

96th, MXS return
from desert
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VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.
November 2003, Vol. 25 No. 11

Inside:

⊙ Camp Ripley bivouac
⊙ ASTS trains to deploy

New Commander has high hopes for Wing

By Col. James J. Muscatell
934th Airlift Wing commander

Let me start out by saying how excited I am to be here and what a fantastic impression the 934th has made in just my first week here.



Muscatell

I can already see that the men and women of this wing have a work ethic and attitude that far exceeds anything I have experienced before. When I first heard I was going to Minneapolis, I asked people around the command what they thought of the 934th. The response was the same from everyone I talked with. They said this was an outstanding wing. I talked with some previous commanders of the 934th and their response was also the same. It was the best command assignment they ever had.

Before Gary Cook left, he told me how this base wins more awards in a quarter than most bases win in a year. I assumed this was exaggerated a bit because of how proud he was of your accomplishments. As I write this, I haven't even been here two weeks, I have already seen a half a dozen awards come in from 22nd AF or AFRC for individuals or squadrons. This is truly amazing and speaks volumes about the quality of our civilians and military members.

Although I couldn't be taking command of a more decorated and respected base, it will be a challenge to keep it up with the increased rhythm of battle overseas. This is a large mantle of responsibility. I was warned by a good friend that all I can do is screw this up. When a base is at the pinnacle of achievements, it is difficult to accomplish more and it can only go down from here. In some respects this

might seem negative, but I think it is an honor. I am not taking this responsibility lightly and I hope you do not either. I believe if we work together, we can achieve more.

The task at hand will not be easy. We have members of our unit deployed all over the world and we are getting called every day to send more. We are the go-to unit in the reserve. Perhaps you have done too good of a job and we are being rewarded with deployments. I do not know when the deployments will end or who will go, but more of you will likely get the call.

We must remember, though, that there is nothing more important than the welfare of our families and we will get through this high ops tempo. We hope to be getting most of our troops home soon and by the time you read this, hopefully many will already be safely returned to their normal lives.

This is a new world for the reserve and despite the increased challenges, our retention and recruiting remains high. This is amazing and proves just how dedicated you are.

You are arguably the leading C-130 wing in the Air Force and that will not change with a different person sitting in the commanders chair. Anybody can sit there, and you will continue to do the fine job that you have been doing for years.

I sincerely hope in the coming months I will get a chance to meet each of you and get to know who the 934th is. I will always try to be available to all of the members of this wing, and I promise to stand alongside you when the work gets difficult and do what I can to help. I consider myself a servant to the men and women of the 934th.

My goals are simple: to work as hard as I can to help each of you get the resources needed to do your job and do what makes sense. I am proud to be associated with this wing and look forward to the years to come.



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

ON THE COVER: Tech. Sgt. Tony Kanugh is preparing an engine for installation onto a C-130 while deployed overseas.

Overseas deployments bring short reunion for father and son

By Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette
133rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For Staff Sgt. Curtiss Jones, the third time really was a charm. After a cancellation and a maintenance problem ended his first two tries to get to Oman, he finally arrived on Sept. 19. Why the urgency to make there?

That's where his father, Master Sgt. Robert Jones, was deployed with the 934th Maintenance Squadron. Curtiss, a loadmaster with the 109th Airlift Squadron, was deployed to Qatar. The opportunity to set foot on the same ground in the same campaign was a driving factor in the efforts to reunite.

"A father and son serving in the same theater is a pretty rare occurrence," Jones said. "It was making a little bit of our own history by getting down to see him. My father isn't a hugely emotional man, but you could see the pride and happiness in his smile."

Jones had just come back from an all night mission and when he looked at the mission board for that day and saw a plane was tasked to go through Oman. After getting the go ahead from his aircraft commander and the rest of the crew, Jones went to his commanding officer for the rotation, Lt. Col. Matt Bainbridge.

"He even offered me his digital camera," said Jones, "and gave specific orders to take pictures. I think he was pretty excited about this whole thing, too. I couldn't have made this work without his help."

At the operations tent, waiting to catch his ride, he e-mailed his father, hoping he would get the message before the aircraft arrived.

"My dad is not the most diligent checker of e-mail," Jones commented. Fortunately, his dad did check it — about 30 minutes before Curtiss arrived — and was able to greet him as he came off the plane.

Father and son were able to spend half the day together.

Curtiss said they spent it enjoying a

couple beers and catching up on the time. Both were activated in March and have been crossing paths on the deployment carousel. Jones was first deployed to Oman for 120 days. He came home in July to find that his father would be leaving for Southwest Asia

"Everybody gave me hugs to pass on to my dad in the event I saw him, I'm just glad they made it to him."

-Staff Sgt. Curtiss Jones

in a few weeks. In Jones's absence, his dad took care of many of the things that Jones would normally have done had he not been deployed.

"He helped with lots of the labor-intensive stuff that comes with spring," said Jones, "then the roof started leaking, then two flat tires in less than a week. I wasn't gone two weeks and things started getting ugly. I'm thankful my dad was home and able to help my wife and kids."

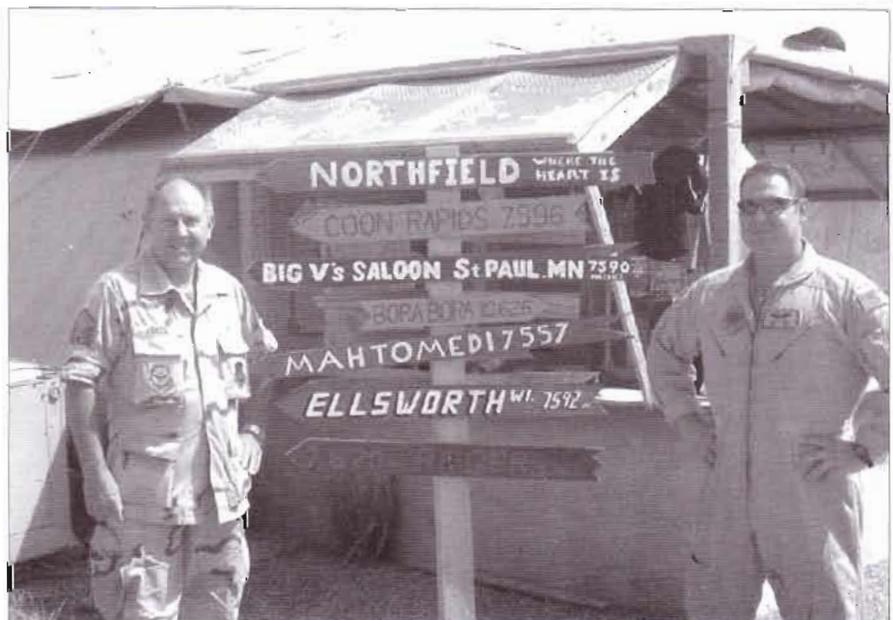
After his dad left, it was Jones's turn to return the favor.

