

# VIKING FLYER

Vol. 23, No. 1  
January 2001

934th Airlift Wing,  
Air Force Reserve Command,  
Minneapolis-St. Paul International  
Airport  
Air Reserve Station, Minn.



## Inside the VF

- 4 *934th AW earns fourth Outstanding Unit award*
- 6 *Services people help with USS Cole mortuary affairs*
- 7 *Two units receive ok for new emblems*
- 8 *Chat with chief set for Jan. 17*
- 9 *Congress extends VA loan program for reservists*
- 12 *UTA Information*

## Military terms have interesting, humorous origins

Once again I find myself writing this article while I am on a commercial flight, this time to Atlanta.

In these articles I always try to select subjects of interest or importance to highlight.

Today, slumped in my semi-conscience state waiting for deicing and takeoff, I reflected back to a comment made to me, "Where do we come up with some of our military terms and expressions?" This happens to be a subject that I have found to be interesting and often times humorous.

Many of the terms that we use can be tracked through history to an event or process. Over the years the actual event may have changed but we continue to use the same word.

An example would be the term **stand-up**.

Today we know that it is a meeting with the commander often times conducted in a conference room and some times accompanied with a healthy dose of "death by slides." It has always been a meeting with the commander but generally in field conditions or elsewhere where there were not enough places to sit.

Therefore, officers stood around in a circle to communicate. Later some commanders kept the practice even though there were enough chairs. They found that the periods of pontification were greatly reduced with everyone on their feet through the entire process.

A staple of the military is the **salute**. The action of raising your right hand to your brow is really a mimic of an action knights used.

As knights passed each other in their armor it was next to impossible to tell who was friendly and who was not, especially if they had their face shields down. Knights who served the same King were, of course, friendly to each other and knew each other by sight.

In order to set each other's mind at ease, both would use their right hand to raise their face shield so they could see each other's face. This action continued long after the wearing of armor disappeared.

The British modified the action slightly with their famous salute clearly exposing the palm of their hand to the other person. It is claimed that this was to let everyone know that they were not palming a weapon.

Back when the primary mode of transportation was the horse, senior officers would visit their troops and stop to talk with them.

The senior officer would generally have someone with him to care for his horse while at the same time having it immediately available in case needed. This person was known as a horse holder or **strap holder**.

The term strap is obviously referring to the reins of the horse.

Today the term **strap holder** is used as a rather derogatory reference



Col. Dean Despinoy  
934th AW commander

to a person on a senior commander's staff that is accompanying him during a visit but doesn't have a clear function.

**Officer's Call** really has not changed over the years.

When the senior field commander wanted to pass on information to his officers, who could be spread out over miles of the battle field, the commander would have the bugler play a special song. This same song is heard during formal ceremonies when the order "sound officers call" is given.

The song would be heard and replayed by the various company buglers all across the battle field and all the officers would ride to the commander's tent to receive the information.

This same general concept is used today but instead of using a bugler we now put out the call on email.

You knew that you would not get away without some explanation of some Navy terms.

**Keel Haul** still pops up in conversation, granted mostly among swabbies, as in "I am going to Keel Haul that guy if he doesn't straighten up."

(Continued on Page 3)



### VIKING FLYER

#### On the cover

Tech. Sgt. Lynette Petsinger, 96th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, hands out earplugs to special needs children during a recent "flight to the North Pole."

Please see Page 11 for more pictures on the event. (Photo by Al Eakle)



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 deadline for unsolicited submissions is Thursday, one week prior to UTA.

#### EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Dean Despinoy,  
934th AW commander

Maj. Marge McGlenn,  
Chief of public affairs

TSgt. Larry Dean,

**NCOIC**

Al Eakle

**Editor/public affairs specialist**

SSgt. Bob Butterfield,

SSgt. Suzanne Runtsch,

SSgt. Jeff Williams,

SrA. Nicolas Olson

**Public affairs staff**

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Robinson,

**Photographer**

# Components work together to accomplish mission

My 90 day tour is rapidly coming to an end. My adventure will be over and I'll be back at home as the Support Group Commander. I'll be with my family and all of you, my friends in the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

I will leave behind my many new friends made here at Eskan Village. Friends who are members of the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps, as JTF-SWA is a joint command. Friends who are members of the active, guard and reserve components.

During the last three months I have observed members of all components daily working side by side completing the mission of Operation Southern

Watch without regard to component. Ever one of them is an expert in their field.

I have found reserve component members in many positions of leadership.

When I arrived I met Major Pat Pound. He was the deputy Surgeon General (SG) for JTF-SWA and an Air Force IMA. Major Pound functioned as the SG because the Colonel was dual hatted as the 363th Medical Group Commander and based at Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB). Major Pound completed his 90-day tour and returned home the beginning of December.

Captain Dwight Dyer is the deputy



Col. Paul Groskreutz  
934th Support Group  
commander

Chief of Intelligence for JTF-SWA and a Navy Reservist. He is completing a six month tour of duty here at Eskan and will be returning to Colorado next month.

The Air Force needs our skills. The longer we can deploy the more beneficial each one of us will be to the JTF-SWA mission. My tour has been fulfilling in many ways and on many levels. I am glad I volunteered.

## Historical military terms

### *Keel hauling a former form of naval punishment in days of wooden ships, iron men*

(Continued from Page 2)

During the days of wooden ships and iron men, there were many forms of discipline. Keel Haul was one of the more severe.

