



# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)  
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAF  
Air Reserve Station, Minn.  
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## On the cover:

**An Iraqi child in Kirkuk clutches a toy that was given to him by airmen who visited his village recently to deliver relief supplies. See story on pages 12 and 13.**

Photo by Airman 1st Class Alicia Sarkkinen

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## 2003 Awards

Jan Dalton was named Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Safety Civilian of the Year. The civil engineering division recently received the Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award in the reserve component category at the Air Force level. The 934th Maintenance Operations Flight won the AFRC Maintenance Effectiveness Award and will compete at the Air Force level. The 934th AW finance office was named Air Force Reserve Command Finance Office of the Year. Chuck Frans was AFRC's Non-appropriated Financial Analyst of the Year.

## Outstanding airmen

The following were named Outstanding Airmen of the Year for the 934th Airlift Wing: Senior Airman John Brown, 934th AW, was selected in the airmen category. Tech. Sgt. Louie Herbes, 934th Mission Support Flight, received the award in the noncommissioned officer category. Senior Master Sgt. Adan Sylva, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, garnered the award in the senior NCO category. Master Sgt. Michael Vosen, 27th APS, won in the first sergeant category. They will next compete in the 22nd Air Force level.

## Promotions

1st Lt. Amory Balucating and 1st Lt. Patricia Ehrsmann were recently named captain selectees. Tech. Sgts. Mark Anderson, Todd Besser, August Funaro, Jose Gonzales-Rocha, Leonard Hubbard, Paul McCann, Roxanna Steffens, Matthew Welage and James Werner were named master sergeant selectees. Staff Sgts. Bradley Hegge, Todd Holden and Brian Wahlstedt were selected for technical sergeant. Senior Airmen John Brown, Daniel Deranek, George Foster III, Joel Harrington, Dustin Hunstiger, Jennifer Johnson, Shawn Klein, Dustin Kruger and Anthony Mallizzio were selected for staff sergeant. Airman Kelly Smith was promoted to airman first class.

## Civil engineer

Maj. Donald Kom, Chief Master Sgt. David Angerman and Senior Master Sgt. Clarence Super Jr. participated in an honor guard for the funeral for former unit member, retired Master Sgt. Reid Koepp, 67, who retired from the Air Force

Reserves after a 20 years of service.

Thanks to Master Sgt. Scott LeClair, Staff Sgt. Danford Young, Tech. Sgt. Robert Payne, Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz, Staff Sgt. Kraig Crandall, Master Sgt. Mike McGuire and Senior Airman Kurt Lahners, all of whom decorated the Minnesota Veterans Home for the holiday season.

Tech. Sgt. John Kline was named a 2003 Air Force Civil Engineer Award winner in the category for Outstanding Civil Engineer Manager of the Year, civilian supervisor. Staff Sgt. Kraig Crandall was selected for the same award in the noncommissioned officer manager category. Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Siehndel attended the first Civil Engineer Readiness Career Field Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

The unit welcomed new members Senior Airman Joseph Boyle, Senior Airman Adam Sanderson, Airman 1st Class Shaun Ramsett, Airman Steve Kleszczewski and Airman Basic David Lein, son of unit member Tech. Sgt. Mike Lein and a fourth generation Lein to serve in the unit. Welcome back to Staff Sgt. Wendy Albee, who returned from a two-week deployment at Aviano Air Base, Italy. She assisted the base post office while on deployment. Belated congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Robert Rice and Darcy Urschitz, who were married Oct. 11, 2003.

## Maintenance

Master Sgt. Craig Molm received an overall score of 96 on his five-level CDCs. Russell Ingalls received the Exemplary Civilian Service Medal and a wing coin. He also retired. Master Sgt. Thomas Stratton received a chief's and first sergeant's coin. Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Jamie VanVleet and Staff Sgt. Guillermo Simkins for being selected for promotion. Master Sgt. Angie McCullagh retired Jan. 10. Staff Sgt. John Cheney and his wife Joy welcomed their son Sept. 22. Staff Sgt. Shirley Rhea gave birth to son, Austin John, July 7. Some members of the aircraft maintenance squadron returned from Kuwait Dec. 17.

## Security forces

In January, security forces conducted training on the use of deadly force, identifying rules of engagement and map and compass use. A retirement roast, emceed by Master Sgt. Jeff Imsdahl, was held for Chief Master Sgt. Bob Hanley.

## Why celebrate African-American history?

By Brig. Gen. Henry "Hank" L. Taylor  
Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

**W R I G H T - PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** - Every February, we pause to celebrate African-American History Month. A question that eventually comes up each year is, "Why is it important to recognize African-American history?"

As I pondered that question this year, I was reminded of a quote from the book, "The Most Important Thing I Know." The book, written by Lorne A. Adrain, is a compilation of inspiring thoughts and words by some of the great leaders in the world.

In the introduction, Adrain states, "People need to hear messages that honor the dignity of human potential." The annual pause to reflect on African-American history gives us a chance to honor the dignity of the human potential and to identify the shoulders on which we stand.

There are many types of histories. We all have personal histories. Our military has an institutional history. We have national histories and state histories, and every race has a history.

I would like to share some personal and institutional histories to show the shoulders on which I stand as a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force.

I spent most of my time growing up in Charleston, S. C., living with my maternal grand-

mother. I spent many nights in front of a big wood-burning stove, listening to my grandmother tell stories and learning the ways of the world.

My grandmother would always say, "When it comes time to bury me ... take me back to Heyward."

All the time growing up, I did not know what Heyward meant or where it was located. When my grandmother died, we took her to White Hall, S. C., and buried her where we always buried our folks. It took someone studying our family history for me to learn the rest of the story about Heyward.

You see, we buried my grandmother and the rest of our folks on a plot of land that was set aside to bury the slaves who worked at a place called Heyward Plantation. We have been burying the descendants of those slaves there ever since.