"We rarely say, 'you're welcome,'" said Jones. "We usually say, 'It's all part of the ongoing package deal,'" he added, referring to his family's commitment to helping each other in times of need.

Only one week after seeing his father off, Jones got word he would be returning to the Persian Gulf. He spent the next three weeks trying to cram in three months worth of lawn care, vehicle maintenance and home repair, at his own house and his parents', all the while wondering if he'd be able to link up with his father.

"Everybody gave me hugs to pass on to my dad in the event I saw him," Jones said. "I'm just glad they made it to him."

Both father and son returned from the desert last month. However, the elder Jones might not have to wait for family hugs until then - his other son, Nick, was scheduled to arrive in Southwest Asia just days after the younger Jones left. Could they be as lucky a second time? They both said they hoped so.



Courtesy Photo from 133rd AW/PA

Master Sgt. Robert Jones (left) of the 934th Maintenance Squadron and his son, Staff Sgt. Curtiss Jones of the 109th Airlift Squadron,

an Air National Guard unit, stand by a guidepost in Oman. The two had an opportunity to visit while they were deployed overseas.

Comm Flight members run the Air Force Marathon

By Senior Airman Curtis Holden
Staff Writer

During the winter months, some people might want to convert to the couch potato mode. But for others, there is no reason to let the weather deter their fitness goal.

Four members of the 934th Airlift Wing recently hit the pavement for a running competition in order to stay in shape.

Tech. Sgt. Jon Schmidt, Staff Sgt. Scott Inwards, Staff Sgt. Christian Krug, and Staff Sgt. John Herrick of the 934th Communication Flight recently returned home from the seventh annual Air Force Marathon held Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

"It was fun and our goal is to place next year," said Schmidt.

All four runners entered the relay marathon event comprised of four legs of five, six, 7.5, and 6.7 miles each for a total of 26.2 miles. The runners handed off a time chip to each other during the race.

As a team they finished with a final time of 3:26:20.

"Our initial goal was under 3-1/2 hours, so we are pleased with that aspect," said Schmidt. "The hard part is that we all

feel like we could have done better."

Schmidt also said the team plans to enter next year's event and is setting its goals even higher. "We want to place in the top three next year, around 3:15."



Staff Sgt. Chris Krug crosses the finish line after completing the Air Force Marathon in Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 20.

In order to reach that goal, each runner knows they will have to train more aggressively as a team.

For the seventh annual Air Force Marathon relay, Schmidt said team training varied by individual regiments. They ran from four to twenty miles per week always individually and never as a unit.

For upcoming Marathon relays Schmidt said, "We would get together a little more often than we did for this race."

In addition to possibly improving their performance, their time spent running together could also enhance the camaraderie among Schmidt, Inwards, Krug, and Herrick and their unit.

The four runners would like to thank the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 858 who helped cover the cost of the team's sponsorship and entry fees.

The annual Air Force Marathon is open to active duty, reserve, guard and civilians.

For more information on future Air Force Marathon events, visit www.afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil.

ATTENTION: JUNIOR OFFICERS

The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund will provide one \$750.00 scholarship for a junior officer to attend the Junior Officer Leadership Development Training Seminar at ROA's Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., in January 2004.

Applicants must be ROA members in good standing, and members of ROA's Department of Minnesota. They must also agree to attend all scheduled events of the JOLDTS during the Mid-Winter Conference.

Scholarship applicants can't be attending the 2004 Mid-Winter Conference on military orders. The individual selected will be also be asked to prepare a written summary of his/her experiences at the JOLDTS session within 30 days of the completion of the conference.

Application information will be found on the Department of Minnesota Web site mnroa.org under the Freedom Fund category. Information on the JOLDTS program is available on ROA's Web site, roa.org.

Applications must be received by the MDAFF President via e-mail or written form not later than Dec. 1. The MDAFF Board of Directors will make its selection at its regular monthly meeting on Dec. 9 and notify all applicants by Dec. 15. Personal appearance of applicants at the Board meeting is not authorized.

Airmen can now review records online

The Air Force has started a new program allowing airmen to complete record reviews online through the virtual military personnel flight.

Airmen will soon begin receiving e-mail notifications around their birthday each year advising them to review their electronic personnel records maintained in the military personnel data system.

After the customer logs on to vMPF and accomplishes his or her record review, a hard copy should be printed for the member's personal records," said Master Sgt. Don Taylor. He is the superintendent of customer support operations at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "If all of the information is correct, no further action is required until the next annual review."

In some areas where airmen may find errors, they can make the needed changes through the links provided. They should make the corrections as soon as they discover them, Taylor said.

Other errors not yet updateable online can be corrected by the airman's MPF or commander's support staff. For more information, contact your servicing CSS or MPF. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Air Force will test Eagle Flag

By Master Sgt. Paul Fazzini
AMC Public Affairs

The Air Force will begin its newest flag-level exercise Oct. 13, targeting expeditionary combat-support skills and testing them to the maximum extent.

Eagle Flag is to the expeditionary combat-support community what Red Flag is to the fighter community, said Maj. Gen. Christopher A. Kelly, Air Mobility Warfare Center commander at Fort Dix, N.J.