A person's feet would be tied with a very long rope. His hands would be similarly tied with an equally long rope.

Someone would jump into the water, swim to the bow and sling the rope under the ship. The rope would then be lifted up to the main deck. A group of men on the starboard (right) side would start pulling on the rope. A group of men on the port (left) side

would keep tension on the rope but slowly let it out.

The mate tied to the ends of the two ropes would be pulled under water and drug along the bottom of the boat, or keel, until he popped out on the other side, if he could hold his breath that long. Removing the individual's shirt allowed the barnacles to scrap most of the skin off his back. The salt water entering the wounds would have an added effect.

**Side boys** are used as a sign of respect when a senior officer comes on board a vessel.

The Air Force also uses a form of side boys when posting the honor guard.

Today the side boys or honor guard stand on either side of the path taken by the senior commander sometimes with swords arched and crossed. The more senior ranking the officer the more side boys or honor guard.

What is this all about you might ask?

During the days of Navy old there was a practical function for these people.

When the senior officer came

aboard, the ship was often anchored. The officer would come to the ship in the admiral's barge.

It was not dignified for the admiral to climb a rope latter to the deck of the ship. Therefore, a chair attached to ropes was lowered down. The Admiral would sit in the chair and the side boys would hall him up to the main deck.

Prior to our knowledge of the importance of maintaining a healthy weight, physical size often denoted position or success. The higher ranking the officer, the larger they were, which required more side boys to complete the task of hauling them on board.

Over the years the chair has disappeared and the officer will walk up stairs ("latter" in Navy lingo) to the main deck, but the tradition of having side boys has remained.

Just as the braid was put on the sleeves of the officer's uniforms to keep them from wiping their nose with their sleeve, it is important to know when to stop. Hope you enjoyed this quick look at the meanings of just a few of the hundreds of military terms and expressions.

Individuals who have a question they feel needs a personal response from the 934th Airlift Wing commander can call his hotline at 713-4685. Questions are recorded and individuals may leave their name or remain anonymous. Questions of general interest will be answered in the *Viking Flyer*.



# 934th AW earns fourth outstanding unit award

Members of the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing received a special Christmas present last month when it was announced the unit had received its fourth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The wing was cited for a period in the wing's history (Sept. 30, 1998 through Oct. 1, 2000) marked by a high operations tempo, command-wide recognition, and a flying safety record that was top grade in the Air Force.

Whether it was sustaining relief efforts for a devastated Central America by Hurricane Mitch or sending tons of aircraft parts, food, weapons and vehicles to wartime and contingency locations worldwide, the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing flawlessly deployed and redeployed its personnel and cargo tirelessly, said Col. Dean Despinoy, 934<sup>th</sup> AW commander in his nomination package.

With continued cutbacks, the 934<sup>th</sup> AW proved it could "do more with less" when the situation demanded, he added.

Operationally, the 934<sup>th</sup> AW supported numerous real-world contingency operations and exercises, deploying more than 920 personnel without a single shortfall. In addition to meeting their own taskings, members of the wing volunteered to support 34 shortfall taskings.

Five members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron deployed to Gulfport, Mississippi within 18 hours for a follow on to Honduras as the lead aerial port. They established a joint air terminal operation center and marshalling yard, integrating U.S. naval reservists into all cargo-processing activities. Within five days of arrival they processed more than 864,300 pounds of cargo bound for Central America.

Four squadron members volunteered and deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany in support of Operation Allied Force and were assigned as key members of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Crisis Action Team. Leading the USAFE In-Transit Visibility cell, they



combat sorties.

Once again in the lead and working the 24-hour Deployment Control Center in direct support of Joint Task Force Hawk, JTF Shining Hope and Operation Noble Anvil, they processed more than 8.5 million pounds of cargo.

During award period, the 27<sup>th</sup> APS additionally shipped more than two million pounds of humanitarian goods to Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala, Mongolia and Venezuela.

The operations tempo of the Air Force continued its steady ascent as did the tempo in the 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. The squadron flew over 5,700 hours, airlifted more than 6,700 passengers, airdropped more than 1,500 troops, and hauled more than 1,300 tons of cargo.

One of their missions involved teaming up with the 815<sup>th</sup> AS from Keesler AFB, MS, flying a joint training mission with the Bolivian Air Force.

Participation in Operation Coronet Oak was an all-time high, flying 79 sorties and 265 hours during one rotation in 1998, and two rotations in 2000.

The 96<sup>th</sup> AS participated with nine other Air Force Reserve Command units in the largest AFRC-only airdrop exercise. The exercise took place at Maxwell AFB and involved two eight-ship formations. An aircrew from the 96<sup>th</sup> AS flew the twelfth aircraft to take off and dropped a 1,500-pound jeep.

They also participated in relief efforts by flying humanitarian support after Hurricane Mitch struck Honduras in November 1998.

The 934<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron spearheaded a first-ever joint

expedited more than 3,400 MICAPs, ECM Pods and aircraft engines, ensuring war fighting units received parts within 24-28 hours to generate 8,949

military medical exercise, leading all joint planning and coordination efforts. More than 365 personnel from three services flew three missions in 10 hours, moving more than 50 patients on each sortie.

The 934 AES also developed a joint-service medical simulation lab, which is used by Air National Guard and Army Reserve medical units.

The Logistics Group experienced the high operations tempo of the wing as well, as demonstrated by the number of deployments supported throughout the world.

