

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC) Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn. November 2009

Vol. 31, No. 11



Military families: Stars of the Air Force in November





Coming home

By Col. Mark D. Vijums
934th Airlift Wing vice commander

In 2004, I deployed to Kuwait leaving my wife with a 3-year-old and 6-month-old twins. You can imagine the difficulties my wife had to face not only caring for the infants, but maintaining the household while I was off flying combat missions into Iraq and Afghanistan. “Stressful” is a weak adjective used to describe the situation. Somehow through the tremendous support of our families, friends and neighbors, my wife made it through and I returned safely. Having endured what we thought was the toughest part, we soon realized after the honeymoon, the reintegration was far more challenging. Flat out, the reintegration wasn’t smooth, however, we learned a lot from the experience and survived.

Once again, I just recently returned from a six month deployment to Germany. The deployment didn’t harbor the same wartime threats of flying in a combat environment, but it did separate me from my family for a long time. Having been through this before, our family learned from our past experiences to do as much as we can beforehand, but to concentrate our efforts on the toughest part of any deployment, the reintegration.

Understand that during the re-

integration, things have changed. This seems pretty obvious, but many deployers have not considered this and expect things to be pretty much the same as they left them. In fact, some things have permanently changed and the member needs to understand and accept the changes.

One of the biggest changes noticed may be in your spouse at home. Forced to become more independent, your spouse assumed roles and responsibilities that could not have been left unattended. The tendency to jump right back into the way things “were” done should be avoided. After my first deployment, I felt as if I wasn’t needed as much as before. That’s normal. My wife was taking care of everything, she was a whirlwind. It takes time for that whirlwind to wind down. Sit down with your spouse and discuss how you can help and ease into things.

The other major change you may notice is in your kids. Wholly dependent on their age, the reactions are just as widely varied. My oldest, who was 8 years old, was angry with me for leaving this last time. Talk about a heartbreaker. She had a really difficult time understanding why I would leave them despite numerous discus-

sions about my job and going to help other people. The twins, who were 5 years old, weren’t as affected by the departure, but missed all the routine things I used to do with them. After six months, they grew accustomed to Dad not being around and adapted. Because of this I knew to expect that they may feel uncomfortable or confused with me being around. Once again that’s normal. I found one-on-one time with each child individually does wonders to rekindle the special relationships you have with each one.

Finally, it is in my personal interest to see that everyone who has returned from a deployment, (over 500 in the 934th AW this year), succeeds in reintegrating. To do that, we have numerous support functions in place aside from your family and friends who may not understand. Always available, we have Chaplains and the Airman and Family Readiness Center with numerous programs in place specifically designed for deployers who have returned. But most importantly, I want each and every individual in this wing to understand that our most reliable resource is right here, each other.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Technology changes but mission stays the same

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

Back in April, my editor gave me an assignment to write a story on the history of VE Day from World War II, and challenged me to find a local connection.

After scratching my head while wondering just how I could create this miracle, it came to me that I should trace our airlift squadron's heritage back to the war, thus the series, "The 96th Connection" was born.

Through a diligent search and with a bit of luck, I was able to interview George Johnson, William Wildes and William Hamrick, three of the last six remaining members of the original 96th Troop Carrier Squadron. It was a distinctive honor and privilege to talk to each of them.

Like most current military members who enjoy studying history, it became quite easy for me to put each of them on a pedestal of admiration, which they earned through their distinctive accomplishments nearly seven decades ago.

Soon after the interviews began however, I noticed just how similar their service was to mine. They served in Europe under some extreme conditions, while I served in Iraq under harsh conditions. While they talked of the troop carrier mission as "transporting troops, supplies and evacuating patients in the European theatre of operations," I could only think of how little that mission has changed among the modern airlift community.

The mission may have stayed the same but the technology has changed. As the 96th TCS flew paratroopers into Normandy June 6, 1944, they flew low, faced a barrage of flak and some were shot down,

though most were able to deliver their cargo on-time and on-target.