"(It) will bring expeditionary combat-support leadership to Fort Dix (where) we will test their abilities to go out and establish an air base in an austere location," he said.

Because this is the inaugural Eagle Flag exercise, "there are a lot of unknowns," Kelly said. "The primary objective will be to test the team that will come together ... in an expeditionary role (to establish)

an air base and to give us a good, solid foundation ... for follow-on Eagle Flag exercises."

To accomplish these objectives, center planners will draw from expeditionary combat-support specialties throughout the Air Force. Units attending Eagle Flag will be scheduled like actual deployments, through the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

In the past, Air Mobility Command officials focused on the command's own combat-support specialties in a similar exercise called Phoenix Readiness. However, the Air Force did not have a service-level training environment that all major commands could tap into.

"The Air Force recognized that Phoenix Readiness provided a good foundation and a good way to transition from that major-command-

focused expeditionary combat-support experience to a larger Air Force focus," Kelly said.

Using Phoenix Readiness as the foundation for Eagle Flag has allowed Air Force officials to get this exercise off the ground sooner than if it had to be built from scratch. It also has saved money and resources in the process, according to Kelly.

Eagle Flag planners will incorporate lessons and experiences from operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom into the exercise scenarios, Kelly said.

The exercise will be part of the participants' AEF "spin-up" window. Planners said they would link it with other exercises or other events that might be going on within the Air Force to give it a more realistic feeling.

"This is in the long future, not in the near-term," Kelly said. "But, I think it's easy to

understand that you could link an Eagle Flag with perhaps a Red Flag or a weapons school mission-employment exercise out on the Nellis (AFB, Nev.) Range, for instance.

"I think that kind of situation would give young men and women in the Air Force exposure to different environments, different climates (and) different challenges. And (it will) better balance their approach to this expeditionary combat-support experience so they can face bigger challenges anywhere in the world, in different environments," Kelly said.

"There are huge challenges out there ...," he said. "It's a very thrilling experience for (Air Mobility Warfare Center airmen) to be a part of, and we are excited about the opportunity. We look forward to the challenges and meeting those challenges in the days ahead." (AMC News Service)

Don't have your receipt? ... No problem!

Two different gift cards make appearance at AAFES

by Senior Airman Jennifer Johnson
Staff Writer

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing now have a new option when it comes to shopping at the base exchange.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service started two initiatives Oct. 21 to improve customer service and provide its patrons more flexibility while they shop.

Under the first initiative, authorized customers will receive a Merchandise Gift Card when they return items without a receipt, said Cindy Filsinger, Twin Cities AAFES store manager.

The only requirements are the items must be saleable, returned in the required

timeframe and have a tag that indicates the price, she added.

"It's going to be so much easier and more convenient for our customers," said Filsinger.

Now all customers need to do is go directly to the counter to receive their Merchandise Gift Card for the exact amount of the purchase, saving the customers time while streamlining the process for the store, said Filsinger.

Another added bonus to the program is that people can purchase anything at an AAFES facility around the world, and this combined with the second initiative, the new Gift Card, gives customers more options, she said.

Similar to the Merchandise Gift Card, the regular Gift Card can hold any amount of money and it can be reloaded, said Gail Howard, Twin Cities AAFES assistant manager.

Tech. Sgt. Chris Neitzel, 934th Logistic Readiness NCOIC of the orderly room, said both initiatives are great ideas and valuable for him as a customer.

"It will be nice to be able to give people a card, and they will be able to purchase what they would like to purchase. And if you lose or misplace a receipt, you won't be completely out," he said.

If people have any questions they can stop by the Twin Cities AAFES or call 612-726-9023.

Speaking today, shaping tomorrow

Air Force Climate Survey now available

by Staff Sgt. Troy Novak
Staff Writer

Shaping tomorrow's Air Force is one of the main goals of the Air Force Climate Survey.

For the first time reservists, guard, nonappropriated-fund civilians and students in a temporary-duty status can add their inputs for the future of the Air Force.

Maj. Bonnie Tremblett, climate survey point of contact, said it's a "perfect venue to communicate, honestly and anonymously with the decision-makers."

Tremblett said she insists everybody participates, so commanders obtain sincere, anonymous evaluations and opinions from the people that make the 934th work.

Senior Airman John L. Brown, deployed in a less than friendly location, completed the survey, proving that all a reservist needs is access to the Internet, said Tremblett.

She said the climate survey is offered to people being deployed and she emphasized that their inputs are highly encouraged. "Let them know how it's affecting you, and that job satisfaction is affected by

the tempo."

The 30-minute survey covers 13 different sections with approximately 100 questions.

The types of questions asked measure the positives and negatives of a unit.

Individual's anonymous answers and comments are combined with the answers from the unit and provided to the unit commander. Ten people must respond before a report is provided, ensuring anonymity.

All answers and comments are combined and given to the next level of the chain of command. For example, a squadron commander will get results from the squadron in an overall unit report. The group commander will get an aggregate report of all of the group's squadrons.

We all would like to see our great Air Force get even better. When you take the survey, you are doing your part to help your unit, your major

command, and the Air Force improve, said an Air Force official.

The survey is offered online at afclimatesurvey.af.mil now through Nov. 23 and is highly recommended. A link is to the site is on the base intranet page.

**Speak Today
Shape Tomorrow**
1 October - 23 November 2003

**Air Force
Climate
Survey**

<http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil>

UTA Schedule FY04

Nov. 1-2 (make up 15-16)
Dec. 6-7 (make up 16-17)
Jan. 10-11 (make up 24-25)
Feb. 7-8 (make up 21-22)
Mar. 6-7 (make up 27-28)
Apr. 3-4 (make up 17-18)

May 1-2 (make up 22-23)
June 5-6 (make up 12-13)
July 10-11 (make up 24-25)
Aug. 7-8 (make up 21-22)
Sep. 11-12 (make up 25-26)

DFAS officials caution against look-alike sites

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials caution the 2 million military and civilian users of myPay to use only the official Web site when accessing pay account information.

