

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP
Air Reserve Station, Minn.
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2003 AFRC Media Award Winner

MISSION CONTINUES:

● 27th Aerial Port
Squadron members
deploy in support of
War on Terrorism

Inside:

- Finance, security forces win awards
- Air Force Assistance Fund campaign underway
- Military honored at Government on Display
- Hope for couch potatoes in fitness 'epidemic?'



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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The newspaper is distributed on Friday before the unit training assembly.

The deadline for all submissions is the Sunday of the UTA.

On the cover:

Senior Airman Eric Fisher, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, enjoys sharing some laughs with his son before deploying Jan. 31. See page 7.
Photo by Cristina Oxta

VIKING FLYER

Public affairs

The **Viking Flyer** won third place in the 2003 Air Force Reserve Command Media Contest in the best newspaper, magazine format category. The *Viking Flyer* will next compete at the Air Force level.

Aerial port

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tratar and **Tech. Sgt. James Olafson** were awarded the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal for their accomplishments during their deployment in Germany in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. **Capt. Brian McCullagh** was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for his accomplishments during his tenure with the Military Equal Opportunity office.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Barclay and his wife welcomed the newest "Potential Porter," their daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

More than 25 unit members are serving in Southwest Asia and three members are serving as security forces augmentees.

Communication

The ground radio shop provided radio support to the KC-135 flyover at the SnoCross event in Shakopee recently and several flight members worked on the network infrastructure at the Anoka Armory.

During the February Unit Training Assembly, unit members completed training in self-aid and buddy care and Ability To Survive and Operate.

Welcome to new unit member, **Senior Airman Luis A. Martinez**, from Puerto Rico.

Unit members are currently serving in Southwest Asia, Italy, Spain, Colorado and Mississippi.

Colonel selectees

The wing's latest colonel selectees are **Lieutenant Cols. Jay Pittman**, 96th Airlift Squadron, and **Ray Kundel**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. **Col. Reinhard Schmidt**, 934th Operations Group commander, pinned on colonel Feb. 11.

Chapel

Welcome back to **Chaplain (Capt.) Steve Svoboda** and **Tech. Sgt. Paul Ives**. Svoboda returned from Commissioned Officer training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and Ives attended Chaplain Assistant

Apprentice Course at Maxwell.

Civil engineer

The unit welcomed new member, **Airman 1st Class Matthew Sutton**. **Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz** and **Master Sgt. Mike McGuire** completed their seven-level craftsman course at Sheppard AFB, Texas.

The unit's **equipment shop** spent a large portion of the February UTA working on snow removal around the base. Several individuals from other unit work centers pitched in to help as well.

Unit members deploying on annual tour to Honduras in mid-March completed anti-terrorism awareness training. They were also issued pills to protect them against malaria.

The unit said goodbye to longtime unit members, **Master Sgts. Dean Andersen** and **Charles Matthews**. Andersen joined the unit in 1987 and Matthews in 1992. The unit congratulates them and thanks them for serving the nation.

Four of the unit's fire protection personnel volunteered to assist the annual Government on Display at the Mall of America Feb. 7 and 8. The unit members were **Master Sgt. Kenneth Boelter**, **Tech. Sgt. Michael Story**, **Senior Airman Anthony Byerly** and **Airman 1st Class Joseph Hillstrom**.

Aeromedical evacuation

More than 20 unit members remain deployed in Southwest Asia. Four members have returned home.

Master Sgt. Christopher Knowles and **retired Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Brinza** received the Chief's Coin. **Tech. Sgt. Sandra Gonzales** completed the Noncommissioned Officers Academy correspondence course and received a Heritage Hall Coin.

Congratulations to **Master Sgt. Christopher Reese** and his wife, **Tracy**, on the birth of their daughter, **Rachael**, and to **Tech. Sgt. Albert Anderson** and his wife on the birth of their daughter, **London**.

Logistics

Five unit members from the **transportation** flight will soon deploy to Southwest Asia, and a number of **vehicle maintenance** flight members will participate in an Air Expeditionary Force rotation in Morone, Spain.

Veteran's final choices show love for AF

By Maj. John Thomas
Air Force Personnel
Center Public Affairs

Reid S. Wyant is dying. His daughter called me the other day looking for help putting together the items so that he could be buried in his Air Force service dress uniform. He served 30 years as an airman. And it seems he's still one of us.

I thought, "What makes a person, who has lived life as a civilian since 1980, want to be buried in his uniform?"

I like to think maybe service before self gets into your blood. After all, retired Senior Master Sgt. Wyant switched his cancer treatment from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., not too long ago because the war was forcing the base hospital to cut back care, and he wanted the active-duty people to get taken care of first.

"Always thinking of others," his daughter, Andrae Harris, said.

Andrae is helping care for him even as he edges closer to the end. She helps him plan it all out. Arlington National Cemetery was overruled by his wife, who wants him for eternity closer to family. Details like that.

Andrae says she always knew her dad was a hero. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for saving three swimmers' lives "in front of my very eyes, without a care to his own safety." He almost lost his own life doing it, she said. And that pales in comparison to his courageous facing cancer.

Sgt. Wyant might say it's the friends you find that make the Air Force something you want to be buried with.

"I've never known anyone that did not like my dad," Andrae said.