People, pallets, and aircraft were deployed to an number of locations all over the world. The most recent Coronet Oak deployment relieved other more modern type C-130 units to support Operation Shining Hope in the Balkans.

The Maintenance Squadron helped modify the Wing's eight primary assigned aircraft with autopilot, ground collision avoidance system, and electrical systems. With maintenance operations continuing to be streamlined, they were able to maintain flightline support, and yet save thousands of dollars.

Throughout this time, the Wing surpassed 157,000 safe flying hours and the aircraft in-commission rate was an average 68 percent, despite 37-year old aircraft and major unscheduled maintenance discrepancies due to cracks and corrosion.

The 934<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron supported the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133<sup>rd</sup> Logistics Group in their conversion to a new aircraft computer system. They provided trainers and equipment on site, saving temporary duty funds while increasing expertise in the new aircraft computer system.

At home, the Logistics Group accomplished many tasking in top form.

The contracting office awarded more than 94 percent of their contract dollars to small businesses, ultimately winning the AFRC Outstanding Contracting Office of the Year Award.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Pride in what they do a way of life for 934th AW

*Continued from Page 2*

The Transportation Office converted nine vehicles to alternate fuels using compressed natural gas. This brought the wing into compliance with the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and an executive order. 13031, December 1993. Furthermore, the wing's vehicle fleet maintained an outstanding 97 percent in-commission rate.

Supply Office support ensured MRSP was maintained above 90 percent during deployments to SWA and CORONET OAK rotations, which directly supported the success of the missions. The Pharmacy program excelled by reducing hazardous materials by 50 percent and earning two "Best Practice" observations during February 1999's Eagle Look, our Hazardous Pharmacy Program Review.

In the 934<sup>th</sup> Support Group, the 934<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron engineered a runway extension and lighting project at Camp Ripley, Minnesota that resulted in another joint use facility.

Construction of a Combat Arms Training Simulator building at the 934th AW, another major accomplishment, saved over \$250,000 in contractor costs.

The CATS complements another mission of the 934<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron. The squadron manages a small arms firing range that has been expanded for use to include 53 other law enforcement agencies throughout Minnesota.

Additionally, security forces deployed to Mildenhall, England to support one of the largest airshows in Europe.

The 934th AW is also well known for its community involvement.

Not only have computers been donated to elementary schools near the base, wing members participated in a Learn to Read Program, as well as donated their time for the annual Toys for Tots, Metro Paint-A-Thon, and Operation Christmas Child.

The Paint-A-Thon completed its tenth consecutive year with more than 50 volunteers helping paint an elderly



*During the award period, the 934th Airlift Wing flew more than 5,700 hours, airlifted more than 6,700 passengers,*

*airdropped more than 1,500 troops, and hauled more than 1,300 tons of cargo.*

couple's home.

Operation Christmas Child delivered more than 472,00 pounds of goods and toys to needy children throughout the world via a Russian AN-124 transport aircraft. Staged from the 934th AW, volunteers and reservists alike helped package and load the gifts bound for Mexico, Guatemala, and Russia.

A Military Expo attended by more than 30,000 people was also held in conjunction with our sister services promoting the military partnership with our civilian communities.

The 934th AW assisted the National Weather Service and a local television weather channel by providing a location on base to measure snowfall each winter. The wing received a certificate from the Governor of Minnesota for its efforts.

To honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Air Force Reserve and the accomplishments of the 934th AW, then-Gov. Arne Carlson delivered a proclamation celebrating Air Force Reserve Day in the State of Minnesota.

The 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing dedicated five of their 10 C-130 aircraft to various cities in 1999 and 2000. Cities include

Bloomington, Richfield, Minneapolis, Rochester and St. Paul.

Wing personnel continue to foster the "Citizen Airmen" attitude with their active participation in surrounding communities.

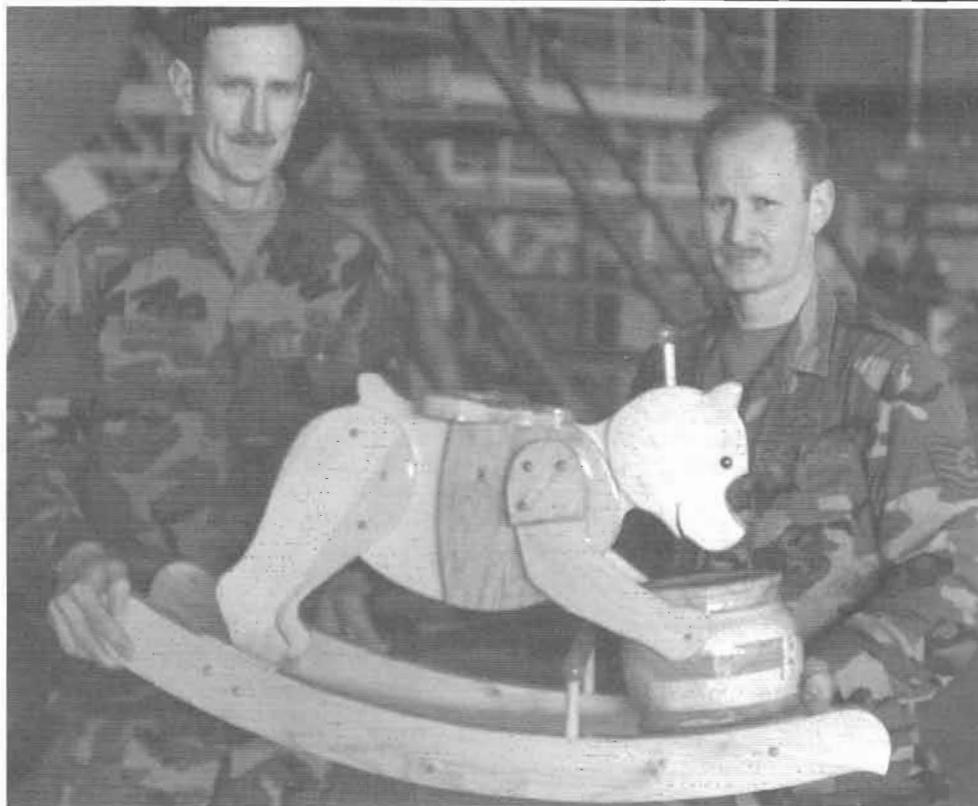
The wing conducts a summer work program in coordination with Minneapolis Vocational Outreach Services, assisting students with special needs (ages 14-20) who require support to obtain and maintain a job on their own and gain self-reliance.