"Personal information is valuable and should be safeguarded," said Claudia L. Bogard, director of corporate communications for the DFAS. "Don't provide your personal information to any Web site unless you know it can be trusted."

Look-alike sites have recently frustrated MyPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is in no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense.

MyPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active-duty, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. The DFAS myPay Web site is found at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

Medical unit packs kits, prepares for deployments

Unknown to most: ASTS does more than just physicals

By Staff Sgt. Troy Novak
Staff Writer

Diverted from Camp Ripley after months of training and preparation, the medical unit used a building of opportunity at the 934th Airlift Wing to organize a Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF).

The Aeromedical Staging Squadron converted the fuel cell into a training center, discovering the strengths of one of the wing's largest units.

The ASTS consists largely of deployable personnel, said Medical Readiness non-commissioned officer in-charge, Master Sgt. Gino Marchetti.

"We do more than physicals, it's important to be ready for a real world medical deployment. Play today, deploy tomorrow," he said.

The CASF training occurred Oct. 2-4 and trained the medical unit in patient movement, mass casualty management, chemical warfare and communications.

The Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron trained with the ASTS, practicing patient on-load and offload at the static C-130.

"The CASF is the ground link unit to the AE system," said Senior Airman Dan Dlugiewicz.

In order to give patients quality care, he said communication between the air and ground is essential.

"Knowing how to manage message traffic will ensure a smoother evacuation process for patients," said Maj. Barb Schacht, Medical Readiness OIC.

The Civil Engineer Squadron supported the CASF providing training related to shelter assembly and chemical associated warfare

training.

Schacht said CE's support is crucial to the CASF operations at home station training and in the real world.

**"Play today,
deploy tomorrow."**

**-Master Sgt. Gino Marchetti,
934th ASTS**

Training a group as large as 90 took planning and patience, said Schacht, but it is essential to have the whole group practice together so they know how the process works.

"It's all about teamwork," she said.

For the last year the ASTS has completed War Skills training, the classroom segment for the CASF, and the exercise is the culmination of all that preparation, Schacht said.

Schacht said, based on feedback, people thought this is the best exercise the ASTS has designed to date, and it provides a valuable learning and training opportunity for all of us.

Capt. Robert Jackson said, "It was an excellent opportunity for medical folks to receive extensive training in their functional areas."



Photo by SSGT. Troy Novak

From left: Master Sgt. Gino Marchetti, Senior Airman April Pearson and Capt. Robert Gregory dismantle the medical control center after the Oct. UTA.



Tech. Sgt. Jeff Jacobs, 934th CES, works on setting up a tent during the October UTA at Camp Ripley.



Senior Airman Damion Kosmosky, 27th APS, adjusts a fuel can used to fuel a tent heater.

Bivoauc tests ability of

For most people, the thought of setting up and sleeping in tents sounds like an outdoor adventure but for the 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, it is part of their way of life.

During the October UTA, members of the 934th CES, 27th Aerial Port Squadron and 934th Services Squadron made a trip to Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minn. During this annual requirement, a small camp was assembled and classroom training was accomplished during the 4-day assembly.

"It's kind of like taking your family out on a camping trip," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Gustafson, 934th CES.

"There are standard for setting up a camp," said Master Sgt. Dave Nelson, engineering shop, 934th CES. "If we don't have area to follow those guidelines exactly, then we have to make modification to fit."

Along with setting up the area, Nelson is part of a group that sets up a minimum operating strip. "After there has been an attack, the people call it to the Survival Recovery Center and we come up with a possible MOS and begin the repair of the strip. We come up three options for the commander to get the operation restored as soon as possible."

During their time at Ripley, the 934th CES and 27th APS are able to fulfill several training requirements, according to Gustafson. Additional training includes Status of Resources and Training System, a monthly report that measures the capabilities and equipment of an explosive ordinance unit.



Tech. Sgt. Craig Slavik, 934th CES, demonstrates the proper use of small generators were used to power the lighting equipment c

CF and APS

It has SORTS efficiency training," Gustafson said. It's important to make sure that we are very efficient at our operations to maintain readiness."

"It's very important for us to get training," Gustafson said. "The electric shop is assigned a different task. The electric shop is responsible for making sure that the tents have lights; the heating ventilation and air conditioning make sure they have heat in the tents. We have to be able to do your job under all different circumstances."

"We're trying to accomplish all of the training that is required in a fiscal year," said Master Sgt. Scott LeClair, camp commander in 2003. "The end result is asking ourselves if we accomplished what we set out to do and did we do it in a safe manner and did we stay safe, coming out with all our fingers and toes."

"This is the first year that the aerial port has participated, said LeClair. "Typically services [squadron] comes along with us to take care of our service needs," LeClair said. "Being with the port has worked out well. They have helped us and we have done things."

"The training helps us to excel," LeClair said. "We have a variety of craftsmen that are able to do the jobs so we can accomplish what we set out to do. We have some of the best people in the Air Force, in my opinion, to be able to do the job."

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson

Capt. Cynthia Doolittle, a 934th CES officer, helps unload bags at the beginning of the exercise.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Barclay, 27th APS, demonstrates what would go on during a CCA line. Servicemembers went through several checkpoints during MOPP training.



to set up and run a field generator. They are working on the annual bivouac.

Welcome Home!

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In the case of reservists who had not returned at the time this issue went to press, only the ranks and first names have been used, in accordance with Air Force Reserve Command policy.

- The editor

Over half of the nearly 200 Minnesota reservists of the 934th Airlift Wing have returned from Southwest along with four of their aircraft, after having been deployed for the past two and one half months.

Operating from a remote desert location, reservists from Minnesota, Ohio and Pennsylvania, along with 14 of their C-130 aircraft, made the 775th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron truly a total force Reserve commitment.

As part of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing, the 775th EAS flew approximately 10 aircraft each day delivering troops, supplies and equipment throughout some of the most formidable conditions in Southwest Asia, in Support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Twelve of the aircraft are 40-year old "E" models, while two are newer H2 models.

They've flown through extreme heat



Tech. Sgt. Tim and a co-worker change a C-130 propeller at night.

