

VIKING FLYER



934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP
Air Reserve Station, Minn.
August 2004, Vol. 26 No. 8

Inside:

★ Aeromedical member earns command award page 5

★ Security forces members teach self-defense pages 8 and 9

★ Rules restrict political activity page 11

★ New booklet helps families of deployed troops page 13

Safe!

Shane Lohmann of the Air Force Sergeants Association intramural softball team slides into third base.

See story on page 15

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams





EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. James J. Muscatell Jr.

934th Airlift Wing commander

Lt. Col. Margaret McGlinn

Chief of Public Affairs

TSgt. Jeffrey S. Williams

NCOIC

Cristina Oxta

Editor

SSgt. Jennifer A. Johnson

SSgt. Troy Novak

SSgt. Nick Olson

SrA Curtis Holden

Staff writers

SrA Josh Nason

Photographer

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. The contents of the *Viking Flyer* are not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office (Air Force Reserve Command), Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Joint Air Reserve Station, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100. For more information, call (612) 713-1217.

To receive an electronic copy of the *Viking Flyer*, send an e-mail to cristina.oxtra@minneapolis.af.mil.

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.

Aerial port

The unit received the 934th Airlift Wing recruiting office's Get One traveling trophy for the second consecutive quarter for having the most referrals in the wing.

Eleven unit members returned July 3 after a successful annual tour at the Air Mobility Command terminal at Norfolk Naval Air Station, Va.

Congratulations to eight individuals who were promoted during the July UTA. They were Senior Master Sgt. Dale Place, Senior Master Sgt. Mark Syvertson, Master Sgt. Rodney Bledsoe, Master Sgt. David Hanson-Best, Tech. Sgt. Craig Slavik, Staff Sgt. Ricky Zenner, Staff Sgt. Bradley Taplick, and Staff Sgt. Derrick Warren.

Senior Master Sgt. Eric Sund and Master Sgt. Margaret McGill-Zimny, both of whom retired recently, were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Welcome to new members Staff Sgt. Duane Tackett, Senior Airman Derrick Marinac, and Senior Airman Cory Kenney.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Kevin Lynch and his wife Mie on the birth of their daughter, Guinevere.

partment. He was formerly a member of the Marine Corps Reserve.

Six unit members of the readiness shop attended Golden Medic training at Fort McCoy, Wis., and participated in a week-long exercise.

The unit's engineering shop attended training on the use of the global positioning system.

All unit members involved in the recent readiness exercise at Volk Field received a letter of appreciation.

Master Sgt. Tara Venem received a wing commander's coin for volunteering to assist the military personnel flight while it was without a full-time career advisor on staff.

Senior Master Sgt. Tim Tamlyn and Tech. Sgt. Robert Payne received a coin from unit commander, Lt. Col. J.D. Larson, for contributions they made to the Air Force Aid Society's Air Force Assistance Fund.

The unit said goodbye to long time member Tech. Sgt. Michael Moldrem of the fire department. He retired after serving the Air Force for 21 years, 12 of which he spent assigned to the wing. A retirement ceremony and party were held in conjunction with the unit commander's call.

Communication

Unit members who participated in the readiness exercise at Volk Field in May received a letter of appreciation for their performance.

Tech. Sgt. Dave Taylor and Tech. Sgt. Scott Inwards conducted a cardiopulmonary resuscitation class for several unit members.

Tech. Sgt. Charles Schuppan received a certificate of appreciation for his performance during a deployment in Spain.

Services

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Dennis Shaw for earning a score of 90 percent on his career development course test.

Aeromedical

Lt. Col. Nina Gilberg received the Meritorious Service Medal.

Maj. Dennis Brown received the Air Force Reserve Command's Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron award for 2003.

Civil engineer

The unit welcomed new member Staff Sgt. Tobie Arfstrom to the fire de-

Operations

Maj. Mark Vijums received the Air Force Commendation Medal.

September events to remember

Sept. 5 - Labor Day holiday

Sept. 11 - 934th Airlift Wing River Boat Cruise

Sept. 12 - Wing Family Day

Sept. 14 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 18 - U.S. Air Force's birthday

Mission support making difference, demonstrates results of teamwork

By Col. Teresa Hams
934th Mission Support Group
commander

The members of the 934th Airlift Wing are true patriots. They are not afraid to work hard and are committed to making a difference. What a great team!

This teamwork, dedication to duty and excellence is certainly evident at the 934th Mission Support Group. Every member of the group makes me proud to be in the mission support business. They are all winners, and they do a fabulous job every day.

Our mobility machine is the best I have seen. Everyone on the team often burns the midnight oil and sacrifices weekends to care for our folks who are leaving or returning home from worldwide deployments.

Five members of transportation faced danger every day as part of Army convoys in the desert. They have even defended convoys under attack. They have demonstrated a selfless commitment to serve.

Several services squadron members spent the last three months at the port mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Del. They have prepared more than 180 fallen comrades for their final trip home. I am honored to serve with them.