The 934<sup>th</sup> AW's mentorship and sincere investment in the nation's youth is making a difference in the lives of students with disabilities.

The men and women of the unit actively participate in Big Brothers and Sisters, the local DARE program, Boy Scouts of America, Drug Free Way to Be, children's sports and outreach programs and the American Red Cross.

As a unit, they also continue to host the Annual Family Day, Bosses' Day and blood drive events.

Taking pride in all they do is a way of life for members of the 934th Airlift Wing.



Master Sgt. Roy Schwegel (left) and Tech. Sgt. Sam Baty (right) display a rocking honey bear donated to raise funds for Toys for Tots. Baty and Tech. Sgt. Diane Johnson designed the bear; Staff Sgt. Curtis Hochstetler arranged for the wood to be donated from a Wisconsin cabinet company; and Baty made the bear in his spare time. A tradition within the maintenance squadron for six years, the raffle for the rocking bear netted \$725 for Toys for Tots, in addition to the 230 toys collected by recreation services for the organization. Master Sgt. Donald Macelroy donated the rocking bear to the Minneapolis Children's Hospital. (Photo by Suzanne Runtsch)

## Local Mortuary Affairs team assists in processing bodies of victims in USS Cole terrorist attack

**By Staff Sgt Bob Butterfield  
934<sup>th</sup> AW Public Affairs**

The routine of an annual bivouac at Camp Ripley, Minn., was shattered by a terrorist attack half a world away.

Seven members of the 934<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron were deployed to Dover AFB, Del. on the second day of their annual bivouac to assist in processing of the remains of the U.S.S. Cole bombing victims.

The Services Squadron fields a 20 - person mortuary affairs team in addition to its duties of feeding and billeting the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. "Dover is the last stop for all military remains returned from

overseas," said Chief Master Sgt. Dennis McLean of the Services mortuary affairs team. "Our job is to assist in preparing those remains for burial or return to the family members."

McLean and six other team members deployed to Dover Oct. 14 - 24 to assist Navy and other Federal agencies with the victim's remains and personal effects. The other team members included Captain Neil Lindeen, Master Sgt. Brian Lloyd, Technical Sgts Steven Kern, David Gesen, Ken Kruger and Airman First Class Mia Monette.

Team members have deployed in one other 'real

world' mortuary affairs mission. McLean, Lloyd, Kern and Monette had deployed to Dover AFB last April to assist in processing the remains of nineteen marines killed in a MV-22 Osprey plane crash.

"Each set of remains must be weighed, fingerprinted, photographed, autopsied and embalmed," said McLean. "The ongoing criminal investigation by the F.B.I. into the bombing made this a much more meticulous process than with the Osprey victims. It is tough to prepare for mentally but once you get to work you are okay."

"It is best not to know

much about the victims," Lloyd added. "We read the paper and watch the news because we are interested in what is happening but it seems sort of distant. It's when you are processing a victim's personal effects and see a picture of the victim with their family or something that it really hits you."

The team members were monitored by a crisis management team throughout the deployment. Counselors and chaplains are there if needed. "I think our team adjusts better because we know each other so well," said McLean. "We are like a family and give each other support."

## Redesigned emblem approved for 27th APS

by Master Sgt. David Hammer  
Wing Historian

While some people are under the impression that once an emblem is approved it couldn't be changed, however, it turns out that rule is really for wings and flying squadrons.

Other units can get justification to change emblems at times; one such unit being the 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

People within the unit didn't feel the existing emblem fit the squadron's mission anymore. So they drew up a new design.

As with any emblem work it involves some give and take between the artistic designers and what can be on an official emblem.

Each emblem has to be unique, but there are specific rules about colors and designs.

They worked with the Air Force Reserve Command History Office and got a new design approved in October.

Just as important as the emblem



design is the emblem significance statement.

Those words tell the meaning of the drawing. The first three sentences are standard for every Air Force emblem.

And every Air Force emblem must feature the colors Ultramarine Blue and Air Force Yellow.

The significance statement for the 27th APS emblem reads:

"Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel.

"The pole star is a symbol of navigation.

The eagle reflects pride and flexibility of mission while the star with a red center symbolizes the rich tradition of the Air Force. The globe refers to the scope of the unit's mission."

While the new 27th APS emblem doesn't feature a Viking helmet, it does hint at the North Star.