A former commander, Col. Roger

Andersen, still visits him at home.

"They would both reenlist today if they could," Andrae told me.

Reid Wyant's life with the Air Force began when the young Air Force had been around for just seven years.

"His uncle was a rear admiral and told him to join the Air Force," Andrae said.

It seems his uncle was a smart man. Andrae said "he caught a bus to Pittsburgh and never looked back." I think he's looking back now, looking back on the people he met as a munitions maintenance specialist and first sergeant. Born and raised in Kitanning, Pa., he served in North Africa in the 1950s; Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos and Korea in the 1960s; Thailand in 1971; and plenty of stateside places in between.

But no assignment

was more important than the move from Denver to Bentwaters, England.

That is where a boy, dirt-poor and often mistreated by his grandfather, a guy who dropped out of school and put his kid brother through college, met his wife, Doreen. To hear Andrea tell it, her mom's whole family fell in love with him.

As much, it seems, as he loved the Air Force. Upon retirement from his second career, he moved from Dallas to near Eglin, where he fried fish and chicken for squadron picnics, and where a couple of years ago they first treated him for cancer. It was to Eglin that he went recently with his family to get all of his affairs together and prepare a final will.

I have never met Sgt. Wyant. But I have worked with people just like him every day of my 12 years

served with loyal members of every service, and I'm off to Iraq soon to work again with the State Department and other agencies.

People tell me to keep my head down when I go to Iraq. Instead, I think I will hold my head high out of respect for people like Sgt. Wyant and all those he represents, like my own dad and my father-in-law.

When Andrae asked him the other day why the service dress uniform for the burial, he said that is what he has always worn for important events and he wanted his family to recognize him. His sense of humor is still healthy.

Maybe one day, I'll ask to be buried in my service dress uniform like Senior Master Sgt. Reid S. Wyant wants to be, "with full military honors."

In his case, the honor will be ours.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Erin Dorrance

In their honor

Artist Stewart Wavell-Smith painted an 8-foot-tall by 28-foot-long mural to honor fallen servicemembers, portray the complex role of the U.S. military and to raise money for the spouses and children of fallen servicemembers. The Enduring Freedom Mural was unveiled at the U.S. Central Command headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 30.

Finance wins two awards

By Senior Airman Curtis Holden
934th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

The 934th Airlift Wing's financial management office recently won two Air Force Reserve Command awards and will next compete at the Air Force level.

The office was named 2003 Comptroller Office of the Year and Charles "Chuck" Frans was named 2003 Non-Appropriated Funds Financial Analyst of the Year.

Mike Burgess, wing comptroller, said he was ecstatic when he heard his office won the award. He said this is the first time the office has received this particular award, and it is all thanks to the staff's skills and hard work.

"There are many good people here. Some of them have worked here for many years. They are really the experts in their field," he said. "They really earned this award."

The finance staff won the organizational award by achieving 99 percent ratings for the base's operation and management authority and Reserve Personnel Appropriation obligations in fiscal year 2003.

The finance staff was praised for providing excellent service despite unexpected employee shortages and an increased workload caused by the activation of 300 reservists. The staff was worked additional hours to ensure pay entitlements were not interrupted.

The staff also received kudos for

management of resources.

The staff developed an automated tool to monitor, track and administer military leave for mobilized members. The new system improves data accuracy so members receive the correct leave at the end of their tour. The automated system is estimated to prevent roughly \$300,000 in leave overpayments during the one-year period of the wing's mobilization.

Frans, who has worked at the comptroller office since 1988, said it was an honor to receive his award. He added that he hoped the cost-saving results he helped produce benefit the base and its wing members.

"I hope that my oversight of their administrative and financial activities, which I have provided, has assisted them in maintaining their self-sufficient goals," Frans said. "As most people don't realize, NAF activities are self-sufficient, so they have to make money to stay in business."

Among his achievements, Frans implemented check and balance procedures for observing employees in the clubs, lodging and recreation service areas. All areas of operation are in full compliance with the cash, inventory and asset controls Frans set up. Frans' inventory management of the clubs led to more than \$100,000 of unserviceable ADP equipment turned in.

He was also praised for all aspects of his NAF oversight responsibilities, including his meticulous record keeping, timely analysis and ability to meet audit requirements.

Temporary health benefits start for reservists, families

Air Force Reserve Command
News Service

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense announced Feb. 12 that it will implement provisions of the 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program for eligible reserve component sponsors and their family members.

The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act and the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004 authorized new health benefits, some permanent and some temporary. The 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program includes three temporary Tricare benefit provisions, which expire Dec. 31, 2004.

The new provisions will be implemented in phases starting in the spring. One provision temporarily authorizes Tricare medical and dental coverage for reserve component sponsors activated for more than 30 days and their family members. Eligibility begins on the day the sponsor receives delayed-effective date active-duty orders or 90 days prior to the date the active-duty period begins, whichever is later.

A second provision temporarily extends eligibility for Tricare benefits to 180 days under the Transitional Assistance Management Program for reserve component sponsors who separate from active-duty status between Nov. 6, 2003 and Dec. 31, 2004 and their eligible family members.

The third provision temporarily extends Tricare benefits to Reserve component sponsors and family members who are unemployed or employed but not eligible for employer-provided health coverage.