Our aerial port squadron works tirelessly at home and abroad. They move essential people and thousands of tons of cargo to deployed locations around the world. To accomplish its mission overseas, unit members transported hundreds of thousands of passengers and countless tons of cargo



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer A. Johnson

Senior Airman Josh Gese, 934th Security Forces Squadron, checks an individual's identification card at the base's front gate.

and mail.

Our logistics readiness squadron issued and received more than 3 million gallons of jet fuel and 40,000 gallons of ground fuel products. They transitioned 1,300 parts when the wing converted from flying C-130 E models to the H models. LRS also put together 4,605 mobility bags, issued more than 1,000 camouflage uniforms, shipped tons of equipment and processed at least 1,300 passengers in the past year.

Our Family Support Center staff and volunteers often work overtime to ensure military family members always receive the support they need. Phone cards and telephone calls to family members have helped remind people we care. Our warfighters and their families also appreciate the great send-offs and welcomes that the cen-

ter helps coordinate.

Our security forces have not had a break since 9-11. They have tough schedules, defend three gates and have a job that demands perfect response. Yet they remain strong and ever vigilant.

Our civil engineer squadron has made a difference in Honduras, the desert and Volk Field. Its numerous projects continue to enhance quality of life for everyone on base and helped our wing win the Air Force Reserve Command's Installation Excellence Award.

Our communication squadron has kept us operational at home and abroad. Communication is essential to make any mission work and we appreciate what the squadron has done for us. Our services squadron won six command-level awards this year.

We are also blessed with many civilians and other unsung heroes in our wing who provide day-to-day support for the mission. Thanks to the staff agencies, those who answer phones, pick up mail, prepare orders, or take care of our food, fitness, recreation, clothing and lodging needs.

It takes more than one person to ensure a group's success and everyone in the 934th MSG has played an important role in the group's and our wing's success. It is amazing to see what people can achieve when they work together. Football coach Vince Lombardi once said, "Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." It is also what makes a superb group, like the mission support group, work.

Clothing rules for deployed Airmen revised

By Staff Sgt. Todd C. Lopez
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA - Airmen deploying to the Central Command area of responsibility must now ensure their clothing follows a new dress and appearance policy.

The most significant change requires Airmen to wear either desert camouflage uniforms or physical training gear while on an Air Force installation in Southwest Asia, said Lt. Gen. Buck Buchanan, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander.

When the Air Force physical training uniform is made available, it and Desert Combat Uniforms will be the only authorized clothing for Airmen assigned to units in theater, unless they are specifically authorized to wear something else, the general said.

General Buchanan's new policy ensures the Airmen's attire portrays a positive military image and supports the area's force-protection posture.

"As a military community, we are increasingly taking on the role of U.S. ambassadors," General Buchanan wrote in the policy letter. "We must also ensure protection of our forces. Accordingly, I have reviewed proper order and discipline requirements and force protection policies, in regards to dress and appearance, to ensure every possible step has been taken to portray a positive military image and to protect the personnel assigned to this command."

At Army installations in the region, the Army dress and appearance requirements, which parallel the new CENTAF

policies, will be the standard for deployed Airmen.

Because the Air Force PT uniform is still in development, Airmen are authorized to wear civilian-style PT gear as long as it is conservative, professional and with only minimal and appropriate decoration.

Shirts must have sleeves and be predominantly a solid color. Shorts must reach to the mid or lower thigh and can not be made of spandex, the general said.

“ This policy ensures our Airmen’s dress and appearance give the same professional impression that their tireless accomplishment of the mission does every day. ”

- Lt. Gen. Buck Buchanan,
U.S. Central Command
Air Forces commander

For duty-related tasks that require civilian clothing, for military travel in and out of the theater, and for locations where Airmen are authorized to leave the installa-

tion for cultural or recreational activities, they must wear conservative clothing.

The policy defines “conservative” as sleeved shirts and dress pants or jeans, which fit properly and are a solid, dark color and are in good repair. Shoes should also be conservative and sturdy. Well-maintained sneakers or hiking boots are recommended while open-toed shoes, sandals and flip-flops are prohibited.

The policy gives installation commanders the leeway to authorize people to wear civilian clothing for specific official duties or visits, special activities and specialized PT such as swimming, weight lifting, basketball and volleyball. The clothing authorized in these instances will be conservative as defined and posted by installation commanders.

A new policy letter specifically states that Airmen deploying to the AOR should bring only a “minimum amount of civilian clothing,” defined as no more than two dress outfits and/or two casual outfits, not including standard or specialized PT gear.

“How military members present themselves both on and off duty continues to be an important part of the effect our presence has at locations across the globe,” General Buchanan said. “This policy ensures our Airmen’s dress and appearance give the same professional impression that their tireless accomplishment of the mission does every day. And as importantly, the conservative, low profile it creates reinforces our force-protection goals and operations in the theater.”

More information or a copy of the policy letter is available at local military personnel flights.



Win prizes while participating in activities this summer.

Play the services squadron's

Around the World In 90 Days.

Those who participate in one of the ATWIND activities, programs or events, receive a game piece as a reward.

They can then register their game piece and be eligible to win a variety of prizes.