VIKING FLYER

and blowing sand, made tough assault-style landings, and even have been shot at on occasion. Yet the experts of the aircraft maintenance squadron kept them flying every day.

"It's really mind-boggling when you look at the total number of hours these aircraft are flying in," said Chief Master Sgt. Tom Wineberg, a maintenance supervisor at Willow Grove, Pa., who returned recently. "When you look at the fact that we have 40-year old airplanes subject to the heat and wear that occurs flying into and out of some of these places, I'm very proud of each one of them. We've done a lot of flying on a lot of missions."

The maintenance squadron commander, Maj. Dave Mattson from Minneapolis, who also returned recently, agreed with that assessment, while he was deployed.

He said, "We're basically working in a gravel pit here, far removed from our indoor facilities back home, and we probably have the highest mission capable rate in the theatre, while working on some of the oldest aircraft in the fleet."

"These aircrews are flying combat profile through the harshest conditions you can put a C-130 through. These aircraft are going through the highest limits they've been designed for. We're fixing them and keeping them flying," he added.

While there seems to be, at first glance, nothing interesting at this location, one doesn't have to look too hard to find the



A returning reservist reunites with his family shortly after arriving home after months overseas.

occasional trip to the beach or a trip to the local and barren desert links golf course as a brief respite from the reason they're here – the mission.

"The hardest part is waiting for the aircraft to arrive to see what needs to be fixed," said Tech. Sgt. Jim. "Even through we're here 12 hour shifts, I like the three days on and one day off schedule, because it mixes everything up pretty good. There is plenty of good food – almost as good as my cooking. Thankfully we have a gymnasium."

While flying and fixing aircraft are big



Wing members return from desert

things, it still takes plenty of help from support people on the ground to get the planes in the air.

Senior Airman Richard, life support technician, is one of a few people authorized to issue survival vests, radios, guns and night-vision goggles to the aircrews.

"When we get a rush of people as the crews come and go, it gets difficult keeping up with everything and staying organized," he said. "We try to set up a process to get the aircrews in and out of life support in minimal time."

Members of the support team, like Tech. Sgt. Ray, operations information manager, appreciate those who fly the missions.

"These guys fly into the combat zone every day. They put their lives on the line," he said. "They've been shot at, they're tired, but every day they do what they do best –

It doesn't matter if it's Minneapolis, Bangstown or Willow Grove, we work together to get the mission done. But the aircrews – these guys are the heroes."

Some of the aircrew members see it



A C-130 belonging to the 934th Airlift Wing receives a tow prior to an engine check during a recent Southwest Asia deployment.

differently, however.

"We're not the heroes," Staff Sgt. John, flight engineer, said. "When we pick up the young troops from the 82nd Airborne, barely out of high school, who face the hot (combat) zone every day, I see them as heroes. We are just making our contribution to the war effort."

John recalled a flight where his crew delivered a simple pleasure to the young 82nd Airborne troops.

"On one trip we brought a couple boxes of Pop-Tarts to the troops we were picking up. They were so appreciative," he remembered. "It gave us great satisfaction in knowing we could help make someone's day by bringing as simple a pleasure as a Pop-tart – the very thing most of us take for granted – to the troops in the field."

Regardless of who they consider to be heroes, everybody lived in tents; had running water in the bathroom, laundry and shower facilities; had access to the large 24-hour dining hall; access to a small base exchange, gift shop and post office; and could take in several activities sponsored by the base recreation center.

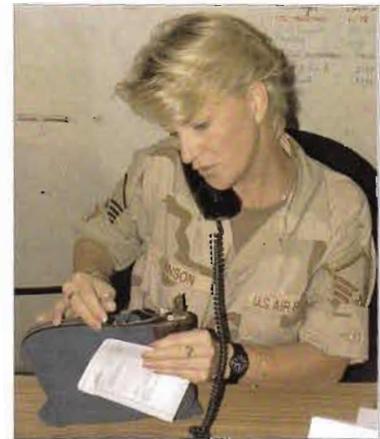
For what little leisure time there was,

it was usually spent watching movies on DVD, reading, decorating the plywood porches that adorn the front of each tent – with each tent trying to out-do the others creatively.

Yet there was one activity all seemed to share – most spent time socializing and deepened their friendships with each other as one big family, and also forged closer bonds as American military members deployed on foreign soil – together.



Senior Master Sgt. Dave Brownlee (left) meets with Maj. Dave Mattson shortly after Brownlee's arrival on-station.



Master Sgt. Diane Johnson fields a phone call as a scheduler during the tour.



Airlift Squadron hits 60, still hauling troops

Members hold reunion to reflect days gone by

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

When the 96th Troop Carrier Squadron was first activated as part of the 440th Troop Carrier Wing at Baier Field, Indiana in May 1943, it set the stage for a long and rich history that continues as its descendants, the 96th Airlift Squadron, continue to fly operations in Southwest Asia.

For retired members of the squadron, it gives them a chance to meet yearly to discuss days gone by and celebrate the rich heritage of the unit.

The latest reunion occurred Oct. 4, at the base Enlisted Club, as nearly 40 of the 213 members of the 96th Associate Squadron met in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the initial activation of the unit.

Col. Mark Arnold, 934th Airlift Wing vice commander, gave the keynote "State of the Squadron" address, highlighting the squadron's accomplishments during the past year.

For others, like retired Lt. Cols. John Vlahos and Harold Gifford, it gave them a chance to meet other 96th members past and present, and take a trip down memory lane to the good times they had in their careers here.

For Gifford, one of his biggest memories was the first operational readiness inspection that was held after the unit converted to the C-130 aircraft in 1970.

"I flew the first C-130 the squadron had, and was the project officer for that ORI," Gifford said. "We flew every single airplane we had – all six – during each one of the four missions flew. When we passed that first ORI, we astounded all of the active duty guys."

"I was privileged to work for a great bunch of guys. They really dug in and made things happen then. Everyone was so motivated, and flying all six of the war-weary aircraft we acquired from Kunsan was something else," he added.

Gifford, who later became a squadron and group commander, said the worst time he had was when they

found out the squadron was leaving the fighter world.