My mother is buried there on a row with her mother, brother, aunts and uncles. I can walk down that row and go back nearly 200 years of my personal history. I walk down that row and I see the names of the people on whose shoulders I stand.

We don't have an Air Force general officer on that row — yet. But one of these days my kids will be able to walk back 200 years of their history and turn around and walk from servitude to service.

I have spent 30 years in the service of my country in two different branches of the military. I served four years in the Navy, and, for the last 26 years, I have served in the Air Force.

The military as an institu-

tion has a history.

African-Americans have served in every American war, starting with the Revolutionary War. As a matter of fact, military service has been a powerful weapon in the pursuit of social improvement for individuals and African-Americans as a group. But it has not been easy.

In 1866, the congress of the United States established an army to take on the challenges of the westward expansion of the country. Parts of that army were the 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 24th and 25th Infantries. These units comprised black soldiers who later gained fame as the Buffalo Soldiers.

In 1876, the 10th Cavalry received an officer named Henry O. Flipper. He was the first African-American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During his four years at West Point, he was given the silent treatment. None of the other cadets spoke to him except in the performance of official duties.

But Flipper was determined to weather all challenges. He stated that he and other black cadets wanted "to be left alone to our own resources for study and improvement, for enjoyment in whatever way we chose to seek it ... we care not for social recognition. We did not expect it."

It is this example of self-determination that I stand on. Flipper persevered at West Point; he endured unfair treatment on active duty that eventually led to his discharge from the Army. He went on to a successful career in mining and surveying.

But I stand on the shoulders of Flipper, one of the first commissioned black officers in the United States military.

In January 1941, the Army announced the formation of its first all black air corps unit, the 99th Pursuit Squadron. These men would become fighter pilots. Many consider this to be the most challenging type of military flying.

An army airfield in Tuskegee, Ala., became the center for training these black pilots, and they became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

The activity at Tuskegee was first called an experiment because there were many who believed that blacks didn't have the "right stuff" to fly and be fighter pilots. But the Tuskegee Airmen proved them wrong. They never lost a bomber they were escorting to enemy fire.

The Tuskegee Airmen fought for the right to fly. They fought for the right to deploy to Europe. And they fought for the right to engage in combat. I proudly stand on the shoulders of the courage of the men who are called Tuskegee Airmen.

We pause each year to celebrate African-American history. But we all have histories. I have shared a glimpse into my personal history and the institutional history of our military. But the message I offer is straightforward. The dignity of human potential is really the true lesson of history. It can be a lesson that allows each one of us to see the shoulders on which we stand.

*This commentary was published in Air Force News in 2002.*

The **Commander's Hotline** is your direct link to the wing commander for kudos, questions, concerns or suggestions about matters related to the 934th Airlift Wing.  
Call (612) 713-4685.

# 2005 BRAC process underway

By K.L. Vantran  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** - Base commanders in the United States and its territories and possessions have been asked to gather data on their installations in preparation for the 2005 round of base realignments and closures, Defense Department officials said Jan. 6.

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the DOD to pursue one BRAC round in 2005. The department will use BRAC to eliminate unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness, officials said.

Formal data calls ensure the department collects and uses the most current data on installations throughout the BRAC analysis, officials said.

This data call is one of many steps in the BRAC process, officials explained. Others will be added as needed.

Since each installation will take part in these data calls, officials emphasized that does not mean the DOD is considering that installation for closure or realignment. Questions and data associated with the

questions will be available to the public once the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission receives them.

The department published draft selection criteria in the Dec. 23 Federal Register for public comment. Comments were submitted Jan. 28. The list of BRAC recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC commission by May 16, 2005.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-501, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, requires that closure and realignment recommendations be based on published criteria that make military value the primary consideration.

Military value criteria include:

— Current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of DOD's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness.

— The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas

and staging areas for the use of the armed forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations.

— The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total-force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.

— The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Other considerations include:

— The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.

— The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.

— The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel.

— The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management and environmental compliance activities.

## *Loans can temporarily help reservists*

By Staff Sgt. Michelle Thomas  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** - Overseas deployments can be tough on families. Naturally, the initial focus falls upon the emotional cost of separation. But for guardsmen and reservists who own small businesses, the cost involved in a deployment takes on a whole new meaning.

For the past two years, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program has provided loans to eligible small businesses to cover operating costs that cannot be met after a key employee is called to active duty.

Often, the key employee is the business owner, whose family depends on the income generated from the company. When Rick Parsons, who is assigned to the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion from Churchville, N.Y., deployed last year to Afghanistan, his

veterinary practice took a major hit. Parsons and his wife Marla ran the hospital, with Parsons serving as its only veterinarian.

When Parsons received his deployment orders, finding a full-time vet was next to impossible. The Parsons hired part-time veterinarians, but the business ultimately suffered. When Parsons realized he could be on active duty for more than a year, he applied for assistance through the loan program.

"Many small businesses have had to cope with the loss of know-how and have been hurt financially by the absence of a key employee during the recent call-ups," said Hector V. Barreto, SBA administrator. "This loan program has helped many businesses survive, and the SBA will continue to support these dedicated men and women who have made such a great sacrifice in the course of serving their country."

Small businesses may apply for loans of up to \$1.5 million if they have been

financially affected by the loss of an essential employee. These working-capital loans may be used to pay operating expenses that otherwise could have been covered if the reservist or guardsman hadn't been called to active duty.

The loans cannot be used to refinance debt or expand the business, and the SBA determines the amount of economic injury.

The filing period for the loans ends 90 days after the date the business owner or key employee is discharged from active duty.

Now that Parsons is home, Marla said their business is still in a crunch because, as with any loan, the money must be paid back. To pay back the loan, the Parsons hired a full-time veterinarian to run their practice while Parsons took a job at a local university.

But Marla said the loan program provided some vital financial assistance.