The C-130s flying around the theatre of operations in Southwest Asia today may be equipped with chaff, armor plating, and a sophisticated navigation systems, but they are not immune from rocket-propelled grenades or missiles.

We may have dominion over the skies, but the ground-based threats are still real.

Still, whether it be hauling five-gallon gasoline cans for General Patton's Third Army or bringing wounded troops out of Southwest Asia, both missions were and are vital to the success of their respective wartime operations.

Most of the original members of the 96th TCS have passed away, and before long, the last six will be gone as well. It was an honor to be associated with them while they are still here.

What will life be like for us 65 years from now? It will not be much different. Our ranks will be thinned too, and a generation that hasn't been born yet will put us on the pedestal. Yet the airlift mission will remain. The names, faces and airframes will change but the aircraft will fly on.

Meeting the 96th TCS members was an honor and privilege for me, but so has serving with the men and women of the 96th Airlift Squadron.

As we head into Veteran's Day, remember those who served in the past, but don't forget your colleagues who are still serving today.

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.

934th AW FW Hotline
(612) 713-1180
AFRC FWA Hotline
(800) 223-1784 extension 7-1513
SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline
(800) 538-8429
DoD FWA Hotline
(800) 424-9098

On the Cover

Military members and their families are highlighted in photos from the past year of redeployments, retirements, and Family Day events recognizing November as the Month of the Military Family. (Air Force Photos by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach and Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

Civil Engineers

Provided by Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

The Civil Engineering Squadron spent a cool and damp weekend Oct. 1-4 at Camp Ripley to satisfy their annual bivouac requirement. Much training was accomplished during the long weekend. The Security Forces Squadron provided expert instruction on troop movement, defensive fighting positions, and convoy security. Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Cluka joined the bivouac on Saturday night but ended up sleeping in his car due to the snoring competition in his assigned bay.

Congratulations to Senior Master Sgt. Paul Yaeger who was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant, becoming the new Fire Chief.

Congrats to Staff Sgt. Kyle Bode, who achieved an outstanding score of 98 percent his Career Development Course.



Master Sgt. Dave Taylor, 934th CES, defends his position during the Bivouac at Camp Ripley. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Kraig Crandall)

Communications Flight

Provided by Tech. Sgt. Christian Krug

Welcome home Lt Col. Rick Erredge as who returned from a 90-day Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment to Germany.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Sammy Muriuki on receiving his U.S. Citizenship. (See story in October Viking Flyer).

Congrats to Tech. Sgts. Christian Krug and Janelle Bombeck, who completed CompTia Security+ and A+ certification training respectively.

Great job Staff Sgt. Michael O'Brien in graduating from the NCO Academy.

Congratulations to Communications Flight members who completed Task Qualification Training requirements during the Chem Warfare exercise Oct. 4.

Staff Sgt. Scott Haynes was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for his outstanding work in support of Operation Enduring Freedom during his deployment to Southwest Asia.

Military Personnel Flight & Mission Support Group

Provided by Staff Sgt. James Harstead

MPF members participated in the Ability to Survive and Operate chemical exercise Oct. 4.

Welcome Airman Basic Stephanie Graybill.

Good luck to Staff Sgt James Harstead who just started his three month seasoning training.

Just briefly ...

Enlisted Workshop Nov. 9-10

The 934th Airlift Wing Human Resources Development Council will host an Enlisted Workshop Nov. 9-10, at the Services Club.

This extensive two-day workshop is designed to provide enlisted members with the necessary tools to further develop themselves into successful leaders.

The event features interaction with senior leaders, both enlisted and officer, from the 934th Airlift Wing, 22nd Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command. Some of the topics include: Education benefits and training opportunities; our Air Force and wing heritage; writing skills; how to meet boards; interviewing skills; time management; deployment preparation and retirement planning.

Contact a First Sergeant to register. Members will be on annual tour status during the workshop, and the dress code is uniform of the day.