More details are available at <http://www.TRICARE.osd.mil/> and the Reserve Affairs Web site at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>.

Your Guardians of Freedom pins

Air Force Public Affairs' Your Guardians of Freedom office is launching a new initiative that will allow servicemembers who have parents who are blind or visually impaired to submit requests for the Air Force Parent Pin in Braille. The initiative is part of the Air Force Parent Pin "E Pluribus Unum" program that offers the pin and accompanying letter in 100 languages.

Braille is being added as a language because more than 10 million Americans are blind or visually impaired and 1.3 million are considered legally blind. Some of these individuals may be parents of airmen serving in the active duty, Reserve or Guard components of the U.S. Air Force.

In preparation for the launch, YGOF is seeking servicemembers who have parents who are blind or visually impaired or blind or visually impaired civilian employees with children or close relatives who serve in the U.S. Air Force. For more information, call Maj. LeWonnice Belcher at (703) 692-9738 or e-mail lewonnice.belcher@pentagon.af.mil.

Security forces earns AFRC awards

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

Two members of the 934th Security Forces Squadron received Outstanding Security Forces Air Reserve Component awards for 2003 at the Air Force Reserve Command level recently.

Army Spc. Anna Miller, an augmentee for the 934th SFS, was named Outstanding Augmentee of the Year, and Bill Ingrahm, 934th SFS shift supervisor, was named Outstanding Civilian Employee of the Year.

Both will next compete at the Air Force level.

Miller said her personal mantra is "high-speed, low-drag and very motivated."

"I just like a high pace, and I want to be involved in everything," she said.

Miller volunteered to learn and staff the pass and registration office while an employee was on maternity leave. She changed her scheduled days off and shifts to accommodate the unit's hours of operation and worked as needed at the pass and registration office to cover peak hours during Unit Training Assemblies or when someone was ill.

Recently, when Miller noticed footprints in the snow that led up to and over a perimeter fence, she assisted with



Photo by Christine Dale

Army Spc. Anna Miller talks to a driver after inspecting his vehicle at the base gate.

investigating the incident that resulted in the identification and apprehension of a fence jumper.

For her efforts, Miller received a letter of appreciation from the SFS commander and a Unit Commander's Challenge Coin from the commander of the Army's 134th Forward Support Battalion.

Miller said she enjoys her job as an augmentee.

"It's fun with a good atmosphere and good people," she said.

Ingrahm, who is a captain in the Department of the Air Force, received his award after 13 years of service at the wing. He said he was honored at winning the award and credited his co-workers and wife, Michelle, for helping him earn it.

"I get lots of support from my wife," he said. "And without the folks working with me as a team, I can't accomplish the mission."

Michelle, who also works at the SFS, won the same award as Bill in 2002. She said she is proud of her husband's achievements.

"This is a prestigious award and I'm very proud of Bill," Michelle said. "He is very selfless and dedicated to his job. I'm so happy to see that he won this year. I couldn't think of a better person to be the next Outstanding Security Forces Civilian Employee. Now we both will be in the history books for a job well done."

Bill thought it was great to keep the award in the family two years



Ingrahm

in a row.

"A little family competition doesn't hurt," he said with a chuckle.

There really is no secret to their award-winning success, Michelle admitted.

"Just take pride in the work you do, go the extra mile and always be willing to help," she said.

Bill's list of achievements

in 2003 included working with the Central Violations Bureau to ensure the unit's U.S. District Court Violation Notice, Department of Defense Form 1805, violations were posted in state records. He also coordinated with the U.S. Marshall's Service on current warrants on individuals who failed to appear for traffic violations.

Military retirees' pay increases

Air Force Print News

ARLINGTON, Va. - An estimated 150,000 military retirees started seeing an increase in their pay Feb. 2.

The National Defense Authorization Act, enacted in November, significantly modified a long-standing law preventing retirees from receiving full retired pay if they also received disability pay from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new law allows concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability pay for retirees with more than 20 years of service and a disability rating of 50 percent or more.

This restored pay will be phased in over a 10-year period that began Jan. 1.

Retirees are not required to take any action to receive the additional pay. Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have already identified eligible retirees and began making adjustments to their military retired pay.

The first payments were due Feb. 2 for the law change that was effective Jan. 1. The additional funds were also paid Feb. 2 based on entitlement for Jan. 1 to 31.

The restored pay is paid on the same schedule as current military retired pay. Recurring payments will be made on the first business day of each month based on entitlement for the month before.

For the majority of military retirees, the additional money is taxable income and subject to federal tax withholding.

One category of military retirees who are eligible for additional funds but were not paid Feb. 2, are those who receive retired pay based on a disability percentage instead of years of service. Further guidance is needed from the Department of Defense to determine how the law will be applied in these cases.

Once guidance is received, payments will be made retroactive to Jan. 1. An estimated 2,800 military retirees fall into this category.