"We probably would have lost the practice if (the SBA) hadn't lent us the money," she said.

## Teen Aviation Camp June 5 to 11 at the U.S. Air Force Academy

The camp is for students who will be high school sophomores or juniors in the 2004 to 2005 school year. They must be eligible youth program users and are interested in attending the Air Force Academy or making the Air Force a career. Attendees will participate in a wide variety of classroom and outdoor activities.

The Air Force Services Agency and major commands will provide chaperones. Airline or personal vehicle travel costs to Colorado Springs are the responsibility of the attendees or their bases. All lodging, meals and activity fees will be centrally funded at no cost to attendees or their bases. Interested teens must complete an application form and familiarization exam.

For more details, visit Bldg. 852, Room 213 or call (612) 713-1119.

# DOD resumes anthrax shots

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press  
Service

**WASHINGTON** - A federal judge ruled Jan. 7 that the Defense Department could again legally administer anthrax immunizations to servicemembers.

Military commanders "should immediately resume the anthrax vaccination program," wrote Dr. David S.C. Chu, DOD personnel chief, in a department-wide memorandum.

The department's anthrax vaccine immunization program had been suspended since Dec. 23, after an injunction granted the previous day by the U.S. District Court for the District of Colum-

bia caused DOD to suspend the program. The department "remains convinced that the AVIP complies with all legal requirements, and there is now no judicial restraint" on administration of the vaccine, Dr. Chu wrote.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers maintain the anthrax vaccine is a safe and necessary prophylactic for U.S. servicemembers deployed in the war against terrorism where enemies may employ biological, chemical or nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Both Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers have received anthrax shots.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Johnson

## Show and tell

*Life support technician Tech. Sgt. Troy Puckett (right) explains to Elise Jacquart and other Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets at Woodbury High School how to operate a parachute used on a C-130 as Master Sgt. James Canniff looks on. Puckett and Canniff, both of the 96th Airlift Squadron, visited the school recently and also demonstrated the use of a one-man raft, night vision goggles, survival vests and chemical warfare equipment.*

# AF committing 2,000 airmen to war

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** - Airmen vulnerable to deploy as part of the Silver Air and Space Expeditionary Force but not originally asked to go, could end up going after all.

In a message sent to the major commands in late December, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said continuing efforts in the war on terrorism have created a need for additional support in some areas.

The Air Force, he said, would be providing some of the support to fill that need.

"Ongoing warfighter requirements compel the Air Force to continue surge operations in some functional areas ... to ensure national military objectives are met," the general said. "The secretary of defense has tasked us to find innovative solutions to this national challenge. Major commands and wings are encouraged to dig deep into their resources and develop risk mitigation plans

to make these forces available."

"One of the possible solutions involves the use of "joint-sourcing" to fill needed positions. That means all the services will work together to meet the requirements. The effort will touch many across the Air Force, said Col. Michael Scott, chief of War Plans Organization.

"This of course affects the entire Air Force to a certain degree, but more so in the agile combat support arena," the colonel said. "By that I mean our engineers, firefighters, air traffic control, security forces, medical, communications and transportation folks."

Nearly 2,000 airmen in those support areas will be called upon to help the Air Force meet the joint-sourcing challenge, he said.

Most of the 2,000 airmen will come out of already scheduled AEFs and should already know they are in or approaching their deployment eligibility window, said Col. Buck Jones, deputy director for air and space expeditionary force matters.

"Once you get down to the individual level, they may not know they are going to fill one of these requirements, but they do know they are part of the Silver AEF and are still susceptible. They may also come from AEF 7/8 or AEF 9/10," Jones said.

Many troops could expect to be deployed for about 90 days, but some, in stressed fields, could expect a 179-day rotation, Jones said.

Despite the continued surge in operations, Jones said most of the Air Force could expect a return to the AEF battle rhythm by March.

"We still will deploy AEF 7/8 very close to on schedule," Jones said. "The vast majority of the Air Force is returning to the AEF battle rhythm starting with AEF 7/8 in March."

The Air Force battle rhythm refers to the scheduled rotation of the 10 AEFs over the course of a 15-month cycle. The AEF schedule is projected out until 2010 and is designed to provide stability and predictability to airmen supporting Air

Force commitments worldwide.

While there may be a predicted return to the AEF battle rhythm, Jones said things may never be the same as they were before operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"Since the AEF was first established, world events have not stayed static," Jones said. "I'm not sure anybody envisions us returning to an old steady-state Operation Northern Watch/Operation Southern Watch type of situation around the world. The requirements are going to be fluid and dynamic."

Fortunately, the Air Force has a tool for handling unpredictable requirements — the AEF, Jones said.

"Over the next few months, the Air Force will deliver on its promise to help meet the joint-sourcing requirements for operations in Southwest Asia," Jones said. "It is the AEF, doing what it is designed to do, that makes that possible. Once again, the AEF is demonstrating its inherent ability to flex and to adapt."

## ART leave declared no longer authorized

AFRC News Service

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** -

Air reserve technicians can no longer use 44 days of military leave while serving on active duty outside the continental United States, said officials in the office of the secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Congress established the leave program Feb. 10, 1996, through the National Defense Authorization Act to encourage ARTs to volunteer for non-combat duties overseas. The program reduces the need for technicians to take annual leave or leave without pay to serve overseas. Technicians are federal civil service employees who also serve as Air Force reservists in the same position. When using this form of military

leave, they are in an active-duty status without military pay, receive their civilian paychecks and accrue points toward a reserve retirement.

Air Force Reserve Command officials had interpreted the law to mean that only those who were activated or recalled supporting current contingency operations were prohibited from using this type of leave. Those who had volunteered for active duty were allowed to use the 44 days of military leave while supporting operations overseas. However, once a national emergency is declared, no one can use it, said Margaret Keith of AFRC's civilian personnel division.

Although there are 10,000 authorized technician positions in the command, not all people take advantage of this leave.