Emblems can't feature geographic area since units can be transferred to other bases. A subtle hint can be used by including the Viking helmet or North Star which are symbols of Minnesota.

The 27th APS joins the 96th Airlift Squadron as the only units under the 934th Airlift Wing to have two emblems in their history.

## 934th OSF is last unit to get approved emblem

by Master Sgt. David Hammer  
Wing Historian

While it wasn't as historically important as D-Day, Nov. 15, 2000 was a milestone for the 934th Airlift Wing and was recorded as such.

That date marks the day that every unit within the 934 AW has an official emblem.

The 934th Operations Support Flight was the last unit to get an approved emblem.

In the recent past, the unit wouldn't have qualified for one since it was only squadrons and above that could get an emblem.

As with the majority of emblems within the 934th AW, the new 934th OSF emblem features a Viking helmet.



This one is different than the others since it puts a Norseman under the helmet.

The complete description of the emblem is as follows:

"Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel.

"The Norseman and falcon are symbolic of the strength and swiftness required by the unit in providing support to all flight operations."

This emblem has been in the works for over a year. It went through many design changes and a lot of message traffic went back and forth between here and the Air Force Reserve Command History Office.

There was a lot of hard work on getting a design that would work and one that was acceptable to everyone.

# PJ's valor earns posthumous Medal of Honor

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** — Airman 1st Class William H. Pitsenbarger was posthumously awarded the nation's highest honor during a presentation ceremony at the U.S. Air Force Museum last month.

Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman killed in action during the Vietnam War, becomes the service's second enlisted Medal of Honor recipient since the Air Force became a separate service in 1947.

The airman's father, William F. Pitsenbarger, and his wife, Alice, accepted the award from Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters. The audience included battle survivors, hundreds of pararescue airmen, a congressional representative and the Air Force chief of staff.

Pitsenbarger was awarded the



**Amn. 1st Class William H. Pitsenbarger**

Vietnamese capital of Saigon in 1966.

His actions during the mission were initially recognized with a posthumous award of the Air Force Cross. That award is the military's second-highest for service members, and the

Medal of Honor for treating and protecting scores of wounded infantrymen — while under intense enemy fire and being mortally wounded himself — in a rain forest stronghold near the

highest award the Air Force can bestow.

Upon further review in the 1990s, a number of private citizens and federal officials successfully advocated that the Medal of Honor would more accurately characterize Pitsenbarger's heroism.

The medal is presented to its recipient on behalf of the president of the United States and in the name of Congress.

"After this mission is complete, the light of Bill Pitsenbarger's valor will remain, reminding us of him and the sacrifices so many have made, that others may live," Peters said.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to individuals who, while serving in the U.S. armed services, distinguish themselves by conspicuous gallantry and courage at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty.

## AF participates in volunteer award program

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC)** — The Air Force will participate in the American Legion Spirit of Service Award program in 2001.

The national headquarters of the American Legion will annually present the award to an enlisted member from each branch of service for outstanding volunteer service performed off-duty in the local community.

The eligibility and criteria for the award are as follows:

- Must be an enlisted member in the grades of airman through staff

sergeant.

- Cite examples of volunteer community service the individual performed in the local community and how the community benefited.

- Cite contributions and examples showing the individual is an outstanding military performer.

- The period of service for the awards is Jan. 1, 2000 through Dec. 31, 2000.

Each MAJCOM, FOA or DRU may submit one nomination, on AF Form 1206, with an endorsement letter signed

by the MAJCOM/FOA/DRU commander, vice commander or executive director. Nominations should focus primarily on volunteerism performed by the member. Refer to AFI 36-2805, special trophies and awards, attachment three, for the proper format.

Presentation of the 2001 award will take place in August 2001 during the American Legion's national convention in San Antonio, Texas.

For more information contact SSgt. Bradley Peterson, HQ AFPC/DPPRS, at DSN 665-3934.

## ROA sponsors chat with the chief program Jan. 17

**WASHINGTON** — Getting to see the boss can be tough, especially if the person in charge is as busy as Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

To provide open-door access to the general, the Reserve Officers Association is offering a chance to "Chat with the Chief" from 4 to 5 p.m. EST Jan. 17.



**Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III**

Chiefs."

The general will take questions

Air Force reservists can talk with Sherrard during the one-hour video chat session by logging onto the ROA's Web page at [www.roa.org](http://www.roa.org) and clicking on "Chat with the Reserve

ranging from the use of reservists in support of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force to the command's challenges in meeting recruiting and retention goals.

Reservists from other reserve components will have the same opportunity to chat with their respective chiefs during other sessions. More details are available on the ROA Web page.

# Congress opens service academy presidential appointments to sons, daughters of reservists

The sons and daughters of 934th Airlift Wing members now have an additional category to apply for an appointment to one of the service academies, thanks to legislation recently approved by Congress.

They can now apply via presidential nomination.

The initiative, part of the fiscal 2001 National Defense Authorization Act signed by President Clinton Oct. 30, covers reserve component members with eight or more years of active duty service or have qualified for a non-regular retirement, said Charles L. Cragin, principal deputy under secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

The president has the authority to nominate 100 individuals to each of the service academies each year. Previously, only active duty people were eligible for such nominations.

"I like to say that if you're in the military, active or reserve component, you are 'twice the citizen,'" Cragin said. "You have the benefits of being a citizen,



*The sons and daughters of 934th Airlift Wing members now have an additional category to apply for an appointment to one of the service academies, thanks to legislation recently approved by Congress.*

and so you always have the ability to go to your member of Congress and ask them to consider a nomination.