"It was a sad, sad day when you consider the fighter mentality," he said.

Vlahnos began his 96th career in 1957, shortly after the conversion out of fighters and into the C-119 "Flying Boxcar" occurred.

"We had four C-47 "Flying Goonies" here that we used for active duty pilots to get their flight time in, and we had a navigation training squadron here as well," Vlahnos remembers.

"I flew as a civilian instructor in the C-47 for the active duty guys who were in the area who still needed to keep their rating current in order to receive their flight pay, before the Air Force got rid of that requirement in the 1960's," he said. "That was in addition to my regular flying responsibilities."

His fondest memory was working with the 82nd and 101st Airborne paratroopers.

"We worked jump schools at Forts Benning, Bragg and Campbell. We would leave here on a Sunday, do four day paratrooper drops and one night drop, finish on a Wednesday and return home," he said.

Working with the 82nd and 101st Airborne is part of the squadron's lineage.

The 440th Troop Carrier Wing, of which the 96th Squadron was part, was sent to England in February and March 1944 and participated in evacuation, supply

and practice missions for three months, according to documents obtained from the 934th Airlift Wing historians office.

Then when D-Day came on June 6, 1944, it changed the legacy of the unit forever as the 96th and its sister squadrons – 95th, 97th and 98th Troop Carrier Squadrons, dropped 101st Airborne paratroopers from their C-47 transport aircraft into Normandy, France, despite inclement weather, and resupplied them the next day.

The 440th later participated in the invasion of Southern France in Aug. 1944, and towed gliders in a resupply operation for the 101st in December of that year, near Bastogne, Belgium, where they faced their heaviest losses of the war.

After a two year period of deactivation, they returned in 1947 as the 440th Troop Carrier Group where they served in the Berlin Airlift, before becoming a Reserve Wing in 1949.

REUNION continued page 13



Photo by TSgt. Jeffrey Williams

Retired Lt. Cols. Harold Gifford (right) and John Vlahos discuss old times during a recent squadron reunion.

Air Force Memorial shy of goal, seeks financial assistance

The Air Force Memorial Foundation has recently formed a committee to develop ideas for and to recommend what inscriptions, images, etc. will be reflected on the Air Force Memorial. The Inscription Committee invites input to the process—a process that will put the “human touch” on the Memorial, said Senior Master Sgt. David Hammer, Wing Historian. “The Committee welcomes inputs that address specific ideas, including images and quotes, as well as your thoughts on the categorical groupings or broader themes that should be recognized with these inscriptions.”

The current concept design has two 50 by 10 ft. granite walls and eight 5 1/2 by 11 ft. glass panels that can be appropriately inscribed. The two long granite walls are located behind the Honor Guard and the Contemplation Chamber. The glass walls form the Contemplation Chamber, designed to be a place of meditation and remembrance.”

To date, the Air Force Memorial Foundation has raised over \$34 million dollars, and is only \$5 million short of its goal.

The United States Air Force is the only branch of the armed services without a memorial in the Nation’s capital. The memorial will honor the millions of men and women who have distinguished themselves in the United States Air Force and its predecessor organizations -- including the Aeronautical Division, US Signal Corps; the Aviation Section, US Signal Corps; the Division of Military Aeronautics, Secretary of War; the Army Air Service; the Army Air Corps; and the Army Air Forces.

All the above listed organizations have suffered some 53,000 plus combat casualties, the second highest of any of the four armed services of this Country.

To learn more about the memorial or to donate to the cause, visit the Air Force Memorial Web site at www.airforcememorial.org

Please provide written input via email addressed to afmf@airforcememorial.org

Help Wanted: Legal

The 934th Legal Office is looking for an additional paralegal. This person must already possess a five-skill level in an Air Force career field; must not have a record of any Courts-Martial, civil convictions, Article 15s or any other derogatory information; and be able to pass a typing test with at least 25 words per minute.

The person selected would need to attend a six-week, three-level school within one year of formal assignment to the office.

Interviews are tentatively being planned for January unit training assembly.

If interested, please contact Master Sgts. Pam Russell or Shannon Bauer at (612) 713-1230.

REUNION continued from page 12

In 1951, the unit converted to the P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft, and later to the T-33s and F-80 fighters before going back to the airlift world in 1957 when they started flying the C-119s. The 440th TCG was headquartered in Minneapolis for a short time in 1957 before they replaced the 438th Fighter Bomber Wing in Milwaukee, Wisc.

When the 440th moved to Milwaukee, it left one important asset behind – the 96th Troop Carrier Squadron, who continued to fly the C-119s until the C-130 conversion around 1970.

In 1959, at the Rodeo Airlift competition at Ellington Field, Texas, Staff Sgt. Robert Otto was one of three “quick thinking” NCOs who helped extinguish fires on a C-119

flown by the 442nd Troop Carrier Wing from Richards-Gebaur, Missouri.

Two years later, the base staged C-119s from around the country for Operation Willow Freeze, an exercise that was among the first Air Force tests of

people and equipment under extreme cold conditions after long distance transport.

Thirty-two years later, the squadron is still flying as the 934th Airlift Wing’s 96th Airlift Squadron, which is currently transporting Airborne troops throughout Southwest Asia.

After sixty years, the squadron is still holding on to its legacy of Airborne troop transport, and are now just adding yet another chapter to a rich historical story.



Online subscription to the Viking Flyer

As a service to our readers the Viking Flyer staff is beginning an online subscription service. The service will begin in October. Advantages to the service include earlier-than normal delivery, plus color photos. To begin a subscription, simply complete the following information and either mail or hand-deliver this coupon to: **934 AW/PA, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis MN 55450-2100.**

Even if you subscribed in the past, please resubscribe to ensure delivery.

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I AM: _____ reservist _____ retiree

Signature (required)

Officer's Club (612) 713-3678

Sundays: Closed.

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

Dinner: Wednesday -Saturday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Lounge: Monday from 4-11 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday from 12 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday- Saturday from 12 a.m. to midnight.