"We expect it will impact volunteerism

because they will have to use leave without pay," Keith said. "We know some employees may no longer volunteer for contingencies if this is not available."

While in the 44-day leave status, the technicians are covered by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. They are eligible for compensation because of injury under line-of-duty procedures, and they are reimbursed for travel, per diem and lodging on the same basis as their military entitlements.

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, AFRC commander, asked Keith's division to submit a legislative initiative to change the law thereby allowing technicians to use the leave during national emergencies. If approved, the change could take up to two years before becoming law, Keith said.

# ASTS wins award two years in row

By Staff Sgt. Troy Novak  
934th Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs

For the second year in a row, the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron was awarded the 2003 Outstanding Less-Than-100-Bed Facility of the Year Award for its many achievements in 2002.

ASTS received the award from the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

"The 934th ASTS has led the way with outstanding leadership, personnel skills, personnel dedication and ceaseless efforts in mission accomplishment," said Col. Jorge Llambes, 934th ASTS commander. "The men and women of ASTS have embraced the Air Force core values in their strong work ethic and quality performance in total force operations, ensuring mission readiness for themselves and the 934th Airlift Wing."

Winning the award in the last two years, "shows consistency in producing a fine product for the Air Force community," said Master Sgt. Timothy Athley, 934th ASTS.

In 2002, the ASTS com-



*Courtesy photo*

**Members of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron carry a wounded soldier at a deployed location. Approximately 40 ASTS members deployed in October 2003 to provide medical support for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as well as to assist with humanitarian relief operations. The squadron was joined by reserve members from four other reserve units to form the 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility.**

pleted 1,500 reserve component physical health assessments, 350 optometry exams and 1,838 dental exams in addition to improving its critical readiness training by 28 percent. The unit also completed several highly successful deployments and provided medical

support for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. In addition, deployed critical care air transport team members received numerous awards, such as the Air Force Commendation Medal with Valor and Air Achievement Medals.

"I'm proud of ASTS' accomplishments," said Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 934th AW commander. "I'm glad that they continue to receive much deserved recognition for their outstanding skills and major contributions to the effectiveness and success of our wing and the Air Force."



## U.S. Marine Corps to host musical performance

The United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment, composed of the Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Platoon and Official Marine Corps Color Guard, will perform at the Xcel Energy Center March 8.

The show is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m. and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking is free to the public after 4 p.m.

This 144-member Marine group has not performed in Minnesota for approximately five years and hopes to make the Twin Cities part of its tour in the future.

Everyone is invited to join thousands of other military members and their families and friends for this unique treat and a chance to support the U.S. Marine Corps. For more information, call (800) 345-USMC (8762).

# New law to protect servicemembers

By Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Doug Sample  
American Forces Press  
Service

**WASHINGTON** - A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 provides service members greater protections to handle personal financial and legal obligations, officials said.

President George W. Bush signed the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act into law recently.

"The focus of the (new act) is the same as under the SSCRA: To provide protections to servicemembers who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy

director for legal policy at the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "This is significant because it clarifies and updates SSCRA provisions and adds some protections.

"Servicemembers on long-term deployments, or called to active duty, should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections, or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment," he said.

An automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the servicemember is what Lindemann called "a significant change" in the new

act. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. Previously, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The new relief act also makes it clear the 6-percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction.

Under the SSCRA, servicemembers and their family who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. This amount is increased to \$2,400 and added an annual inflation adjustment. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465, significantly increasing the number of servicemembers entitled to this protection.

The new relief act also gives the servicemember who has received permanent change of station orders or is being deployed for 90 days or more the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. In the past, servicemembers could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant new provisions is an added protection for motor-vehicle leases. Any active-duty servicemember who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States or who is being deployed for 180 days or more may terminate a vehicle lease without paying early termination charges.

Anyone with questions about the SCRA can contact a unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer.

## *Congratulations to the following medal recipients!*

### **Meritorious Service Medal**

**Lt. Col. Michael Huttner**, 934th Operations Group; **Lt. Col. Margaret McGlenn**, 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs; **Maj. Jeff Higgins**, 934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Maj. Mark Vijums**, 934th Operations Support Flight; **Chief Master Sgt. Gary Smith**, 934th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Chief Master Sgt. Michael Zurn**, 934th Maintenance Group; **Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher**, 934th Communications Squadron; **Master Sgt. Donald Johnson Jr.**, 934th OG; **Master Sgt. Laurie Konz**, 934th Mission Support Flight; **Master Sgt. Bernadette Lunde**; 934th MSF; and **Master Sgt. Clarence Summers**, 934th LRS

### **Air Force Commendation Medal**

**Chief Master Sgt. Gary Smith**, 934th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Master Sgt. Tamera Besser**, 934th AW; **Tech Sgt. Wayne Nelson**, 934th LRS; **Tech. Sgt. Tom Jorgensen**, 934th AMXS; and **Tech. Sgt. Michelle Szydel**, 934th LRS

### **Air Force Achievement Medal**

**Master Sgt. Douglas James**, 934th Mission Support Group; **Master Sgt. Jean Corrow**, 934th MXS; **Tech. Sgt. Lynn Blackwell**, 934th LRS; **Tech. Sgt. Susan Bathurst**, 934th LRS; **Staff Sgt. Dean Linthalath**, 934th LRS; **Senior Airman Tyrell Hoyer**, 934th LRS; **Senior Airman Ginger Porter**, 934th MXS; **Senior Airman George Foster III**, 934th MXG; **Senior Airman Dustin Kruger**, 934th LRS, and **Senior Airman Josh Nelson**, 934th AMXS

## Officials mourn losses; will continue operations

By K.L. Vantran  
American Forces  
Press Service

### WASHINGTON

- A bombing outside coalition headquarters in Baghdad Jan. 18 will not deter U.S. and coalition forces from their mission in Iraq, a military spokesman said in a briefing from the Iraqi capital recently.