"But, now, if you are in the military, active or reserve, and have eight or more years of active duty in the aggregate, you can also seek to have the president nominate your son or daughter," he added.

Cragin noted many of today's much-deployed Guard and Reserve members have copious active duty time under their belts.

"A lot of reservists have considerable active duty service, and, in fact, it continues to increase because we're calling up these men and women," he said. "They're serving in Kosovo, or Bosnia, or Southwest Asia. And so, they're accumulating more and more active duty."

For more information on admissions to the service academies, contact the following websites:

U.S. Air Force Academy- [www.usafa.af.mil](http://www.usafa.af.mil);

U.S. Coast Guard Academy- [www.cga.edu](http://www.cga.edu);

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy- [www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu);

U.S. Military Academy- [www.usma.army.mil](http://www.usma.army.mil);

U.S. Naval Academy: [www.usna.navy.mil](http://www.usna.navy.mil);

## Congress extends VA home loan guarantee improvements

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 2000 Congress has extended two 1992 improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs Home Loan Guarantee Program that were due to expire in 2001.

Congress passed legislation earlier this year that will allow National Guard and Reserve members to apply for the VA Home Loan Guarantee Program through December 2007. The 1992 legislation established the benefit but made it good only through 2001, said Keith Pedigo, director of the VA's Loan Guarantee Service.

Veterans whose service was in the Guard or Reserve make up about 3 percent of the loans VA handles, Pedigo said.

"Because of the success of the program, Congress decided it would be

appropriate to extend the eligibility of the Guard and Reserve," he said.

To be eligible, guardsmen and reservists must have at least six years' service in the Guard or Reserve, Pedigo said, but they need not be consecutive years.

Active-duty veterans buying their first home have paid a funding fee of 2 percent of the loan amount since 1992, when Congress raised it from 1.25 percent. Pedigo said the increase was to expire in 2001, but a recent change extended it three years.

Active-duty veterans buying subsequent homes are unaffected — they pay a funding fee of 1.25 percent of the loan amount. Reservists and guardsmen pay a 2.5 percent funding fee.

A recent improvement to the

home loan guarantee program affects surviving spouses of service members who died of a service-connected disability. Pedigo said long-standing provisions give these surviving spouses eligibility for the program, but take it away permanently if the surviving spouse remarries.

He said surviving spouses didn't regain eligibility even if the subsequent marriage ended in divorce or the subsequent spouse died. The recent change provides for the surviving spouse to regain eligibility for the program if the subsequent marriage ends.

"They just need to be unmarried at the time the loan is made," Pedigo said.

For more information, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs Internet homepage at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

# People

## Promotions

### To senior master sergeant

John R. Maki, 27th APS

### To master sergeant

Laurie E. Konz, 934th MSF

### To technical sergeant

Fredrick Carlson, 27th APS

August R. Funaro, 934th SFS;

Gregory L. Graddy, 934th SFS;

Michael Gullickson, 934th SFS; Helen

Meldrum, 934th AES;

Richard Waldoch, 934th SFS

### To staff sergeant

Zachary L. Johnson, 934th AES;

Elizabeth Quaidoo, 934th AES

### To senior airman

Daniel M. Misgen, 934th SFS;

Bradley N. Taplick, 27th APS

## Medals

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Cleo L. Bonham, first oak leaf cluster, 934th AES;

Tech. Sgt. Robert G. Jacobson, 1<sup>st</sup>

OLC, 934th AW;

Tech. Sgt. Douglas A. Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>

OLC, 934th LSS;

Tech. Sgt. Mark C. Quinlan, 1<sup>st</sup> OLC, 27th APS;

Maj. Anne C. Jones, 934th AES;

MSgt. Kevin Harstad, 934th SFS;

Master Sgt. Daniel A. Headman, 934th LSS;

Master Sgt. John Peterson, 934th SFS;

Master Sgt. Donald Roach, 934th SFS;

Master Sgt. Terry J. Strain, 934th LG;

Tech. Sgt. Doug Blair, 934th SFS;

Tech Sgt. John H. Jones, 934th LSS;

Tech. Sgt. Leo Moreno, 934th SFS;

Tech. Sgt. David A. Nyberg, 934th LSS

### Commander's coins

Staff Sgt. Blake Andrist, 934th MXS;

Senior Amn. Stephanie Belle-Isle, 934th ASTS;

Tech. Sgt. Doug Blair, 934th SFS;

Amn. John Brown, 934th AW;

Tech. Sgt. Eric Bergdahl, 27th APS;

Staff Sgt. David Hanson Best, 27th APS

Elvira Burley, 934th SVS;

Staff Sgt. Fred Carlson, 27th APS;

Capt. Zeus Celi, 96th AS;

Cindy Costentino, Rothe;