Lounge menu available from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sat

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

Tuesdays: Dining room closed for dinner. Lounge menu available 11- 8:30 p.m. Nov 11- Club Closed Veterans Day, Dec 18 - 2-4-1 Steak Night (RSVP)

Wednesdays: Nov 5 - Chicken Stir Fry, Nov 12 - Meat Loaf, Nov 19 - Chicken Cordon Bleu, Nov 26- Beef Stroganoff

Thursdays: Thursdays are Chef Special Nights, Nov 27 - Thanks Giving Buffet (RSVP)

Fridays: Nov 7 - Shrimp Scampi, Nov 14 - Rainbow Trout, Nov 21 - Surf & Turf, Nov 28 - Dining Room Closed, Bar Menu available from 4:00 p.m.

Saturdays: Nov 1 - Prime Rib (King or Queen cut), Nov 8 - New York Steak w/Herb Butter, Nov 15 - Prim Rib (K or Q cut), Nov 22 - Pork Medallions w/Wild Mushrooms, Nov 29 - Prime Rib (K or Q cut).

Both Clubs participation is requested at special events held at the O' Club (RSVP's):

18 Nov - 2-4-1 Night, 27 Nov - Thanksgiving Buffet. Bar menu only on 28 Nov. No lunch on 28 & 29 Nov.

Enlisted Club (612) 713-1655

Both Clubs participation is requested at special events held at the E' Club - Call Bingo every Friday night - 1700-1900 & Bonanza Bingo is available during lounge hours.

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Closed

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

Dinning Friday night only from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (New Bar Menu on Friday nights) Open until 9 p.m. on UTA Friday. Dinner available at Officers Club Wed-Sat.

Lounge: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-9:30 p.m.; Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Tuesday-Friday: Daily specials for lunch plus regular menu.

Fridays: Evening Specials; 7 Nov - Rib Eye, 14 Nov - Roast Pork, 21 Nov - Seafood Platter, 28 Nov CLOSED

Saturdays/Sunday: Navy "A" & "B" Open for lunch from 11-12:30 p.m. on Oct 4/5, & Oct 18/19.

Club closed 27-30 Nov Thanksgiving Buffet held at O Club for all members and guests. Reservations required: 612-713-3678

* Club management wants all Enlisted Club members to know they are always invited to eat dinner at the Officers Club

Wed - Sat. The Officers Club Lounge menu is available from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

* Club Membership applications are available at all Services Facilities.

North Country Lodge

Reservations: Call 1-888-AF-Lodge or (612) 726-9440 Web page www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/Lodgingweb/lodging.htm

Fitness Center (612) 713-1496

Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Weekends, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CLOSED FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

November 11th, 27th, 28th, December 24 @1200,

December 25-28, 31st @ 1500.

NOVEMBER UTA EVENTS

Due to the combined October/November UTA, the Bench Press contest is rescheduled for 1200 December 6th and 7th. Register with Tech. Sgt Stacy Campbell.

Air Force Cycling continues all year! Earn water bottles, golf towels, caps, t-shirts, fanny packs, patches and much more! Register at the Fitness Center front desk.

The annual Pig-Out Fitness Challenge begins November 24. Visit the Fitness Center for more details and to register. We have many new challenges to earn prizes this year, and a new team competition.

DISCOUNT TICKETS

Camp Snoopy discount coupons

Underwater Adventures \$9.00, \$5.00 child

Chanhassen Dinner Theater (call the Fitness Center for details)

Minnesota Zoo and IMAX Theater, 20% discount card

OUTDOOR REC

Discount camper rentals are available at Higgins Camper Rental & Sales. Call them at 651.702.5962, or check out www.higginscamperrentals.com

Club Members receive a 10% discount on Rec SVS equipment rentals.

The Clarion Resort Hotel in Anaheim, CA (next to Disneyland and Knotts Berry Farm) has military discount of \$59.00 + tax per night call Karen Egan (800) 231-6215 Ext. 3204. Offer valid thru December 20th, 2003

ARMED FORCES VACATION CLUB has time share units for \$249.99 a week www.afvclub.com

AIR FORCE TRAVEL
www.aftravelonline.com

COLORADO R&R USAF Academy travel service
www.coloradorandr.com

27th Aerial Port

The squadron spent the combined October/November UTA in a bivouac at Camp Ripley, where they received a wide variety of training over a period of 4 days.

The training culminated in an exercise that included the inspecting, load planning, and engine running on and off loading of cargo.

In honor of **Lt. Col Kirchoff**, who was participating in his last UTA and bivouac with the unit, Tent City was renamed to "Camp Kirchoff."

The 27 APS classroom was officially dedicated to the Squadron First Sergeants. A plaque honoring, past, current, and future First Sergeants will hang outside the classroom once renovations are complete in Bldg 710.

The unit also said goodbye to **Master Sgt. Jeff Kellington** who is retiring after the October UTA. We thank him for his 25 years of service to his country.

The first Wing Chief's Council coin to be given out by the two 27 APS Chiefs was presented to Lt Col. Kirchoff for his many years of service to the unit and the wing.

Master Sgt. Dale Place and other wing personnel departed Oct. 6 for Oman to help redeploy 934 MXG & 96 AS members and equipment back to home station.

The unit recognized the following people for their contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom during the 2002 deployment to Germany.

The Air Force Commendation Medal was presented to **Senior Master Sgt. Adan Sylva** and **Staff Sgt. Patrick Sommer**.

The Air Force Achievement Medal First Oak Leaf cluster was presented to **Tech. Sgt. Kent Long**.

The Air Force Achievement medal was presented to **Master Sgt. Timothy Soby**, **TSgt. Todd Mocha**, **Tech. Sgt. Crealeo Alverio**, **Tech. Sgt. Martin Meister**, **Tech. Sgt. Zane Ranum**, **SSgt. Craig Slavic**, **SSgt. John Berry**, **Staff Sgt. Bill Creger**, **Senior Airman Kayla Bultinck**, **Senior Airman Jessica Alioto**, and **Senior Airman Lee Place**.