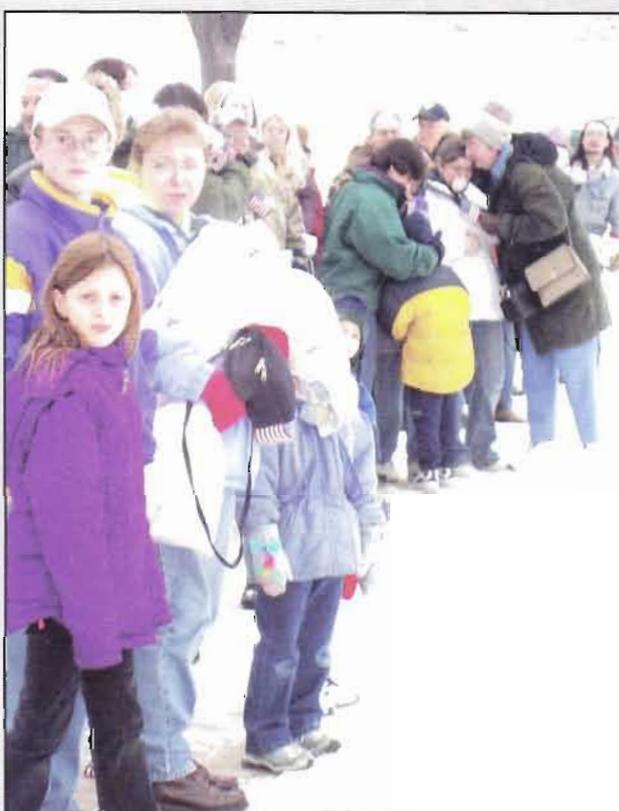
For more details regarding who is eligible for the restored pay and how payments will be made, visit www.dfas.mil and see the topics under "Retired and Annuity Pay" or visit the myPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss

Blind faith

Several members of the 133rd Airlift Wing and the Air Reserve National Guard walked through a mock "minefield" at the base gym Feb. 4. The activity was part of training they underwent on how to facilitate the Minnesota National Guard's Counterdrug Adventure Program, which helps middle school-aged students develop skills in problem solving, communication and decision making as well as responsibility and trust. During the minefield activity, students must pass through a moving minefield while blindfolded. If they step on a mine, they are frozen and must be rescued and guided by blindfolded team member.



Farewell
 Friends and families of more than 25 deploying aerial port squadron members look on as their loved ones depart on a bus on their way to an awaiting C-130 aircraft. The 27th APS members deployed for several months to various locations Jan. 31 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photos by Cristina Ostra

Leave program can help activated federal employees

Air Force Reserve CenterNews

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.

Federal employees who are called up by a Reserve or National Guard unit to support a contingency can use special leave to supplement lost wages.

They can receive their civilian income instead of military pay for 22 days if their civil service job pays more than the military.

“Although not new to the federal government, 22 days of military leave is a new entitlement for reservists and National Guard

members supporting contingency operations,” said Meg Keith, human resources program manager at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. “It’s based on a much older program used to compensate employees who perform law enforcement and civil defense duties.”

The military leave program went into effect Nov. 24, 2003, with the signing of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. However, guidance for running the program is still being worked out.

“Congress ex-

tended this benefit to activated employees who are supporting contingency operations so they don’t lose money,” Keith said. “We have asked the Air Force to clarify how the 22 days of military leave program will be implemented. We will provide more details when we get them.”

In addition to the 22 days, federal employees receive 15 days of military leave each year to train with their National Guard or Reserve unit. Under the 15-day military leave entitlement, they can keep both their military and civilian pay.

Information Assurance Awareness

Information Assurance Awareness products, such as articles, brochures, visual aids, videos, etc., can be ordered to meet continuous awareness efforts of the Air Force and Department of Defense Information Assurance Campaign.

IA products can be downloaded or ordered online at <https://private.afca.af.mil/ip/ipnewstand/ipbrochure.cfm> or at <https://private.afca.af.mil/ip/ipnewstand/visualaids.cfm>.

For assistance in ordering or posting IA Awareness products or for more information, call Deborah Carriger at the Wing IA Office at Bldg. 761 at (612) 713-1244.

AF Assistance Fund campaign underway

By **Cristina Oxta**
934th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

The Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign at the 934th Airlift Wing is in full swing.

The wing campaign began Feb. 27 and ends April 8.

The Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force recently announced a \$5.2 million goal. Last year, Air Force people gave \$5.9 million to the fund.

This year, the wing's goal is \$7,500, and military members are asked to contribute to any of four Air Force-related charities through cash or check contributions.

The charities benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force members and their families. Charities receive 100 percent of AFAF contributions.

"The Air Force Assistance Fund does a great job of providing relief to people with

hardships when all other options have been exhausted," said Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Johnson, 934th AW's AFAF campaign chairman. "Your charitable contributions actually help people. The charities this campaign support absolutely makes a difference in a lot of people's lives."

The organizations the AFAF supports include the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Foundation, Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund and the Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

The Air Force Aid Society, the official charitable organization of the Air Force, provides airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base level community-enhancement programs.

"Requests for assistance have continued at record levels since Sept. 11, 2001. Last year, the Air Force Aid Society helped

30,000 airmen with over \$22.6 million in assistance. That's a lot of help," said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer. "Contributions are vital for the society to sustain this kind of help. It is truly an airman-helping-airmen program."

Base family support centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements. Information is also available online at <http://www.afas.org>.

The Air Force Enlisted Villages in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base, provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older. More information is at <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org>.

The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund in San Antonio is a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. The Air Force Vil-

lage Web site is <http://www.airforcevillages.com>.

The Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides rent and financial assistance to indigent widows and widowers of officers and enlisted people in their own homes and communities. The foundation Web site is at <http://www.lemayfoundation.org>.

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible as an itemized federal deduction. To claim an amount given, contributors must complete an Air Force Form 2561.

To learn more about AFAF, visit the organization's Web site at <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center's Voting and Fundraising site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund>.

For details about the wing's campaign, call Johnson at 713-1934 or talk to a unit AFAF representative.

Camera phones can pose risk to security

By **Master Sgt. Darrell Lewis**
Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center
Public Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. - Officials from the National Security Agency said in an advisory that new cellular phones with integral digital cameras pose an unacceptable security risk to homeland security.

This type of phone is not authorized for use or possession within any Air Force facility processing classified information without written authorization from the designated approval authority.

"Communications are getting faster and easier," said Jane Guidicini, Air Force Communications Agency certified emission security technical authority. "While that does help speed communications, it can also, unfortunately, allow classified infor-

mation to get out of a classified area inadvertently or otherwise.

"We realize occasionally the restrictions might seem overly strict when the new technologies come out, but it's better to be overly cautious than to have an incident," Guidicini said.

"It takes just a little common sense to realize that if you have a cell phone with a camera, you should leave it home if you work in a classified area," said Tech. Sgt. Shon Kloepping, 72nd Security Forces Squadron.

If someone in a

restricted area has a phone with a camera capability and a security forces troop discovers it, he or she would be forced to confiscate the camera for review of unlawful images, Kloepping said.

Civilian employees could also face federal charges and military members could face federal charges and Uniform Code of Military Justice actions, he said.

But it is not just a good idea to limit their use in secure rooms where classified information is being processed, said Peter Bryant, Air Force Materiel Command security forces directorate. "Watch how you use and carry those anywhere you're dealing with sensitive or proprietary information."

Anyone who sees an individual using any unauthorized camera without coordinating with base agencies should contact the base security forces squadron, Bryant said.



Flooding cause damage in Bldg. 821

By Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson
934th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Part of a fire protection system in Bldg. 821 froze Jan. 28, causing a sprinkler system in the hangar to activate at 5:43 p.m. and flooding most of the building. The flood caused an estimated \$50,000 to \$75,000 in damage.

Aircraft maintainers, who were in the area, were the first to respond to the incident. Because the fire alarm system detected water flow in the deluge system in the hangar, emergency crews were alerted. The first emergency crew to arrive was the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport fire department.

The firemen shut off the water to the sprinklers, but the water flowed from three of the eight sprinkler zones for approximately 30 minutes.

There were no aircraft in the hangar at the time, said Master Sgt. Greg Koury, 934th Maintenance Squadron. However, there was another problem. With the temperature that day dipping down to minus 19 degrees and the overflowing water, the tracks for the hangar doors froze. In addition, maintenance personnel who were drenched by the water flowing from the sprinkler system were in frigid temperatures trying to shut the



Photo by Jan Dalton

Water-logged debris was piled in the hangar during clean-up efforts after water from a sprinkler system flooded areas of the hangar and offices in Bldg. 821.

doors.

"Their willingness to put their personal comfort aside resulted in expediting the investigation and cleaning up phases of the incident," said Lt. Col. Stan Sheley, 934th Maintenance Group commander.

Water seeped into the office areas in the east and west ends of the building and tool areas around the hangar, according to Maj. Les Canarr, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Maintenance, operations and civil engineer personnel tried to minimize the damage by clearing away or covering tools and equipment and us-

ing squeegees and excavators to remove as much water as they could before it froze.

Water damage also affected areas in the building that were being renovated, setting the renovation project back two to three weeks, Canarr said.

Civil engineer personnel assessed the damage, removed accumulated ice, dried electrical components, ensured all the heaters were working and inspected the fire system. Maintenance and operations personnel assisted the engineers where they could and assessed the damage to their equipment.

Restoration contractors ar-

rived at 8 p.m. and removed excess water, dirt and debris from the offices. The work was completed at approximately 4:30 a.m. the following day. The fire system was restored by 3 p.m. Jan. 30.

The first 24 hours is critical when dealing with water damage, Canarr said. He added that he appreciated the efforts of everyone who helped.

"The fact that this was done after hours and everyone who was called in immediately responded to participate in the clean up effort shows great dedication to duty. Thanks to all," Canarr said.

Remember to
"spring forward."

Daylight Savings
Time starts at
2 a.m. April 4.



The **Commander's Hotline** is your direct link to the wing commander for kudos, questions, concerns or suggestions about matters that are related to the 934th Airlift Wing.

To use the hotline, call **(612) 713-4685**.

Be sure to leave your name and phone number. When appropriate, some concerns and queries will be met with a personal response.

If you have a problem that needs to be resolved, call the responsible agency first, so it can have the opportunity to help you.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Formica

Above: A replica of a space shuttle looks poised to lift off at the Government on Display held Feb. 7 and 8 at the Mall of America. The annual event highlights the achievements of the nation's branches of military as well as state and federal agencies.

Right: A youngster checks out the C-130 cockpit replica at the 934th Airlift Wing's booth at the Government on Display. The cockpit was a popular attraction at the event.