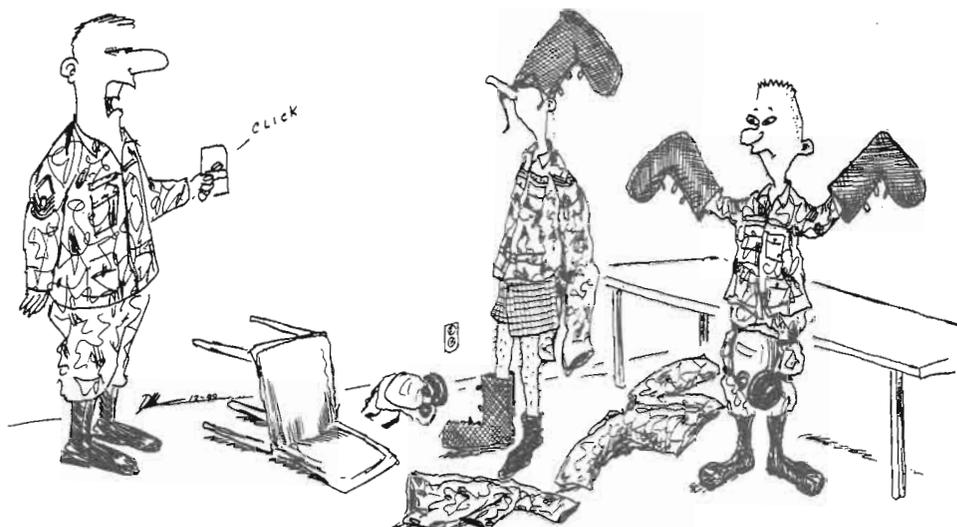
Tech. Sgt. Duane Cook, 934th MPF;

Staff Sgt. Allan Garnett, 27th APS;

Roger Hanson, 934th LG;

Tech. Sgt. Jake Jacobson, 934th MPF;

Sergeants  
Upp & Adam



O.K. UPP AND ADAM. NOW LET'S TRY DONNING THE EQUIPMENT WITH THE LIGHTS ON.

Tech. Sgt. John Kline, 934th CES;

Tech. Sgt. Laurie Konz, 934th MPF;

Staff Sgt. Glenn Lemmerman, 27th APS;

Master Sgt. Bernadette Lunde, 934th MPF

Tech. Sgt. Tim McCullum, 934th MXS;

Tech. Sgt. Vincent Mikulski;

Master Sgt. Larry O'Connell, 27th APS;

Senior Master Sgt. Rebecca Ogden, 934th AW

Master Sgt. Michael Pasbrig, 27th APS;

Tech. Sgt. Dale Place, 27th APS;

Staff Sgt. Zane Ranum, 27th APS;

Tech. Sgt. Steve Robinson, 934th MPF;

Staff Sgt. Richard Rowcliffe, 27th APS;

Tech. Sgt. Michele Sciarra, 27th APS;

Maj. Kelly Shawback, 934th MPF;

Capt. Jay Smeltzer, 934th MXS;

Staff Sgt. Shirley Smith, 96th AS;

Capt. Erik Sutcliffe, 27th APS

Tech. Sgt. Mark Syvertson, 27th APS;

Master Sgt. Gerald Torseth, 27th APS;

Tech. Sgt. Gerald Worshek, 27th APS

### Newcomers

Capt. Clinton B. Laucher, 934th AW, Air Reserve Personnel Center, CO;

Capt. Theodore Ruminsky, 934th SFS, McConnell AFB, KS;

Tech. Sgt. Christina F. McNamee, 934th CES, Youngstown, OH;

Tech. Sgt. Jon J. Schmidt, 934th CF, MacDill AFB, FL;

Staff Sgt. Steve Comer, 934th SVS,

prior service Air Force;

Staff Sgt. Mark A. Ledkins, 934th SFS, IMA

Staff Sgt. Alisa M. Malszycki, 27th APS Peterson AFB, CO;

Staff Sgt. Paul McNamee, 934th MXS, Youngstown, OH;

SSgt. Dennis A. Mishler, 96th AS, civilian;

Staff Sgt. Julie L. Reichenberger, 934th AW, prior service Air Force;

Senior Amn. Jeffery V. Anderson, 934th ASTS, Kirtland AFB, NM;

Senior Amn. Michael J. Ross, 934th SFS, McConnell AFB, KS;

Senior Amn. Zane Detert, 934th MXS, Malmstrom AFB, MT;

Airman First Class Marinroy B. Arceo, 934th MSF, nonprior service;

Airman First Class Monica S. Collado, 934th AW, Grand Forks AFB, ND;

Airman First Class Joshua R. Lacktorin, 934th MXS, nonprior service;

Airman First Class April Pearson, 934th ASTS, nonprior service

Ronald P. Martin, finance

### Marriages

Master Sgt. Sally Pondexter, 934th CF, to Barry Sahr.

### Births

Marc LeMaster, 934th AES, and his wife Gemma, have a new son James Gabriel Leith, born Dec. 20, weighing 8 pounds.

## Wing roundup

### 934<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Deborah Ward

The unit is preparing for the Pacific Warrior exercise Jan. 27 through Feb. 10 in Hawaii.

### 934<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight

Senior Amn. Chris Krug

Nothing reported

### 934<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sergeant Tom Theis

CATM personnel continue to offer support to units such as the 934<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron during the December UTA.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hanley, Master Sgt. Phil Sells and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Imsdahl volunteered to provide weapons orientation for the M-16. CATM is installing the SETS system for weapons training, which will allow them to create customized shoot/don't shoot scenarios using local "bad guys" as well as backgrounds and buildings on the base.

### 934<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron

Senior Amn. Melissa Putnam and Senior Amn. Kristen Maloney

The squadron will hold their Christmas party on Saturday during the January UTA.