An explosives-laden truck exploded shortly after 8 a.m. during the morning rush hour near the entrance to the headquarters. At least 20 people were killed, and at least 60 more were injured.

Officials believe most of the dead were Iraqi citizens, but Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for Combined Joint Task Force 7, said two Americans may have been killed by the blast.

"We have indications that some of those that were killed were American citizens—U.S. contractors," he said. "We believe the current number at two. We're

waiting for firmer confirmation."

Kimmitt vowed that the coalition's efforts will not abate. "We will continue our operations," said the general. "We will continue the pace of our operations. We will continue to kill or capture anti-Iraqi and anti-coalition elements throughout the country as long as we are here."

In a statement released on the Coalition Provisional Authority's Web site, Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III mourned the "innocent victims" but affirmed that the plan to hand over authority to Iraqis remains on course. Bremer, the CPA administrator, called today's bombing an "outrage."

"(It's) another indication of the murderous and cynical intent of terrorists to undermine freedom, democracy and progress in Iraq," he said. "They will not succeed."

The ambassador said the attack, which took place at the height of rush hour in Baghdad, was "clearly

timed to claim the maximum possible number of innocent victims. Once again, it is innocent Iraqis who have been murdered by these terrorists in a senseless act of violence. I share the deep outrage of my Iraqi friends and colleagues at this tragic and inexcusable loss of life. I pass my deepest condolences to the families and friends of those murdered."

Bremer said the coalition's determination to work for a stable and democratic future for this country is undiminished.

"Our plan to hand over remaining authority to a new Iraqi government in July this year remains unchanged," he added.

"The coalition is doing all it can to assist the Iraqi security and emergency services in dealing with the aftermath of this terrorist attack," he continued. "Many of the Iraqi wounded are being treated in a nearby coalition military hospital, and will be given the best care available."

### UTA Menu at Viking Inn

#### Feb. 7

**Breakfast:** Ham steak, bacon, assorted omelettes, pancakes, hash brown and creamed beef

**Lunch:** Braised beef with noodles, baked chicken, grilled ham steak, noodles, whipped potatoes, corn and cauliflower

**Dinner:** Hamburger, cheeseburger, chili, chili dog, baked beans and fries

#### Feb. 8

**Breakfast:** Bacon, sausage, eggs to order, french toast and hash brown

**Lunch:** Lasagna, chicken parmesan, noodles, oven roasted potatoes, green beans, corn and bread sticks

Breakfast is served from 6 to 7 a.m., lunch is from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and dinner from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays only.

Enlisted members not on orders or receiving per diem eat free. Call (612) 713-1648 or 1649.



### 2004 UTA

March 6 to 7 (make up March 27 to 28)

April 3 to 4 (make up April 17 to 18)

May 1 to 2 (make up May 22 to 23)

June 5 to 6 (make up June 12 to 13)

July 10 to 11 (make up July 24 to 25)

Aug. 7 to 8 (make up Aug. 21 to 22)

Sept. 11 to 12 (make up Sept. 25 to 26)

### Job opening

*The Mission Support Flight is seeking a first sergeant. This is a master sergeant position.*

*Applications accepted through March UTA. Call Maj. Susan Maki at (612) 713-1755.*

# Wing members, families have 'howling good time' with 'wolves'

By Senior Airman Stephanie Witty  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**W**olves are territorial by nature and have been known to kill other wolves that have been caught trespassing within their region. However, some Minnesota wolves were more than happy to let others enter their territory for a special event recently.

The Minnesota Timberwolves men's basketball team hosted 34 military and family members of the 934th Airlift Wing during a usually closed-door practice Jan. 7 at the Target Center in downtown Minneapolis.

The military members were recently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Timberwolves wanted to honor them and their families, as well as the families of those currently deployed, by inviting them to watch the team practice. This is the first time in the Timberwolves' history that an outside group was invited to watch a practice.

The event was part of the Timberwolves' "Operation Minnesota Heroes" program, which honors and recognizes Minnesota troops who have served in the Southwest Asia region in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following the practice, team members met the troops and their families and gave them free tickets for the team's Jan. 8 game.

Those who attended the practice were seated close to the court. Many said they were honored and excited to meet the players and watch them in action on the basketball court.

"This was awesome," said Tech Sgt. Robert J. Lee, 96th Airlift Squadron life support technician. "I am accustomed to watching the game way up in the rafters, so being down here was great."

Sgt. Lee, who returned from Kuwait in December, said his favorite part of the event was meeting player Kevin Garnett.

"It was great, I loved it," said Maj. Bernie Motschenbacher, 96th AS navigator. "I'm a big Timberwolves fan myself, so it was great to see them practice and get up close and meet the players."

The military members were not the only ones who were excited to be at the practice. The players were also pleased to meet the men and women in uniform.

"It's great for us to show them how important they are and how thankful we are that they are fighting for our country," Timberwolves player Troy Hudson said. "We need to do this type of stuff more often, not only when we are at war."

Hudson along with teammates Mark "Mad Dog" Madsen and Ervin Johnson recently participated in Project Salute 2003, during which they toured the Persian Gulf

region to pay tribute to deployed servicemen and women.

"When we were over there, I had the opportunity to see first hand the men and women in uniform sacrificing the comfort and enjoyment of home to be in another great country fighting for freedom," Madsen said. "As professional basketball players, we don't get as many opportunities to do things like this as we would like. To be here with people who have truly done something significant is awesome."

Madsen was so moved at meeting the troops that he even took off his basketball shoes, signed them and gave one each to two stunned and very happy military members. Both were Army soldiers serving as security forces augmentees at the 934th AW.

Spc. Landon Nordby, 79th Military Police Company, loved his souvenir shoe and said he had a great time at the practice.

"I enjoyed just hanging out with the guys. They're really down to earth," he said.

