknown for us," said Maj. George Johnson, who was an operations officer with the 98th Troop Carrier Squadron during the invasion. "We dropped at night and daytime for the preparations. When we went into Normandy, it was agreed that Col. Krebs, the group commander, would lead."

Read the rest of the story at [www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil)

## Military Personnel Flight

Provided by Staff Sgt. Cory Upmeyer, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Personnel Services Chief Ginger Foster received a letter of appreciation for her support of the annual Red Cross Blood Drive.

Master Sgt. Rebecca Thompson is performing her annual tour at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Ginnap and Tech. Sgt. Nick Glatz received the 96th Airlift Squadron coin in support of outstanding Personnel Deployment Function support.

## Logistics Readiness

Provided by Tech. Sgt. Mark Oldenburg, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Congratulations to Senior Airmen Jessica Schaffer and Kamal Brooks on being upgraded to 5-level and Staff Sgt. Brian Link being upgraded to 7-level.

Congrats to Staff Sgts. Justin Dodge and Taylor Debel who passed 7-Level tests.

Congrats to Staff Sgt. Garrett Weston for passing the vehicle maintenance online school and passing his 7-level test.

Senior Airman Ann Zornes is attending 3-level supply school at Lackland AFB, Texas and Senior Airman Zachary Glunn is performing seasonal supply training at Eglin AFB, Fla.

## Civil Engineers

Provided by Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Timothy Rice who received the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Congrats to and Senior Airman Christopher Richardson who was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Col. Nancy Brooks presented the Wing Coin to Staff Sgt. Aaron Locke for his successful completion of the Leadership Development Program.

The following degrees were achieved through the Community College of the Air Force: Master Sgt. Richard Taylor, Associate in Applied Science emergency management; Tech. Sgt. Bunnie Johnson, Associate in Applied Science criminal justice; and Staff Sgt. David Lein, Associate in Applied Science mechanical and electrical technology.

Farewell to Tech. Sgt. James Palo (equipment) who retired after 20 years of service.

## Maintenance

Provided by Master Sgt. Eric Johnson and Staff Sgt. Jose Garza

Safe trip to Staff Sgt. Luke Huseby who has volunteered to help the "Delta Squadron" at Ramstein Air Base, Germany this summer.

Congrats to Tech. Sgt. Donald Patterson of the propulsion section who was awarded NCO of the quarter for October to December 2008 and Tech. Sgt. Cheong Hwang of metals technology who was named NCO of the quarter for January to March 2009.

Congrats to Tech. Sgt. Dave Dudash of the structural repair shop was awarded a \$500 scholarship from the USAA

for his essay on what benefits he brings to the Air Force by continuing his education

Congratulations to Senior Airman Eric Koski of the hydraulic shop who got married Jan. 23 to Shannon Kearney.

Welcome aboard to Senior Airman Kyle Davis who was hired April 13 as the new Air Reserve Technician in the hydraulic shop.

Farewell to Staff Sgt. Eric Hudson of the structural repair shop who left for Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, in April.

Bon voyage to Senior Airman Dave Desormey of the hydraulic shop who is leaving the unit to accept an ART job at Andrews AFB, Md.

Farewell to Master Sgt. Steve Davis of the fuel cell who will be retiring after 22 years of service, the last 13 years with the 934 AW.

## Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Provided by Staff Sgt. Michelle O'Dean, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Lt. Col. Sherry Hemby attended the Air Force Senior Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Maj. Jill Cudnoski and Master Sgt. Albert Anderson recently attended the Air Force Nurse Corp Executive Leadership Symposium in Dallas, Texas.

Congratulations to Maj. Jill Cudnoski on her appointment to Chief Nurse and to Maj. Brian Koenig, the new OIC of Operations Support Flight.

Welcome aboard to Capt. Ronda Fritz, Tech. Sgt. Mark Totino, and Staff Sgts. Gary Rich and Anthony Leavitt.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Rachael Husser, who got married to Tech. Sgt. Aaron Palmer from Life Support.

Special thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Marlene Moore, as she has dedicated many hours converting the squadron to the new electronic Air Force Training Records.

## Promotions to:

Chief Master Sgt. Patick McCullough	AW
Senior Master Sgt. Julie Carrie	AW
Senior Master Sgt. John Quinlan	MXS
Master Sgt. Gregory Collins	MXG
Master Sgt. Joseph Mohlis	AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Amy Gunnerson	AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Bradley Mortenson	ASTS
Tech. Sgt. Lori Sorn	SFS
Tech. Sgt. Jacob Tesmer	AMXS
Staff Sgt. Michelle French	AS
Staff Sgt. Jesse Nantkes	LRS
Staff Sgt. Edward Pietron	ASTS
Staff Sgt. Timothy Tabor	CES
Airman 1st Class Diana Owens	AS
Airman Sarah Meyers	ASTS

## Civil Servants of the year



The Federal Executive Board recognized the 934th Airlift Wing Civil Servants of the Year at a ceremony May 8. Winners from front left are: Paul Zadach, Public Affairs, professional category; Thomas Theis, Maintenance, community category; LeRoy Voight, Financial Management, administrative category and Timothy Stansbury, Maintenance, skilled trades category. Back is Col. Eric Brandes, 934th Maintenance Group commander, Col. Timothy Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, and Capt. John Drain, 934th Maintenance Squadron commander. (Air Force Photo/Capt. S.J. Brown)



### ASTS commander retires

Col. Judy Marchetti (right), 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander, accepts her retirement plaque from Col. Tim Tarchick May 3. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



### Family tradition

Col. Craig Bogan, 934th Mission Support Group deputy commander, has his new colonel eagles pinned on by his daughter, Kaitlyn (currently a U.S. Air Force Academy cadet), at a ceremony May 14. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)



### Plaque travels to SFS

Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson (left), 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, presents the Emergency Management Outstanding Program Award traveling plaque to Tech. Sgt Jeffrey Grates, 934th Security Forces Squadron, for maintaining an outstanding Security Forces Squadron Emergency Management program. To learn about the new Airman's Manual and the latest Emergency Management news visit [www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil). (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



### New commander

Col. Michael Ochs (right) takes command of the 934th Mission Support Group as he accepts the MSG flag from Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, May 3. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

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DELIVER IN HOME BY June 1.

To the family of:

Definitely not computer based  
training . . .

Tech. Sgt. Heather  
Villegas (right) and Staff  
Sgt. Grace Bisch (center)  
administer a field  
sobriety test to a  
volunteer during the  
934th Security Forces DUI  
testing training. During  
the training, volunteers  
consumed various amounts  
of alcohol in a controlled  
environment and law  
enforcement personnel from  
military and civilian  
agencies were trained in  
recognizing and testing  
for intoxication. (Air  
Force Photo/Master Sgt.  
Paul Zadach)