Key spouse meet-n-greet

Friends and family of 934th Airlift Wing members are invited to a meet-n-greet Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be announced. The event is sponsored by the 934th Key Spouse Program members. RSVP by email to 934ksp@gmail.com by Nov. 12, or call 713-1446.

Phone system changing

Before the end of the month, an installation team will be here to install software so the Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station can implement 7-digit dialing. There should not be any interruptions with the switch daily operations. The biggest change anyone will see is that they will have to dial 713-XXXX for on-base calls. For more information, call ext. 1248 or 1253 until Oct. 28. On Oct. 29 or later, call 713-1248 or 1253.

Tops In Blue Dec. 4 and 5

The Air Force's premiere entertainment troupe, Tops In Blue, will be performing at the Mall of America Dec. 4 and at the Burnsville Performing Arts Center Dec. 5. More information will be available in the Viking Flyer and E-newsletters.

Chem suits dusted off for ATSO exercise

Returning to the glory days of the March-April 2008 ORI, 934th AW members got a chance to don chemical protective gear during an Ability to Survive and Operate exercise Oct. 4. The exercise simulated a chemical attack on the base. Participants were required to quickly put on their gear and perform normal job functions while wearing it.



Tech. Sgt. Cory DeMuth, 934th Communications Flight, gets ready to put on his gas mask after a simulated attack warning. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



Left, Staff Sgt. Tagisiaalii Faumuina, 96th Airlift Squadron, defends his building with a simulated weapon. Below, Senior Master Sgt. David Adrianson, performs self aid and buddy care on Senior Airman Shawn Ko. Both are members of the Aeromedical Staging Squadron. (Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



In Memory

Master Sgt. Ricky Smasal, 934th Maintenance Squadron Isochronal Dock chief, passed away Sept. 10 at the age of 44. He is survived by his wife, Deb, and daughters, Montana, 13, and Erin, 15. Sergeant Smasal joined the 934th Airlift Wing in 2000.

Sergeant Smasal was remembered fondly as an “entertaining” individual by friends and co-workers.

“He was always at the center of the loudest discussion,” said his friend Senior Master Sgt. Joe Bystedt, 934th Maintenance Squadron. “Ricky never met a meeting he wasn’t happy to be late for.”

“Rick had the ability to get spun up from 0-200 miles per hour in four seconds,” said Chief Master

Sgt. Donald Fletcher. “But, Rick was always there for you if you needed him, as long as the lake wasn’t froze over yet.”



One project important to Sergeant Smasal was the returning of deployed military members and how this affected families. It was his intent that every time a group returned from deployments they be reunited with family quickly.

“We discussed the big homecoming of our deployed members,” said Jan Dalton, 934th Safety Office. “What was most important to Rick for this event was that the kids could greet their moms and dads – without restraint (read safety restrictions). So, on Sept. 11, I watched those kids run to ... their moms and dads and I thought of Rick.”

Month of the Military Family

Airmen and Family Readiness offers a wealth of resources

By Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Off the beaten path of Military Highway is the inconspicuous entrance to an office of humble structure and decor. Ironically, the building that once was a house, is now home to the Airman and Family Readiness Center – the hub that serves the military family with countless services and resources. Some are amazing. Many are free. All are valuable.

The 934th AW family of the has lost three members in recent months. Although there is no indication that their deaths had anything to do with the military, bringing services and resources to the forefront may be the key to prevention, says Vicki Lokken, director, 934th AFRC.

“One in 25 seeks professional help, the other 24 seek help from peers. We’re here to educate those 24,” she said.

Every issue of the Viking Flyer has a four-page insert from the 934th AFRC. Within those four pages are only a few of the many services and resources available.

Here are a few more:

Counselors: The AFRC has two licensed, accredited personal life counselors each UTA available Friday, Saturday and Sunday through January, then quarterly thereafter. Counselors are non-military and information is strictly confidential. The service is free and not insurance related.

Military One Source (www.MilitaryOneSource.com or 1-800-342-9647): Master’s-level consultants are available to offer confidential support and practical solutions. This site provides free articles, CD’s, booklets, financial calculators to help with budgeting and investing. Twelve face-to-face sessions per personal/family issue are provided. In other words, this service can be used more than once. There is no cost, no insurance and no report to the military.