For game details or to play ATWIND, call (888) 597-9960 or go online to www.atwind.com.

Medical member earns AFRC award

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer A. Johnson
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

An administrator at the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron was recently named the Air Force Reserve Command's Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron for 2003.

Maj. Dennis Brown knew he was a contender for the award, but he said he was still shocked when he learned he won it.

His co-workers, however, were not surprised.

"I can't think of a recipient more deserving of this award," said Senior Master Sgt. James Gustafson, 934th ASTS chief of health services management. "He continually brings out the best in the unit and everyone in it through his leadership and positive attitude."

Major Brown left his mark in history by being a key player in establishing the first Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility at a forward deployed location.

"He was out there making it happen," Sergeant Gustafson said.

The facility provides expanded medical attention to critically wounded soldiers while they are waiting to be transported to a major medical facility, Major Brown said.

Major Brown has a long list of achievements. For instance, he volunteered for a home station active duty tour in support of Operation Noble Eagle. He also planned and coordinated the deployment of more 40 medical staff members in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Moreover, he wrote and initiated the first training program for aeromedical evacuation operations officers assigned to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson

Maj. Dennis Brown, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron administrator, writes a report. He was recently named the 2003 Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to an ASTS.

a CASE. This training program included flight launch recovery, base operations procedures and safety procedures for all C-141 and C-130 missions. He also flew combat aeromedical evacuation missions as part of the program.

In addition, he revamped his unit's manday use procedures and instituted a streamlined tracking system that saved his unit more than \$15,000.

Knowing he saves lives makes his job unforgettable, the major said. He added that he could not do his job without the help of his fellow comrades.

"Everyone here is deserving of this award," he said.

According to Major Brown, the key to having a successful working environment is working hand-in-hand with each other, maintaining a family-like atmosphere and respecting each other.

"I really like people," he said. "I don't care if you are an airman basic or a full colonel, I respect everyone."

Sergeant Gustafson said Major Brown not only works closely with people at the 934th ASTS, but he is also a "fantastic 'reservoir of knowledge and experience,' making him 'critical to the unit's success.'"

The award will be presented officially to Major Brown in November.

UTA schedule

Primary UTA

Sept. 11 and 12	April 30 and May 1
Oct. 2 and 3	June 4 and 5
Nov. 6 and 7	July 23 and 24
Dec. 4 and 5	Aug. 13 and 14
Jan. 8 and 9, 2005	Sept. 10 and 11
Feb. 5 and 6	
March 5 and 6	
April 2 and 3	

Alternate UTA

Sept. 24 and 25	May 21 and 22
Oct. 16 and 17	June 18 and 19
Nov. 13 and 14	July 30 and 31
Dec. 11 and 12	Aug. 20 and 21
Jan. 22 and 23, 2005	Sept. 24 and 25
Feb. 19 and 20	
March 19 and 20	
April 16 and 17	

Some extended guardsmen, reservists may get GI Bill boost

By Rudi Williams
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON - Some guardsmen and reservists whose active-duty time is extended past the normal 12-month call-up may be eligible for active-duty-level benefits of the Montgomery GI Bill.

Currently, those participating in the active-duty GI Bill receive \$800 or \$985 per month for full-time training, depending on their length of service. But reserve-component people receive only \$282 per month for full-time training, said Dennis Douglass, VA deputy director for education service.

Reserve-component people are now eligible for the greater active-duty benefit when their active-duty time is extended to 24 or more months, Mr. Douglass said.

The Montgomery GI Bill historically has been broken into the Montgomery GI Bill for active duty and the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve.

The reserve version is for troops assigned to the Selected Reserve of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the Army and Air National Guard. It provides education and training opportunities for servicemembers who completed high school.

"The active-duty bill is a program designed for those who enlist in active military service for a period of two-plus years," Mr. Douglass said. "If they only serve two years, they get a lesser benefit than an individual who signs up for three or more years."

He said the authors of the two programs never imagined reservists and guardsmen would be called to active duty for extended periods of time as they have been in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

An estimated 15,000 to 18,000 guardsmen and reservists have been called to active duty and stayed active for a period of two years or longer.

The Chapter 30 program, or the GI Bill program for active-duty servicemembers and

veterans, is currently paying \$800 per month for full-time training for those who serve two years. Those who serve three years or more receive \$985 per month.

Mr. Douglass said the \$282 reserve-component people get per month is a "dramatic difference" in the level of benefits.

"Another interesting difference in the two programs is that in the Selective Reserve program, eligibility starts when the military tells us to start it," Mr. Douglass said.

High-school graduates are eligible for benefits after they complete their initial period of active duty for training and have been assigned to a Reserve or Guard organization, he said. Eligibility for active-duty people, however, does not begin until after they have served for two years.

Reserve-component call-ups have been averaging nine to 12 months, Mr. Douglass said. It would be "a disservice" to guardsmen and reservists to take their \$100 per month for

the Montgomery GI Bill, as is done for active-duty people, he said.

That is because at nine or 12 months, they have no hope of being eligible for the greater benefit of the (active-duty) Montgomery GI Bill.