Aeromedical Evacuation

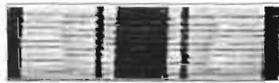
Fourteen members are currently deployed overseas and an additional 16 members will be deploying within the next 45 days in support of Operation

Awards and Decorations



Col Kristin Rudin
Lt. Col. Carl G. Lindberg

Lt. Col. Douglas Trogstad
Capt. Derek J. Lauer



Lt. Col. Carolyn Lohman
Capt. Robert Gregory
MSgt. Cleyson Plank
MSgt. Charles Nelson

MSgt. Shawn Ferrin
TSgt. Mary Miller-Huff
TSgt. Lowell Olson



Tech. Sgt. David Cadry, Jr.

Iraqi Freedom. Four members are at Medical Technical School and 3 members are attending the Flight Nurse Aeromedical Evacuation School.

Congratulations went to unit members who have completed their courses. **Tech. Sgt. Sima**, **Senior Airman Odean**, **Staff Sgt. Walosin** and **Senior Airman Amanda Hightshoe** recently completed FN/AET School. **Senior Airman Spann**, **Master Sgt. Karl Thorner** and **Senior Airman Rebecca Popper** completed 4AO School. **Master Sgt. Christopher Sayre** completed the First Sergeant Academy. Special congratulations go to **Tech. Sgt. Stefania Strowder** who graduated at the top of her NCO Academy Course, achieving distinguished graduate status.

The unit said goodbye to **Senior Airman Kristen Boneberg** who will be attending Navigator School.

Civil Engineer

The squadron completed its annual bivouac requirement with a campout at Camp Ripley during the October UTA. We were accompanied this year by members of the 27th Aerial Port Squadron and the 934th Services Squadron.

Five major training objectives were completed: Force Protection, CCA Line, CW-CONOPS, Self-Aid/Buddy Care and Shelter Management. We also trained on the setting up and taking down of Temper tents, shower tents and other types of tents.

Fire Protection members participated in fire department vehicle training. Also joining us for the weekend was **Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson**, a member of the wing's Public

Affairs office. Olson "shadowed" our unit members to get a feel for what is all involved in a bivouac weekend.

Security Forces

The October UTA was the first UTA that all SF members have been here as Reservist since being activated in 2001. Security Forces said farewell to three of its long time members, who retired. Best wished go out to **Master Sgt. Daniel Forcier**, **Master Sgt. Anthony Orr** and **Master Sgt. Bradley Rogers** for their retirements. Between the three there are 75 years of service to their country.

Additional training that was accomplished this weekend: Unit Climate Assessment, training record updates, and a bag drag was conducted as well. **Senior Airman Joshua Gese** graduated from the Security Forces Academy as a Distinguished Graduate.

Putting trust in God and knowing that it is safe

By Captain Steve Svoboda
Chaplain

A few years back, a group of archaeologists were working in Great Britain when they made a discovery in the cliffs overlooking the ocean. It was supposed to be 'the find of the century'.

The only problem was that the site was located halfway down a sheer cliff where not one of the scientists could reach it!

In their haste to rescue artifacts that had already been too long exposed to the elements, they went into a local village, purchased a length of stout rope and approached a small boy with a generous offer of money if he would allow himself to be tied to the end of the rope and lowered over the side of the cliff to the site of the 'find'. The boy refused.

The scientists were burning with curiosity and eager to lay hands on whatever facts they might find, so they raised the ante by offering up more

money, but still the little boy refused.

In desperation, the scientists increased their offer of money once again, but the little boy steadfastly refused to be persuaded to go over the side of the cliff. Near despair, the scientists increased their offer of money one last time and one last time the little boy refused. Despondent, and almost as an afterthought they asked, "Is there nothing that we could offer to make you change your mind?"

"Yes, sir, there is," responded the little boy. "You could let my father hold the rope."

It is the simple wisdom of life that often escapes us. We are trained to focus on the goal. We are instructed in how to evaluate the cliffs. We choose to pursue the reward, so we tie-on and go headfirst over the edge. But who is holding the rope? Whose hands anchor the ropes in our life? We all do difficult jobs in dangerous and uncertain

times; jobs that require us to go right up to the edge, and sometimes over. For those who serve, there can be no greater truth, no greater freedom than placing that lifeline in hands that merit unwavering trust.

For one little boy it didn't matter that the cliffs were steep; he paid no mind to the thickness of the rope or the reward. All that mattered to him was whose hands would be holding on to that line; and knowing that, he would go anywhere.

For us, to be truly ready to go anywhere when called, there is finally only one pair of hands

worth trusting; God's hands.

These are the hands that we can trust with our lives; hands that will never slip; never forget to grip; never grow tired; never let go. The hands of God, literally, hold life. When we place the ropes of our endeavors into God's hands, we have the assurance of a true lifeline. Many things in life will look promising and beckon for our trust, only to cause grief later on. If you want the assurance of life, if you want what it takes to go confidently anywhere at any time, then do what the little boy did, put your lifeline into God's hands; and know what it is to be truly safe.

Outside the Regs

By Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson



Daddy, I know mommy told me not to tell you about the dent in the car but how could you miss something that big?

Schyma receives state American Legion award



SMSgt. Larry Schyma

Senior Master Sgt. Larry Schyma is awarded "Outstanding National Guard/Reserve Enlisted Person of The Year" for 2003, from the Minnesota American Legion.

He will be honored at the American Legion Fall Conference held at the Kelley Inn, St. Cloud Minn. on Sunday Nov. 2 at 8:30 a.m.

Gopher Post 440 nominated Schyma because he consistently exceeds performance expectations, said Col. Gary Cook. He also attributes Schyma's performance to his "selfless contributions to the Air Force Reserve."

Schyma has a long record with the Airlift Wing stretching nearly 30 years.

The Military Achievement Awards Program is a way for the Minnesota American Legion to express its appreciation for outstanding enlisted men and women from all branches of the service said, Steven Smith, who is responsible for nominating Schyma.

Col. Teresa Hams, Mission Support Group commander, said, "Schyma sets high standard of personal performance and demonstrates a unique ability to recognize problems."