Photo by Senior Airman Josh Nason



Photo by Christine Dale

Left: 934th Airlift Wing members join other participants at the Government on Display in prayer during a ceremony honoring military members and their contributions to the nation.

Above: Looking Glass, an Air Force band based at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., entertain the crowd by playing top 40 hits.



Photo by Senior Airman Josh Nason

Government on Display honors military, federal, state agencies

**By Cristina Oxta
934th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs**

The event was patriotic, entertaining and educational, according to those who attended it.

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing, along with other representatives of the armed services and state and federal agencies, participated in the 4th Annual Government on Display at the Mall of America Feb. 7 and 8.

"We had a good turnout. It was a good event," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Formica, 934th AW recruiting. "I think it increased awareness for people as to

what everyone does." The representatives staffed booths on the first floor of the mall and held a variety of entertainment and presentations.

The 934th AW's booth featured a C-130 cockpit. The wing's recruiters and Honor Guard provided information and all kinds of goodies at their tables while the security forces and firefighters showcased some of the equipment they use in their work.

Approximately 100 Minnesota military members representing the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps were honored at a ceremony Feb. 7.

Col. Reinhard Schmidt, 934th Operations Group com-

mander, spoke at the ceremony and said he was proud of the wing's contributions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and the War on Terrorism.

"Many of our military members earned numerous and much-deserved awards and recognition for their exemplary service and selfless acts of courage and duty, and we applaud them," Schmidt said.

The colonel also thanked other branches of the military.

"We salute our fellow comrades at arms in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps for their contributions and sacrifices. Together, our nation's armed forces

work as a superb team to keep our country safe and help others in need," he said.

In addition, Schmidt thanked community leaders, employers and citizens of Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and North and South Dakota for their support.

"We cannot do our job without you," he said. "Our work goes on. Our mission and our deployments continue. So I ask you to continue to show your support for our military members, our brave warfighters, who keep us safe each day, who are always ready to assist those in need of our nation's help, and who make us so proud to be Americans."

Nation celebrates women's history

By **Cristina Oxta**
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March is National Women's History Month, and the 2004 theme is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

According to the National Women's History Project organizers, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in schools or in general public consciousness as recently as the 1970s. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County California Commission on the Status of Women initiated a Women's History Week celebration in 1978.

March 8, International Women's Day, was selected as the focal point to ensure the events and celebrations included a multicultural perspective, recognized the connection between and among all women, and celebrated the important role of women in the paid labor force.

Within a few years, area schools held programs for Women's History Week. Hundreds of women from the community participated by going into the schools as Community Resource Women. An annual Real Woman Essay Contest drew hundred of entries and women's history parades were held in Santa Rosa, Calif.

During a 1979 conference, leaders of women's and girls' organizations decided to promote the idea of a Women's History Week within their organizations, school districts and states. They also agreed to work toward securing an official Congressional Resolution that would declare the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week.

In March 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presiden-

tial message to Americans encouraging the recognition and celebration of women's historic accomplishments during the week of March 8, Women's History Week.

In 1987, at the request of

what is now a major national and international celebration.

In his March 2003 speech declaring National Women's History Month, President George W. Bush said, "Through vision, hard work,

tween 1992 and 2002, the number of female college graduates in the United States has increased from 15.9 million to 23.6 million. Women account for 47 percent of all employed persons and are entering the American workforce in record numbers. In the last 10 years, their ranks have increased by 8.7 million. Women-owned small businesses are growing twice as fast as all other U.S. firms, employing 7 million Americans.

"To build on these successes, my administration will continue our work to promote policies that advance the aspirations, hopes and dreams of every American," President Bush said. "As we celebrate remarkable women in our nation's past, I encourage all citizens to recognize the countless American women whose efforts continue to enhance the economic, social and cultural life of our great nation."

The NWHHP offered several suggestions for promoting and celebrating National Women's History Month in one's community:

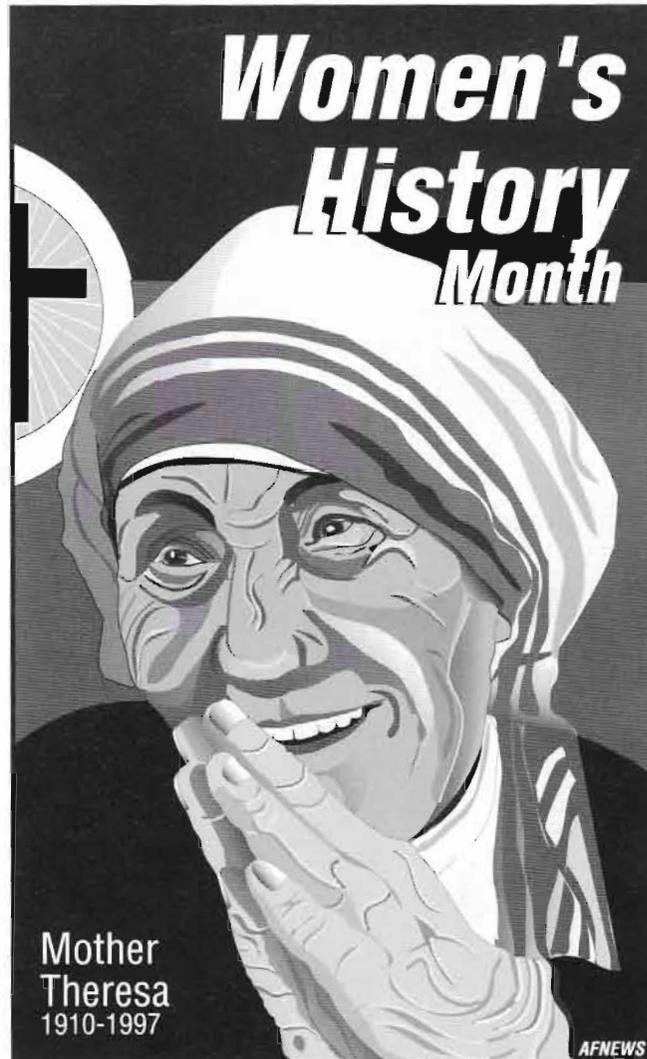
* **Ask local schools** what they are doing for National Women's History Month.