However, some people have been activated for an initial period of 12 months and then extended for another 12 months. Defense Department and services officials are offering those people participation in the GI Bill.

"(The military) would begin to deduct \$100 per month from the servicemembers' pay, just as they do for active-duty servicemembers," he said.

Upon release from active duty, they would be eligible for the greater benefit if they completed their 24 months of active duty without a break in service. However, Senate Bill S-2099, if it becomes law, would make guardsmen and reservists eligible for the active-duty Montgomery GI Bill if they serve 24 months on active duty in any five-year period, he said.

New civilian system promises many improvements

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The new National Security Personnel System will improve the working environment within the Defense Department and create a more satisfied, more productive work force, Navy Secretary Gordon England said July 7.

"That's what this is about: great job satisfaction," he said. "We want everybody to go home every night and brag about the great job they accomplished that day. That is what we are trying to accomplish."

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. It will introduce sweeping changes to the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires its 700,000 civilian workers, doing away with antiquated practices Secretary England said have bogged down the department for decades.

For example, it will consolidate nine separate personnel systems that now govern DOD civilian workers. Streamlining these systems into one "will make it easier to manage and certainly (will be) better for

our employees," Secretary England said.

The system will include faster procedures for hiring new workers, pay based on performance rather than tenure and "pay bands" to replace the current general-service pay scale, he said.

By the year's end, Secretary England said he expects to publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations for the new civilian human resources, labor-management relations, and employee appeals and grievance systems.

DOD will phase in the new system starting in summer 2005 through late 2008.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

VIP visit

U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney steps off an aircraft with his wife and grandchildren after the aircraft landed at the base during his visit to Minneapolis July 16. Col. James Muscatell, 934th Airlift Wing commander, greeted the vice president, who spoke briefly with him about troop morale.

Congratulations to everyone selected for promotion!

Senior master sergeant

Dale Place, Lee Traxler-Siehndel and Mark Syvertson

Master sergeant

Rodney Bledsoe, Raymond Cleveland, David Hanson-Best, Robert Lafniere, Jay Redfield, Denise Sanders, Richard Waldoch and Bradley Weis

Technical sergeant

Brian Hill, Christopher Jack, Glen Kramlinger, Bart Murnion, Craig Slavik and Diane Ward

Staff sergeant

David Barrett, Eric Fisher, Travis Hurley, Kurt Lahners, William Lohse, Bradley Taplick, Derrick Warren and Ricky Zenner

Senior airman

Stephanie Barnes, Anthony Degaetano, Thomas Flermoen, Derek Fore, Joseph Hillstrom, Bradley Mortenson, Donald Saragosa, Sarah Schelske, Matthew Sutton and Quentin Will

Airman first class

Elizabeth Camacho, Amy Gillette and David Lein



Self-defense: Learn how to stay safe, fight off attacker

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer A. Johnson
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Whether in a dark alley, a person's home or in public, thousands of women are assaulted every year in the United States, and no one is immune to these attacks.

In light of this, several members of the 934th Security Forces Squadron conducted a two-part sexual assault and deterrence workshop at the 934th Airlift Wing. The event was designed to show women how to protect themselves during dangerous situations.

Master Sgt. Donald Scott, 934th SFS, said he has seen many crimes as a 10-year veteran of the Chicago police force.

"The inhumanity that takes place against each other will blow your mind," Sergeant Scott said.

To help keep women at the wing safe from an attack, Sergeant Scott offered the following tips during the first portion of the workshop June 6:

* **Create a sense of presence.** – If a person looks, feels and acts like she can fight at any given moment, a would-be attacker will think twice before attempting anything.

* **Sixth sense** – Avoid a person or situation that does not feel safe. One's instincts are usually right.

* **Do not go with the attacker.** – If escape is not an option, the person should stay at the primary crime scene because she is less likely to be killed or injured there than if she goes to another location with the attacker.

* **Attract attention** – If at all possible, run away. Otherwise, do anything to attract attention, including yelling or throwing a rock through a window or at a car to set off an alarm.

* **Surviving is more important than material things.** – If an attacker tries to take a woman's purse, she should throw the purse and try to escape while

the attacker is not looking.

* **Target spots** – Since male attackers usually expect to get hit in the groin, women should aim for the attacker's eyes first and groin second.

* **Pepper spray** – Carry self-defense items and personal alarms that can be reached in a split second. Remember, anything, even a comb or shoe, can become a self-defense item during an attack.

* **Home invasion** – Before allowing anyone into a home, verify the identity of the person who is at the other side of the door. Ensure the person has a valid reason to be there. Maintain a safe room that has a strong door, deadbolt lock, phone and some sort of self-defense item, such as pepper spray or a fire extinguisher.

* **Car jacking** – Since most carjackers approach a vehicle in the driver's blind spot at an intersection, always keep doors locked and windows up when in a vehicle.

* **Hotels** – An attacker may pretend to be a hotel employee. Place a door wedge under the hotel door, always keep the door locked and verify the identity of anyone requesting to enter the room. If a woman feels suspicious, uncomfortable or frightened, she should immediately call hotel security.