At the Timberwolves game the following evening, the military members were honored before the start of the game when they were featured on the giant TV screen above the court and the arena announcer introduced the group amidst a cheering crowd. During halftime, the words "Welcome U.S. Air Force 934th Airlift Wing" were also displayed on the screen.



Photo by Christine Dale

**Maj. James Swartz, 934th Airlift Wing, receives tickets to a Minnesota Timberwolves basketball game from player Sam Cassell. Thirty four wing members and their families attended the team's practice Jan. 7 at the Target Center in downtown Minneapolis. The team invited the military members, who recently returned from deployment, to thank them for their contributions and sacrifices in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**





*Abby Motchenbacher, 2, plays catch with Ed Prohofsky, special assistant to the vice president of basketball operations for the Minnesota Timberwolves basketball team. Abby's father, Maj. Bernie Motchenbacher, and mother, Beth, and brother, Jack, 6 months, look on. The Timberwolves invited members of the 934th Airlift Wing to a practice Jan. 7. This was the first time in the Timberwolves' history that an outside group was invited to watch its team practice. The military members also received tickets to a Timberwolves game.*

*Photo by Christine Dale*

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*Photo by Senior Airman Stephanie Witt*

# Kirkuk airmen provide relief supplies

By Capt. Stan Paregien  
506th Air Expeditionary  
Group Public Affairs

**KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq** - The words of a Kurdish refugee woman living in a tent on the outskirts of Kirkuk still ring in the ears of all who heard it.

"This is no life for my children here," the mother said, pointing to the dirt her young child walked through with no shoes.

"This is no life in Iraq," she cried out as chaplains and armed escorts from the Air Force and Army who made their way through a curious and gathering crowd. The six servicemembers were there to deliver food, clothing and toys for the children living in poverty.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary R. Garvey, from the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Service in Washington, and Chaplain (Capt.) Shelia Wilson from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., made a joint effort to help their new community in Iraq.

The chaplains from the 506th Air Expeditionary Group went to downtown Kirkuk with the Army recently to deliver several loads of donated boxed goods sent from the United States.

"It was all I could do to keep from crying," Wilson said. "Did anyone know these people were living here and in such need except the people themselves? They offered me homemade bread and water and it was an honor for them to welcome us into their small community."

Garvey said he was amazed to go out in the mud hut village and see women of beauty in colorful clothes sitting on the dirty ground holding babies



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alicia Sarkkinen

**A curious infant holds Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Garvey's thumb during a visit to a village in Kirkuk, Iraq. Airmen and soldiers delivered several loads of donated boxed goods sent from the United States.**

that could be models in magazines.

"Then you see some of the teenage kids (who) look three times as old as they should, with wrinkles and tough skin. That is so sad," he said. "We went to give them clothes, teddy bears and candy. All this was reduced to one common denominator when we heard the words, 'this is no life,' coming from that woman."

Within the encampment, though, there were positive signs of life and a few smiles for the visitors. In another area, the women made a type of tortilla bread and gave it to the airmen and soldiers to eat.

The Kurdish children watched the six Americans closely, their eyes grew wider as stuffed animals were pulled from bags and handed to them.

At times, the crowd surged to the front of the line, making it difficult to maintain order. One woman brought her child

up, took an airman's hand and placed it on the boy's face. It was hot with a fever.

An older man told the Americans how he had just been released from spending more than 30 years in a Ba'athist Party prison because he refused to join the Republican Guard. He now celebrates his freedom in his own mud hut; poor by many standards, but free at last.

Desperate measures were tried by some. One Kurdish woman was ready to give up her child to a young airman to take back to the United States. It was clear she wanted to try and get her child out of the current predicament. She held legal papers in one hand and the child in the other.

Several women blocked the truck door to keep the vehicle from leaving the camp.

Later, the airmen visited an elementary school in Kirkuk. The children only attend half the day because of space and supply limitations.

"I was so overwhelmed by the need of the kids as well as the enthusiasm," Wilson said. "There is so much need as well as potential for excellence here. I was grateful to share what little we had. We did honor the children by letting them reach in our boxes and choose what kind of pencil or candy they wanted."

Something in the eyes of the children told her they now had hope for a better life without Hussein, Wilson said.

"They do have a chance for a better future and a real potential for it with us now in the area," she said. "The kids were very loving and caring toward us as they saw Americans bringing them gifts and friendship."

As the group made its way through the gates of the school, children came down from the second floor balcony.

They quickly converged on the Americans in the courtyard, touching their arms and shaking their hands.



*Photo by Christine Dale*

**Ronna Puck, 934th Services Squadron, along with several of her friends, sent boxes of school supplies, clothes, blankets, bed linen and toys to Iraqi children, like those living in tents in Kirkuk.**

“Hey mister soldier,” said a girl touching an airman’s arm.

Garvey yelled out

words that the children mimicked.

“Flubba-dubba-duck,” he yelled, and the

children returned it to him with laughter.

He kept the fun going by joining another

airman in singing “Happy Birthday” to a group of children who were celebrating their special day during the month.

Eventually, they were able to meet privately with teachers and pupils.

“We saw a need at the school too,” Garvey said. “The amount of poverty and desperation after the Hussein regime is legion. It was invigorating to see the kids so responsive. Hopefully, they will grow up in this free Iraq because we were here. Kids just love to hear you talk and sing and know that you care about them. We will help them again in the future.”

Meanwhile, many Americans across the country continue to donate all kinds of items to Iraqis in need.

At the 934th Airlift

Wing, Ronna Puck, 934th Services Squadron, along with several of her friends, sent boxes of school supplies, clothes, blankets, bed linen and toys to Iraqi children, like those living in tents in Kirkuk. A co-worker, who is currently deployed in Iraq, paid for part of the mailing cost.

Puck hopes others will also help the Iraqi children.