* **Go to the local library or bookstore** and ask what special features or programs they have scheduled for National Women's History Month.

* **Plan a reception or luncheon** to honor the women in the community who have been the pioneers of ideas and institutions. Invite a woman from history to be at the event.

* **Ask the local newspaper** to feature school and community programs that celebrate National Women's History Month.

* **Write a letter** to the editor of the local newspaper explaining the need to celebrate and recognize women's contributions.



women's organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders and educators throughout the country, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the national celebrations to the entire month of March. A National Women's History Month Resolution was approved, and since 1992, a presidential proclamation has carried the directive for

and determination, countless American women have broadened opportunities for themselves and for others at home, in the community and in the workplace...Driven by the legacy of these extraordinary figures, American women from all backgrounds continue to break barriers and fulfill their personal and professional potential."

The president said that be-

Family Support Center ready to help anyone in military community anytime

By Senior Airman
Stephanie Witty
934th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

When military members deploy, their families can undergo a great deal of stress, and when the going gets tough, families can turn to the 934th Airlift Wing's Family Support Center for assistance and support.

The FSC helps families adapt to the demands, stresses and challenges of military life, no matter their branch of service.

The center handles just about any question or problem presented to its staff members. If they do not have the answer, they will find someone who does, said Rex Hodge, FSC director.

"We are here to take care of the family members and spouses left behind," Hodge said. "Things can become overwhelming and family members may feel like nobody cares. But there is always someone here to help, to listen and to get them to the right referral agency."

The center works closely with the Air Force Aid Society and Red Cross.

"We have also had a lot of support from other organizations, including the Air Force Association, the Officers' Spouses' Club and



Photo by Christine Dale

Rex Hodge, Family Support Center director, arranges the toys in the playroom at the Family Support Center, located in Bldg. 727. The center is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and during Unit Training Assemblies from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

the Memorial Chapel Foundation, for financial assistance for our members," Hodge said.

The FSC's first priority is mobility line support, Hodge said. This includes readiness planning, deployment support briefings, training and deployment contact for those whose spouse is currently deployed.

The center provides family readiness checklists, along with family readiness workshops, to help in mobility planning. Workshops cover a number of topics, including preparing wills and powers of attorney and obtaining military identification cards.

The center also offers programs, such as Hearts Apart, to help families stay in touch during deployments or long temporary duty assignments.

"Hearts Apart and morale calls are programs that allow family members to communicate with their deployed spouse," said Tech Sgt. Randy Kline, family readiness technician. "Spouses call the base from home over the military phone network."

The center even has a video phone, which allows families to see each other while they talk.

"The last group that went overseas used

our video phone quite extensively," Hodge said. "The key is having a video phone at both ends. We have one here and we give one to the deployed unit."

The FSC also provides family life education on parenting, family finance, stress management, estate planning and preparing for marriage.

"We take care of everyone, including a lot of retirees and disabled folks," Hodge said. "It's not just for married servicemembers or servicemembers with children. We are here for any kind of family assistance that anyone may require. We are here to help."



Photo by Senior Airman Stephanie Witty

Families of military members who are deployed or on a temporary duty assignment for 14 days or more can use the video phone at the Family Support Center for free to talk to and see their loved ones.

Quiz challenges one's Earth Day savvy

March 19 is Earth Day, an ideal time to learn more about the earth and the importance of preserving its natural resources. How knowledgeable are you about Earth Day, the environment and recycling?

Here is a quiz you can take, courtesy of the National Sanitation Foundation.

1. When was Earth Day founded?

- a. 1950
- b. 1960
- c. 1970
- d. 1980

2. Who founded Earth Day?

- a. Will Rogers
- b. Nelson Reilly
- c. Mitch Gaylord
- d. Gaylord Nelson

3. How much of our air pollution comes from motor vehicles?

- a. 30 percent
- b. 50 percent
- c. 75 percent
- d. 90 percent

4. What are VOCs?

- a. Volatile Organic Compounds
- b. Very Odorous Compounds



c. Vegetable Oil Compounds

d. Volatile Oxygen Compounds

5. Which of the following will reduce air pollution?

- a. Using fluorescent lights
- b. Using cruise control
- c. Using water-based products
- d. All of the above

6. The average American produces how much waste each day?

- a. 3.5 pounds
- b. 4.4 pounds
- c. 6.1 pounds

d. 10 pounds

7. Which types of products are recyclable?

- a. Paper
- b. Glass
- c. Aluminum
- d. All of the above

8. Which combination of plastic products are accepted for recycling by most communities?

- a. Plastics coded 1, 2 and 6
- b. Plastics coded 3, 4 and 5
- c. Plastics coded 2, 4 and 6
- d. All of the above

9. Which environmental

acts did the first Earth Day demonstrations influence the federal government to create?