* **Cyberspace** – The Internet can be another hunting ground for predators to seek victims, so never use real names or provide personal information, such as an address or phone number.

* **Take a self-defense class** – The fitness center offers these classes. Call (612) 713-1496.

At the second portion of the workshop held July 11, women from the wing learned self-defense skills during a hands-on demonstration.

"This adds a whole new element to the training," said Master Sgt. Mike Gullickson, 934th SFS. "Now, they get to experience what it feels like to fend off someone and defend themselves."

Before the mock attacks, the women were shown various self-defense techniques. This included learning which points to hit on an attacker's body, like the neck, shin or foot.

"I was amazed on how the points really put someone off balance," said Tech. Sgt. Bonny Jamison, a 27th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation specialist.

Sergeant Jamison said the knowledge she learned from the workshop will be valuable in the event she is attacked in real life.

Sergeant Gullickson said knowing these tips and techniques is "another tool in the shed" and may ultimately be the difference between becoming a victim or staying safe.





Left: Master Sgt. Mike Gullickson (right) and Senior Master Sgt. Ken Olson, members of the 934th Security Forces Squadron, demonstrate self-defense techniques during a workshop that teaches women how to defend themselves in the event they are attacked.



Above: Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Billy Yerby pretends to be an attacker to show personal items, like keys or shoes, can be used as self-defense weapons. Below: If an attacker grabs a woman's arm, she should place her free hand on his grip. With the hand that he grabbed, she should hold on to his arm tightly and push down with both hands. The attacker will be forced to loosen his grip.



Airman warns of employment scam

By Jeanne Grimes
Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center
Public Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. - Posting his resumé online seemed like a savvy move for one Airman who plans to separate in August, move to Dallas and start college.

However, instead of leads to gainful employment, the experience took Senior Airman Christopher Kissell dangerously close to the unwanted role of a scam victim. Now he wants his experience to be a warning to other servicemembers re-entering the civilian work force.

"It's a terrifying situation," said Airman Kissell, a medical administrator with the 72nd Medical Group. "How many like me are out there? A percentage of people, I'm sure, will fall for it."

Airman Kissell said it all began when he posted his resumé online. The resumé included the fact that he speaks Chinese.

"I got a reply from this company saying they were looking for someone to help out with international relations," he said.

That initial e-mail referred glowingly to the resumé. Airman Kissell was informed Chempacon GMBH, the purported company in Laurenbach, Germany, did not require him to have a college degree, just a willingness to work. The position required someone who was bilingual and experienced at working with peers in other countries.

Airman Kissell received a condensed

application to fill out and fax to the company, which included a request for faxed copies of his driver's license and social se-

kept his discovery to himself and e-mailed the company, asking for a job description.

He said what came back shocked him again — this time the company considered him gullible.

"They were going to send me foreign checks to deposit in my personal checking account," Airman Kissell said.

He said he was told to then send the company a wire transfer for the amount of the check, less \$600.

"I said, 'No,'" he continued. "It was my only redeeming remark."

He had already learned from his research that the checks for tens of thousands of dollars were no good and people who deposited one into their bank account and then withdrew the funds to complete the wire transfer were held responsible for the bank's loss when the check bounced.

Airman Kissell alerted the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and filed a fraudulent business complaint with the FBI. He also complained to employment search Web sites.

He believes he came away from the encounter a wiser man. As a precaution, he canceled all of his credit cards and reopened accounts with new numbers.

His job search continues, but he has taken it from online to in person. On week-ends, he drives to Dallas to hunt for jobs the old fashioned way.

"You have to research anytime you're looking for a job," he said. "Nothing beats a sit-down face-to-face with a potential employer."

“It's a terrifying situation. How many like me are out there? A percentage of people, I'm sure, will fall for it.”

- Airman Christopher Kissell,
72nd Medical Group

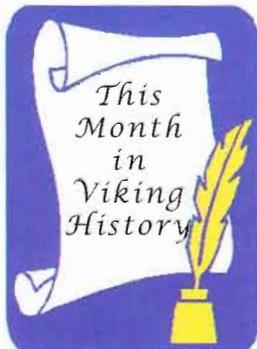
curity cards. He complied, but first he blacked out the numbers.

"All this time, I was going through an 'interview' process and would get e-mails from company contacts," he said. "They said they'd love to hire me, but wanted me to give them my social security number for tax reasons."

By then, Airman Kissell said warning bells were echoing in his head. He went to an online search engine, typed in Chempacon GMBH and said he was shocked at what came up.

"Every result I found warned, 'Beware. This is a scam. Job seek fraud,'" he said.

Determined to learn more, the Airman



Provided by
Master Sgt. Russ Funaro
934th Airlift Wing historian

August 1994

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing were named winners of the annual Rodeo Air Drop competition held at McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Clothing sales stores began selling the new Air Force dress uniform.

The wing implemented a two hours-off policy in an effort to adopt new "quality" ideas. If a reservist submitted an idea and it was put into practice, the individual was given a paid two-hour time off.