“I would encourage people to help out the kids. They are pretty much the innocent victims of the war,” Puck said. “They will be the future leaders of their country. Someday when they grow up, they will remember that people in the U.S.A. were there to help them when they needed it.”

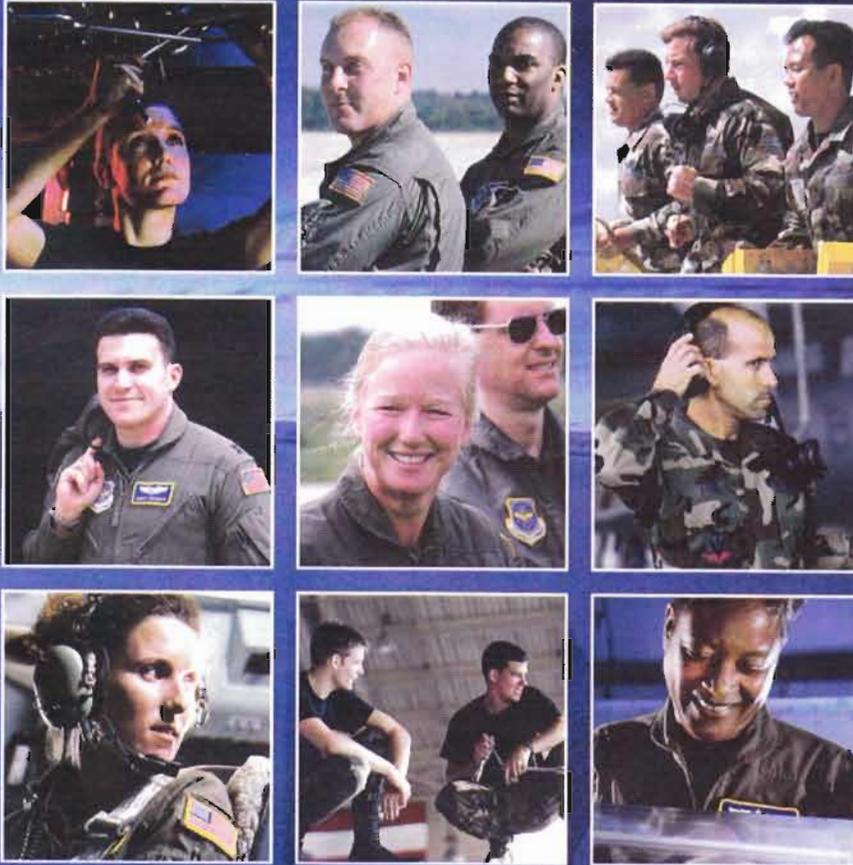
*Cristina Oxta, 934th Airlift Wing, contributed to this article.*



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson*

## Pleased to meet you

**Staff Sgt. Crystal Whittaker visits with a child in Jangadam Village, Afghanistan, while providing perimeter security during the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group’s delivery of humanitarian supplies recently. Whittaker is a security specialist with the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group.**



# FIRST YOU ARE A PART OF IT

## THEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE

When you first joined, you had no idea how much you would change from that day forward. You didn't expect the depth of pride that came from committing to something larger than yourself. But your service has taught you what you are made of. You've learned that you can meet any challenge. You've learned about camaraderie. You've learned about pride. And you've learned that there are people just like yourself you'd like to serve with side-by-side. Make it your mission to talk to your friends, family and co-workers about the new experiences waiting for them in the Air Force Reserve. See if they'd like to know more. Then submit their name on a Referral Card, on the website, or through the hotline:

**[www.afreserve.com/getone](http://www.afreserve.com/getone) or call 877-786-2372**

To talk to a recruiter at the 934th Airlift Wing,  
call (612) 713-1450 or 1454.

# Leaders do first official PT test

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** - The Air Force's most senior leaders, both officer and enlisted, completed their fitness evaluations Jan. 7 at the Bolling Air Force Base Wellness Center.

The group was among the first in the Air Force to have their physical fitness evaluated using the service's new fitness standard. Under the standard, fitness evaluations now include body composition, strength and aerobic fitness measurements.

Nearly 60 Air Force general officers, led by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, were evaluated. The chief master sergeants were evaluated later in the afternoon.

"We want everybody to know that when I say commanders are responsible for fitness, it starts at the top," the general said. "We have gotten all the Air Force leadership in the Washington area out at one time. Hopefully, this demonstrates that leading from the top really means leading from



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

**Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray (center) starts the 1.5-mile run for the new Air Force fitness evaluation Jan. 7 at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. More than 40 Air Force chief master sergeants from throughout the National Capitol Region braved the bitter cold weather to join the chief as he led the run.**

the top."

He said he expects commanders around the service to follow his example and to participate in leading their airmen toward a more fit force.

The evaluation represented the culmination of more

than a year's worth of work in developing a new fitness standard for the Air Force. The service had been using the same gauge of fitness — the cycle ergometry test — for more than a decade. The new evaluation was designed to better fit the

demands put on airmen in today's expeditionary climate.

"Our efforts to develop a holistic approach to fitness that includes aerobics, body composition and strength has given us something that can be maintained anywhere we are," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. "It is nice to have great gymnasiums and facilities and equipment, but we don't need those to maintain our fitness. You can maintain fitness at deployed locations or at home."

The chief added that he is impressed with the fitness efforts underway at Air Force bases.

"I am extremely pleased with what is coming together here and with our Air Force, as we see the culture is already being changed," he said. "Wings are already out running together. That momentum will be important to us through this year as we evaluate the new standards, the way people approach them and the programs that are being developed to help us meet them."

## Trainer offers tips on fitness test success

By Senior Airman Stephanie Witty  
and Senior Airman Curtis Holden  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Due to the increasing numbers of deployments, it is more important than ever for airmen to be fit to fight.

New Air Force fitness standards have been established to ensure airmen stay healthy and fit, and there are numerous measures they can take to help them meet and exceed the standards.