- a. Endangered Species Act
- b. Clean Water Act
- c. Clean Air Act
- d. All of the above

10. What are the three Rs to remember about waste management?

- a. Remove, return and relocate
- b. Remix, reinvent and redistribute
- c. Refuse, refrain and redeem
- d. Reduce, reuse and recycle

11. How many gallons of water are wasted each day from the average toilet leak?

- a. 300 gallons
- b. 400 gallons
- c. 500 gallons
- d. 600 gallons

12. Which products should never be disposed of into sewers or septic tanks?

- a. Used oil
- b. Hazardous waste
- c. Cleaners
- d. All of the above

Answers: 1. c; 2. d; 3. b; 4. a; 5. d; 6. b; 7. d; 8. a; 9. d; 10. d; 11. d; 12. d

Get One Trophy

In fiscal year 2003, the wing's recruiting office had 22 Get One accessions, which was 17 percent of its total unit gains for the year.

To help continue this success, a trophy will be awarded each quarter to the unit with the most unit member referrals. Unit winners will be announced during the Unit Training Assembly weekends. The number of referrals will be tabulated at the end of each quarter and the results will be forwarded to the wing commander.

Wing members are encouraged to complete and mail in a Get One Card on each person they refer to recruiting. This is the only way recruiting tracks these referrals.

For more details, call 714-1454.



Upcoming Events:

Air Force Teen Aviation Camp: June 5 to 11 - For details, go to Bldg. 852, Room 213 or call (612)713-1662.

Membership Night: March 9 at the Officers' Club

Boss and Buddy Night: March 12 at the Enlisted Club

St. Patrick's Day specials: March 17- Enlisted Club lunch and Officers' Club dinner

2-4-1 weinerschnitzel with dumplings: March 23

Easter buffet: April 11 - Call the Officers' Club by April 3.

Month of the Military Child celebration: April 15 - A family buffet, children art projects and a clown will be featured.

Boss and Buddy Night: April 6 at the Enlisted Club

Administrative Professional Day: April 21 - Call the Enlisted Club by April 2.

Enlisted Club (612) 713-1655

Call Bingo is held every Friday night from 5 to 7 p.m. and **Bonanza Bingo** is available during lounge hours.

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Closed

Lunch: Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with daily specials offered

Dining: 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.; Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to midnight

Fridays: The bar menu is offered from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday: Navy "A" March 13 and 14; Navy "B" March 27 and 28; Lunch served 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 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Monday: Dining room closed. Lounge open 4 to 11 p.m.

Tuesday: Dining room closed for dinner. Lounge menu available from 11 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday: March 3 - Weinerschnitzel; March 10 - German style meatloaf; March 17- Irish stew/corned beef and cabbage or bar special; March 24 - Shrimp stir fry with fried rice; March 31- Coconut fried shrimp

Thursday: March 4 - Southwestern stuffed pork chop; March 11- Beef medallions with Béarnaise sauce; March 18 - Indian curry chicken; March 25 - New York steak Madagascar

Fridays: (Salad bar available) March 5 - Seafood market place; March 12 - Seafood Newburg; March 19 - Shrimp prawns brochette; March 26 - Salmon steak with choron sauce

Saturday: (Salad bar available) March 6 - Ribeye steak with fried onions; March 13 - Prime rib; March 20 - Cold water lobster tail with drawn butter; March 27 - Prime rib

Officers' Spouses' Club

March 18 luncheon - Cafesjian's Carousel

April 15 luncheon - Style Show

The luncheons are held at the Officers' Club at 11:30 a.m. and the cost \$12 per person. Call (763) 494-3517 or at (952) 544-1828 for reservations.

Tuesday Bridge: This is held on the second and third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Call (952) 881-0107.

Evening Bridge: This is held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Call (763) 494-3517 or (952) 935-4467.

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

Reservations: Call 1-888-AF-Lodge or (612) 726-9440 or go to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/Lodgingweb/lodging.htm>.

Guests are encouraged to try lodging's **book exchange** program. Books are donated by individuals and libraries and guests may take a book home with them or donate a book for others to enjoy.

Fitness Center (612) 713-1496

Reminder: Shoes must not be worn directly from the outdoors onto a court or group exercise floors. Soles must be clean and non-marking to help maintain the court's or floor finish.

New equipment: The center now has four new treadmills, two ellipticals and two upright bikes.

This year's Pig-Out Challenge winners were Eric Kerber, 1st place; Sue Schaumann, 2nd place; Gerald Fuhrman, 3rd place; and Ken Nordstrom, 4th place.

Discount Tickets (612) 713-1496

Call for details on discounts to local area attractions.

Outdoor Recreation (612) 713-1496

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. See www.afvclub.com.

Air Force Travel: Visit www.aftravelonline.com.

Colorado R&R and U.S. Air Force Academy travel service: Go to www.coloradorandr.com.