101 Critical Days of Summer:

Defensive driving keep motorists safe

By Cristina Oxta
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

According to the National Safety Council, an estimated 41,000 people die in motor vehicle crashes each year and more than two million more suffer disabling injuries.

The council's Web site indicated that high speeds, impaired or careless driving and not using seatbelts threaten all drivers, regardless of how careful or how skilled they may be.

As such, the council advises motorists to drive defensively. This means motorists should take responsibility for themselves and their actions, as well as "keep an eye on the other guy."

To help keep motorists at the 934th Airlift Wing stay safe on the roads, Jan Dalton at the wing safety office offered the following defensive driving tips:



Look ahead. – Look ahead of your vehicle, at least 12 to 15 seconds, to identify trouble ahead. Employ IPDE. This means Identify objects in or near your path of travel, such as animals and people; Predict how these objects may affect your driving; Decide a course of action to best protect yourself; and Execute your decision before approaching the object.

Get the big picture. – Know what

is going on in front, beside and behind your vehicle. Look to both sides and check the mirrors frequently.

Keep your eyes moving. – Develop a good scanning habit, and avoid staring at one object for too long. Hopefully, you can "see" your way out of trouble.

Be seen and heard. – Avoid driving in another vehicle's blind spot. Use headlights, tail lights and turn signals to signal your intentions. Use the horn only as a warning device, not to tell other drivers they are getting on your nerves.

Leave a way out. – Anticipate possible conflicts in the road ahead and select an alternate path of travel should the possibility become reality. Maintain a at least a two-second following distance behind the car in front of you.

For more safety tips, call (612) 713-1284, visit the safety Web site at the wing home page or look in the safety folder on the base electronic bulletin board.

Rules restrict political activity for DOD employees

By Donna Miles
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON - With election activity picking up, defense officials remind servicemembers and Defense Department civilians that they are subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

According to Steve Epstein, director of the DOD's general counsel's standards of conduct office, two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DOD directive for active-duty servicemembers and the Hatch Act for federal civilians.

These rules keep the military out of partisan politics and ensure that the

workplace remains politically neutral, he said.

Mr. Epstein said DOD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they choose, and to encourage others to vote. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues, but only if they do not do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates.

Beyond that, the list of restrictions differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty servicemember, a rank-and-file civil service employee, political appointee or member of the career senior executive service.

Of all DOD employees, uniformed servicemembers have the most restrictions regarding political activity, Mr. Epstein said. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act freed most civil service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace that were once forbidden. But many restrictions still apply.

For example, government civilians and servicemembers can attend political meetings or rallies. Servicemembers can attend only as spectators and not in uniform. They cannot make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

Civilian employees governed by the Hatch Act may be active in and speak

before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They can also manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Servicemembers generally are not permitted to campaign for a political office. Civilian employees are allowed to do so, as long as it is a nonpartisan election.

While the restrictions concerning political activity may vary, Mr. Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DOD workers. They cannot use their position to influence or interfere with an election. And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle or while wearing an official uniform.

Reserve forces taking advantage of Veterans Affairs home loans

“ I’d expect that those interested in buying a home would go to the trouble of finding out exactly what it takes to use the home loan benefits. ”

- Keith Pedigo, director,
VA Loan Guaranty Service

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - There has been a dramatic increase in the amount of Department of Veterans Affairs home loans to National Guardsmen and reservists in recent years, a top department official said.

The amount would increase even more if they knew that being on active duty dramatically reduces the time it takes for them to become eligible for the loans, said Keith Pedigo, director of the VA Loan Guaranty Service.

He said VA officials try to get the word out to all guardsmen and reservists, but it is difficult to reach all of them because they are spread out across the country.

“I would guess that many of them are not aware of the requirements for a home loan,” Mr. Pedigo said. “However, I’d expect that those interested in buying a home would go to the trouble to find out exactly what it takes to use the home loan benefit.”

Normally, guardsmen and reservists must serve six years before becoming eligible for a VA home loan, Mr. Pedigo said. But, he said, that requirement changes dramatically when they are called

to active duty during wartime.

“They’re then subject to the same eligibility requirements as a regular active-duty servicemember,” he said. “During wartime, you only have to serve for 90 days to become eligible for a VA home loan.”

Those who are discharged with a service-connected disability with less than 90 days service are also eligible, Mr. Pedigo said.

During peacetime, the eligibility requirement is 181 days of continuous active duty with an honorable discharge. Eligibility is also granted to those who are discharged with a service-connected disability with less than 181 days service.

Mr. Pedigo said VA officials are making “more and more” loan guarantees for guardsmen and reservists, and they expect that number to continue to climb.

Currently, approximately 3.5 percent of VA-backed loans are made to those who qualified based on National Guard or reserve service, he said.

There are some differences in the basic eligibility requirements between home loans for active-duty and reserve-component troops, Mr. Pedigo said.

He said the best way for guardsmen and reservists to find out if they qualify for a home loan is to submit an application for a certificate of eligibility to one of the two VA Eligibility Centers. The center in Winston-Salem, N.C., handles states east of the Mississippi River. The Los Angeles center handles states west of the Mississippi.