"First, if you're not doing any activity, do something," said Susan Schaumann, personal fitness trainer, 934th Airlift Wing fitness center. "Generally, people should workout a minimum of three to six days per week. A good fitness program includes

both aerobic activity and strength training."

When developing a workout routine there are several tips to consider, according to Schaumann:

\* Perform 30 to 60 minutes of aerobic workout three to six days a week. Aerobic activities include running, cycling, walking fast, rowing and the elliptical machine.

\* Lift weights two to three times per week. Do three sets of 12 for each exercise using either weightlifting machines or free weights. Strength training exercises, such as the lateral pull down, row/rear delt, dips, pull-ups, chest press and chest fly, are effective in strengthening the muscles used for push-ups. The lower back extension and abdominal machines help build muscles used for sit-ups.

\* Participate in a well-rounded weight lifting program, working both front and back muscles to avoid injury.

\* Do exercises specific to the test to achieve the best results on the test.

\* Do as many sit-ups as possible for one minute and do as many push-ups until failure. This gradually increases the amount one can do.

\* Start running as far as possible, gradually increasing the time.

\* Warm up before exercise and cool down afterward.

"It does take time and you have to make fitness a part of your daily life if you really want to get results and achieve a healthy fitness level," Schaumann said.

For more fitness tips, call 713-1496.

**Club membership requirements:** Applicants must be active, reserve, National Guard or retired military member from any branch of service or current or retired Department of Defense employee. Retired federal employees must present an agency retiree's card. Applications are available at all services facilities.

**Super Bowl Sunday:** Free food will be offered at half-time to club members Feb. 1. Non-members pay \$3.

**2-4-1 grilled pork chop:** Feb. 24 - Reservations required

**Valentine dinner for two:** Feb. 14 at the Officers' Club - The meal consists of champagne, salad, steak or lobster, potatoes, seasonal vegetables and truffle chocolate torte. Reservations are required. The cost is \$69.99.

### **Enlisted Club (612) 713-1655**

**Call Bingo** is offered every Friday nights from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Bonanza Bingo** is available during lounge hours.

**Sundays and Mondays:** Closed

**Lunch:** Lunch is served Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Daily specials are available.

**Dining:** Meals are available at the Officers' Club Wednesday through Saturday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Lounge hours:** Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Thursday from 4 to 9:30 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to midnight.

**Fridays:** Bar menu available from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Navy A - Feb. 7 and 8; Navy B - Feb. 21 and 22; Open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### **Officers' Club (612) 713-3678**

**Sundays:** Closed

**Lunch:** Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

**Lounge:** Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to midnight. The lounge menu is available Tuesday through Saturday from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Mondays:** The dining room is closed. The lounge is open from 4 to 11 p.m.

**Tuesdays:** The dining room is closed. The lounge menu is available from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesday menu:** Feb. 4 - Chicken alfredo; Feb. 11 - Calf's liver with bacon and onion; Feb. 18 - Pork chop; Feb. 25 - Shrimp scampi

**Thursday menu:** Feb. 5 - Meat loaf; Feb. 12 - Green peppercorn steak; Feb. 19 - Chicken cordon bleu; Feb. 26 - Top sirloin

**Friday menu:** Feb. 6 - Seafood market place; Feb. 13 - Shrimp tempura; Feb. 20 - Seafood combo; Feb. 27 - Lobster tail; A salad bar is available.

**Saturday menu:** Feb. 7 - Beef tenderloin wellington (Reservations are required.); Feb. 14 - New York steak or

lobster (Reservations required.), Feb. 21 - Prime rib; Feb. 28 - Pork medallion; A salad bar is available.

### **Private organizations**

Private organizations are self-sustaining and non-federal entities, incorporated or unincorporated that are operated on Department of Defense installations with the written consent of the installation commander or higher. Groups who want to raise funds must become a private organization. Call Deb Manselle at (612) 713-1662.

### **Officers' Spouses' Club (952) 831-5252**

**Luncheon:** The luncheon Feb. 19 at the Officers' Club will feature Marion Hvistendahl in character as Mary Todd Lincoln. Call Roberta Groneman at (763) 494-3517 or Lucille Peterson at (952) 544-1828 for reservations.

**Tuesday bridge:** This event is held on the second and third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Call Germaine Reuter Dahl at (952) 881-0107.

**Evening bridge:** This is held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Call Innez Gugisberg at (651) 481-1983 or Diane Lerohl at (952) 935-4467.

### **North Country Lodge (612) 713-1983 or 1984**

For reservations, call 1-888-AF-Lodge or (612) 726-9440 or go online at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/Lodgingweb/lodging.htm>. Lodging is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. It is closed on federal holidays.

### **Fitness Center (612) 713-1496**

**3-on-3 basketball league and tournament:** Sign up by Feb. 9. Teams must have five members. Call (612) 713-1665.

**Air Force cycling:** Earn goodies like water bottles, golf towels, caps, T-shirts and fanny packs. Register at the gym.

**Wing bowling tournament:** This will be held March 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Burnsville Bowl. Sign up individually or as a team of four at the gym by the February UTA.

### **Discount Tickets (612) 713-1496**

Camp Snoopy discount coupons, Chanhassen Dinner Theater tickets, and Minnesota Zoo and IMAX Theater 20 percent discount cards are available. Underwater Adventures tickets cost \$9 for adults and \$5 for children.

### **Outdoor Recreation (612) 713-1496**

**Storage:** Equipment rental has been temporarily suspended. Call 713-1496 for more information.

**Armed Forces Vacation Club:** Time share units are available for \$249.99 a week. Go to [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com).

**Air Force Ravel:** Visit [www.aftravelonline.com](http://www.aftravelonline.com).

**Colorado R&R and U.S. Air Force Academy travel service:** Go to [www.coloradorandr.com](http://www.coloradorandr.com).