27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron- No report

### 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

No report

### 934<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron

No report

### 934<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron

No report

### 934<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron

No report

### 934<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Flight

No report

### 934<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Flight

No report



Capt. Wanda Lorsunc, 934<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (above) and Staff Sgt. Eric Schraeder, 96<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron (below) assist some special needs children before and after an imaginery flight to the North Pole, courtesy of the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. An ongoing program with a charitable organization in Wisconsin, the

children are led to believe they are flying to the North Pole to see Santa Claus. They were buckled in, taxied round the Eau Claire airport and parked at a different spot on the tarmac where Santa and his elves greeted them with hot chocolate and cookies. (Photos by Al Eakle)



# UTA news in brief

## **MPF has moved**

The Military Personnel Flight has moved to Bldg 852. Identification cards are done on the first floor and they now have handicap accessibility for those in need of it.

The MPF Training and Personnel Systems sections are on the second floor.

## **Newcomer's Orientation**

Newcomer's Orientation is held every Saturday of the Unit Training Activity at 8 a.m. in the NCO Club. Units should ensure that their newcomers have a sponsor to take them to the club, return them to the unit, familiarize them with the base and especially make them feel welcome!

## **Education and training**

G.I. Bill Kicker AFSCs for FY 2001- Kicker AFSCs for FY 2001 will remain the same as when the program came online in June 2000. They are: 1N, 1T, 2A, 2F, 2T, 2W, 3E, 8D, 1A, & 4N.

Reservists who are in good standing, eligible for either the active duty or selected reserve G.I. Bill, and have six years retainability on their

current enlistment are eligible for this supplemental benefit of up to \$350 per month in educational assistance.

For up-to-date and valuable information, please access the education and training website through the wing pages.

## **Career Enhancement**

Bonus AFSCs have been approved. Enlisted Incentive Program Bonus AFSC Listing from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2001:

<b>AFSC</b>	<b>AFSC TITLE</b>
X1AX1C	Loadmaster
1C0X2	Operations Resource Management
1N0X1	Intelligence Applications
2A1X7	Electronic Warfare Systems
2A551J	Aircraft Maintenance (2A531B)
2A6X1B	Aerospace Propulsion
2A6X4	Aircraft Fuel Systems
2A6X6	Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems
2F0X1	Fuels
2T0X1	Traffic Management
2T1X1	Vehicle Operations
2T2X1	Air Cargo
2T3X5	Vehicle Body Maintenance
2W0X1	Munitions Systems
3M0XX	Services
4A1X1	Medical Material
4F0X1	Aeromedical
4N0X1	Medical Services
X4N0X1	Flying Medical Services

## **Officer, enlisted duty titles**

Duty titles for officer and enlisted personnel should reflect what the individual actually does, and not the career field description. If a duty title needs to be changed, orderly room staff can make the change through the PC III System.

## **Readiness**

This year will be extremely busy year for the 934th Airlift Wing, with personnel fulfilling many Aerospace Expeditionary Force and other deployment commitments overseas.

It is critical that reservists ensure their military personnel records are always current and accurate. Reservists play a very important role by assisting their unit deployment manager by ensuring their personnel items are always up-to-date. The following items

should be reviewed at least quarterly prior to deploying anywhere, and should be promptly updated when changes occur:

DD Form 93 - Record of Emergency Data

Personal ID Tag - Full-name, SSN, Blood type and Religious Preference

Military Green ID Card - Mandatory. Update if within 90 days of ETS

SGLI - Serviceman's Group Life Insurance Coverage for Dependents

Line badges, if applicable  
Force Protection, SATE - Security Awareness Training

## **Meetings**

Stand-up- Saturday at 9 a.m. in building 760 (conference room).

Enlisted Advisory Council- Saturday at 1 p.m. in Building 760 (conference room).

Career Advisor- Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Building 760 (room 194).

First sergeants meeting- Saturday at 2 p.m. in Building 760 (conference room)

Chiefs Breakfast- Sunday at 6:30 a.m. in the NCO Club.

NCO Club Advisory Council- Sunday at 10 a.m. in the NCO Club.

Honor guard- Sunday at 10 a.m. in Building 760 (conference room)

## **Videos available in lodging**

Video rental is now available for lodging guests in Bldg 711. Videos may be rented for \$1.50/day. Additional daily rental fees will apply if video(s) are not returned on time. There will be a \$20.00 fee for videos not returned or returned damaged. Guests must have a credit card on file to rent a video.

Microwaves are available in all guest rooms in Bldg 711.

## **Desert Storm anniversary**

Jan. 17th marks the 10th anniversary of the beginning of Operation Desert Storm. The Viking Flyer would like to run a feature story on this event in the Feb. issue. Individuals interested in sharing their experiences can contact the editor at: allen.eakle@minneapolis.af.mil or at (612) 713-1213.

## **Hours of operation**

### **Military personnel flight**

UTA Saturday- 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

UTA Sunday- 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

UTA ID cards- 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

### **Fitness center**

UTA Saturday- 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

UTA Sunday- 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### **Officers Club**

UTA Saturday lunch- 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

UTA Saturday lounge- 11 a.m.-midnight

UTA Saturday dinner- 6:00-9:30 p.m.

### **NCO Club**

UTA Saturday breakfast- 6:30.-9:30 a.m.

UTA Saturday lunch- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

UTA Saturday lounge- 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.

UTA Saturday dinner-5:30-8:30 p.m.

### **Chapel services**

Catholic Confession- 7:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass- 8 a.m.

Protestant Service- 9 a.m.

All services in Bldg. 865