“They should submit the application along with a copy of their service record,” Mr. Pedigo said.

The certificate of eligibility proves eligibility for the home loan benefit.

Another difference between the reserve-component and active-duty benefit is in the amount of fees paid. Reservists pay a slightly higher fee.

The fee consists of a certain percentage of the loan amount: 2.75 percent for National Guard and reserve

servicemembers, 2 percent for others.

These percentages can be lowered with down payments of 5 or 10 percent.

The fee does not have to come out of the military member’s pocket, Mr. Pedigo said. It can be included in the loan amount.

There are also minor changes to the program during wartime. For instance, reserve-component troops are eligible to benefit from the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, which affords certain financial benefits.

Under the act, active-duty servicemembers can get an interest-rate reduction on their consumer credit obligations, including mortgages.

Activated guardsmen and reservists “can get a stay on an impending foreclosure and have an opportunity to wait until they’re discharged in order to get back on their feet financially,” he said.

Mr. Pedigo said financial institutions are more sympathetic to guardsmen and reservists during wartime.

“We have a very active outreach program with the mortgage-lending community, as well as the real estate profession,” he said.

An estimated 5,000 mortgage bankers and other financial institutions participate in the VA home loan program.

VA officials encourage financial institutions across the country to participate in the home-loan program.

“Real estate sales professionals are often the first point of contact with veterans or (servicemembers) who are interested in buying a home,” Mr. Pedigo said. “We want to make sure that the lenders are aware of the numerous aspects of our program. Then they can promote this to the servicemember or veteran with accurate information.”

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the VA home loan program, which was created by the 1944 Serviceman’s Readjustment Act.

The VA has made 17.7 million loans to veterans.

New booklet to help families of deployed guardsmen, reservists

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Separations can be rough on any child whose parent is deployed overseas, but particularly for the estimated 500,000 sons and daughters of deployed National Guardsmen and reservists, said an expert on issues involving military families.

Many Guard and Reserve families lack the tight-knit support network that helps active-duty families during deployments, said Dr. Mary Keller, executive director of the Military Child Education Coalition. This can lead to difficulty adjusting to what Dr. Keller called their "suddenly military" status. As a result, she said, they can feel isolated and unsure of where to turn for help.

A new booklet is now available to help communities reach out to Reserve and Guard families during deployments. The coalition produced the booklet after repeated requests from military-family representatives, educators and community groups, Dr. Keller said.

The 12-page brochure, "How Communities Can Support the Children and Families of Those Serving in the National Guard and Reserves," explains the dynamics of the deployment process in easy-to-understand language.

It offers tips for educators and other concerned community members on how they can help children and families of deployed servicemembers. It also lists military and community resources for families of deployed troops.

Dr. Keller said the brochure serves as a companion guide to another popular coalition publication, "How to Prepare Our Children and Stay Involved in Their Education During Deployment." That guide is a favorite of First Lady Laura Bush, whom Dr. Keller said has read from it during visits to military bases.

"The brochure will help families and community members better understand our military, our servicemembers' role



Photo by Joe Gray

Tech. Sgt. Michael Cleveland, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, reunites with his family after returning home from deployment in April.

and the challenges they and their families face," said Rex Hodge at the 934th Airlift Wing Family Support Center. "It also provides valuable information for community members on how they can show their support or assist military families in their time of need."

Both booklets reflect the courageous spirit Dr. Keller said children of deployed troops demonstrate every day.

"Our goal is to help them through this transition in their lives and this period of separation," she said.

The brochure is posted online at www.militarychild.org. Copies of it and other materials designed to help military families are also available at the Family Support Center. (*Cristina Oxta, 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.*)

Military sources:

* **Air National Guard**

www.ang.af.mil

* **Army National Guard**

www.arng.army.mil

Air Force Reserve

www.afreserve.com/home4.asp

* **Army Reserve**

www4.army.mil/USAR/home/

index.php

* **Coast Guard Reserve**

www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/

reshmpg.html

* **Marine Reserve**

www.navalreserve.com/ps

* **National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve**

www.esgr.org



Family Day

The wing will host its annual Family Day Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the softball field.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reservists eat free. Meals for adults are \$3 each and meals for children ages 2 through 12 are \$2 each.

There will also be entertainment, including music from an Air Force band, a fire truck, book sale, dodgeball, wood projects, face painting, finger painting and games.

For more information, call the services squadron at (612) 713-1119.

Barber shop

The barber shop's regular hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call (612) 726-9023.

Cruise

The wing will host a river boat cruise Sept. 11. The boat departs from Harriet Island in St. Paul at 6:30 p.m. and return at 8:30 p.m.

Dining will be buffet style. The cost is \$50 per person for officers and chiefs, \$40 per person for noncommissioned officers, \$30 per person for junior enlisted, \$35 per person for civilians who are not air reserve technicians.

Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be allocated by squadron based on unit size.