Master Sgt. Steven Ross, 934th Maintenance Squadron, reunites with his family after a deployment to Southwest Asia Sept. 11. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

Miracle Lodge (www.miraclelodge.com): The Miracle Lodge is a faith-based, privately owned retreat, located near Rochester, Minn., geared for vets. Rooms are sponsored by a person, family or business.

The bottom line is that there are tons of services and resources available to military members and families for every type of need. A good wingman is the catalyst that links the need with the solution.

Promotions to:

Chief Master Sgt. Paul Yaeger	CES	Senior Airman Matthew Bartz	SVS
Master Sgt. Johnette Robinson	ASTS	Senior Airman Michelle Coward	SVS
Tech. Sgt. John Steensen	MXS	Senior Airman Chad Cole	MXS
Staff Sgt. Shirley Rhea	AMXS	Senior Airman Eric Holtz	MXS
Tech. sgt. Mitchell Haraldson	MXS	Senior Airman Brittany Fitzmaurice	CES
Tech Sgt. Ronald Johnson	OSF	Airman 1st Class Rico Rody	CES
Staff Sgt. Jesse Gilbertson	AS	Airman 1st Class Joshua Jarchow	SVS
Staff Sgt. Armando Gutierrez	MXS	Airman 1st Class Faith Krueger	ASTS
Staff Sgt. Cory Ley	AMXS	Airman Carissa Johnston	ASTS
Staff Sgt. Jesse McLean	LRS	Airman Mathew Vonruden	SVS
Staff Sgt. Amanda Richards	ASTS	Airman Stephanie Klimek	AES



Safety sayonara

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Vosen, 934th Airlift Wing Safety, receives his retirement plaque from Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander Oct. 3. Sergeant Vosen retired with 26 years of service. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



Aurora appreciation

Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, and Troop Commander Lt. Col. Sharon Simpson, present (left to right) Ma Luman and sons, Bob and Mike Luman, with a framed 934th AW C-130 photo in appreciation for their support of the 934th AW shuttle operation in Aurora, Ill. The Luman's own the Fixed Base Operator location that provides a comfortable place near their homes for Reservists to catch the shuttle to the 934th AW from Illinois. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch)



Foss on final

Chief Master Sgt. Tom Foss, 96th Airlift Squadron, receives his retirement plaque from Col. Tim Tarchick during his final UTA. The Chief retired with more than 36 years service. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



Commander kudos

Lt. Col. Rick Erredge, 934th Communications Flight commander, has his new rank pinned on Oct. 4 by Col. Michael Ochs, 934th Mission Support Group commander, and his wife Katherine. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

Sergeants Upp&Adam

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson



WILL YOU TWO JUST CHANGE THE OIL IN THE COMMANDER'S CAR? YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING AROUND THE BASE FOR TWO HOURS JUST TO GET SALUTED.

UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	Navy, Marines
Nov.	7-8	21-22	7-8/21/22
Dec.	5-6	12-13	5-6/12-13
Jan.	9-10	23-24	9-10/23-24
Feb.	6-7	20-21	6-7/20-21
Mar.	6-7	20-21	13-14/27-28
Apr.	10-11	17-18	10-11/24-25
May.	1-2	22-23	1-2/22-23
Jun.	5-6	12-13	12-13
July	10-11	17-18	10-11/24-25
Aug.	7-8	21-22	14-15/28-29
Sep.	18-19	11-12	11-12/18-19

For information on Army training dates call ext. 3127.

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POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY
DELIVER IN HOME BY Oct 30.
To the family of:

I do solemnly swear...

That I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic;



Twenty new recruits take the oath of enlistment from Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, at the Oct. 4 Commander's Call. Most will return to the 934th after completing basic training and technical school. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so help me God.

That I will bear true faith And allegiance to the same; And that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me; according to the

of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me; according to the