Attire is business casual. No T-shirts or sweatshirts allowed. Alcohol cannot be brought on board. A cash bar

Viking Vibes



will be available.

For additional information, talk to a unit first sergeant.

Supply store

The base supply store will host its semi-annual Customer Appreciation Day Aug. 25 from 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Guests can speak with vendors and enjoy food and beverages.

For more details, call the store at (612) 970-4011.

Space A

Lodging may accept and confirm reservations for Priority Space Available guests up to 30 days in advance of the arrival date for up to three-night's accommodation, space permitting. This is based on actual and projected occupancy.

For reservations, call (888) AF Lodge or (612) 726-9440.

Nose art

The wing is looking for creative ideas and/or sample drawings for nose art for the wing's eight new aircraft.

At least two submissions will be selected and the winners will receive a Flying Viking tail flashing.

There are no limits to the number of entries an individual can submit.

All entries must be in good taste and submitted by Sept. 13 to Maj. Jeffrey Higgins. Call (612) 713-1314.

Fundraiser

The wing will conduct a jail-and-bail fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 8. Proceeds will go toward the wing river boat cruise.

For a donation, wing members can have someone "arrested" or help keep someone "in jail." "Jail time" donations are \$1 a minute or \$10 for 15 minutes.

Individuals "stay in jail" for a maximum of two hours. Those "jailed" can match the amount someone paid to "put them in jail."

For more details, call Master Sgt. Tamera Besser at (612) 713-1201 or Master Sgt. Don Scott at (612) 713-1807.

Employer's Day

This event is designed to educate and thank employers for their support of reservists. Activities for the Aug. 7 event include breakfast and briefings with the wing commander and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve officials, as well as a C-130 orientation flight, lunch and a tour of the reservist's workplace.

Call public affairs at (612) 713-1217 for more details.

Retirees

An event in honor of Retiree Appreciation Day will be held Sept. 18 the St. Paul Armory from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be a guest speaker, informative sessions on veterans benefits, legal services available to retirees, Tricare and much more.

To register, call (612) 713-1516 or (800) 231-3517.

Hog roast

The Flower and Garden Club will host a hog roast at the Officers' Club Aug. 17.

The social starts at 4:30 p.m. and dinner served at 6 p.m.

The menu includes hor sliced roast hog, fresh corn, sauerkraut, potato salad, apple sauce, rolls and coffee. There will also be door prizes.

Call Erwin Helmken at (651) 777-5476.

Corn Feed

A Corn Feed and Bratwurst Fest to raise money for the Civilian Welfare Fund will be held at the grassy area by the Family Support Center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 12.

Meals cost \$3 per person. Participants are encouraged to bring canned goods for the food shelf. Call Mollie Wheelock at (612) 713-1291 for additional information.

Voting

Military members stationed overseas are encouraged to register for absentee ballots. Deadlines and state specific rules on voter registration are at www.fbap.gov.

Volunteers

The Human Resource Development Council needs volunteers for its recruiting, retention, mentoring and special observances committees.

HRDC makes recommendations to the Chief of Air Force Reserve on matters related to work force development, diversity and career progression of reserve personnel.

Call Col. Kristin Rudin at (612) 713-1298 or Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson at (612) 713-1217.

Softball: big hit with all services

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

The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 858 intramural softball team finished second overall in its inaugural season as part of the base's armed forces softball league.

The team's record for the

eight-week season was 7-5.

Organized as a way to improve morale and foster positive relationships between people on base, the team accomplished the three objectives Russ Funaro, team founder and head coach, set for them.

His goals were to ensure everyone played, everyone got a hit, and the team beat each team at least once.

"We accomplished our goals in the first month of the season. Then we focused on

having fun," Funaro said.

Third baseman Chuck Super said, "It was a lot of fun. It started out very promising as we won three of our first four games over teams we would traditionally lose to."

Funaro recalled a fond moment during the season when Super made a game-saving catch.

"The bases were loaded. There were two outs and the game-winning run was on second base. The ball was hit over

Super's head and he jumped about three feet in the air snagging the ball and ending the game," Funaro said. "That was quite a play, one of the memorable ones. It was a great season."

According to Super, the interaction with other service branches on base helped make the season fun. The other three teams were the Army, Air Force recruiters and Marines, with whom Super's team had a friendly rivalry.

"It seems there was always something going on whenever we played the Marines," Super said. "There were some heated disputes. Sometimes, we would win, and other times, we would lose. It's like fighting with my brothers. We would fight and then act like nothing happened. We made a lot of good friends from the Marines. We are rivals on the field, but we got really close."

Billy Yerby, coach for the Marines, said he and his team enjoyed playing against the Air Force.

"It was nice to see the camaraderie between the two services. The two battled on the field, but when it was all over, they shook hands like proper sportsmen," he said.

Funaro is looking forward to next season. In fact, he is already setting new goals for his team.

"I'd like to see the team go to the next level," he said. "We had 28 people play this year, but I'd like to get a core of 12 to 15 people and play them all year. This year, the team was put together in a hurry. A lot of people weren't aware that we even had a base team. Hopefully, this year's success will create the interest for next year."

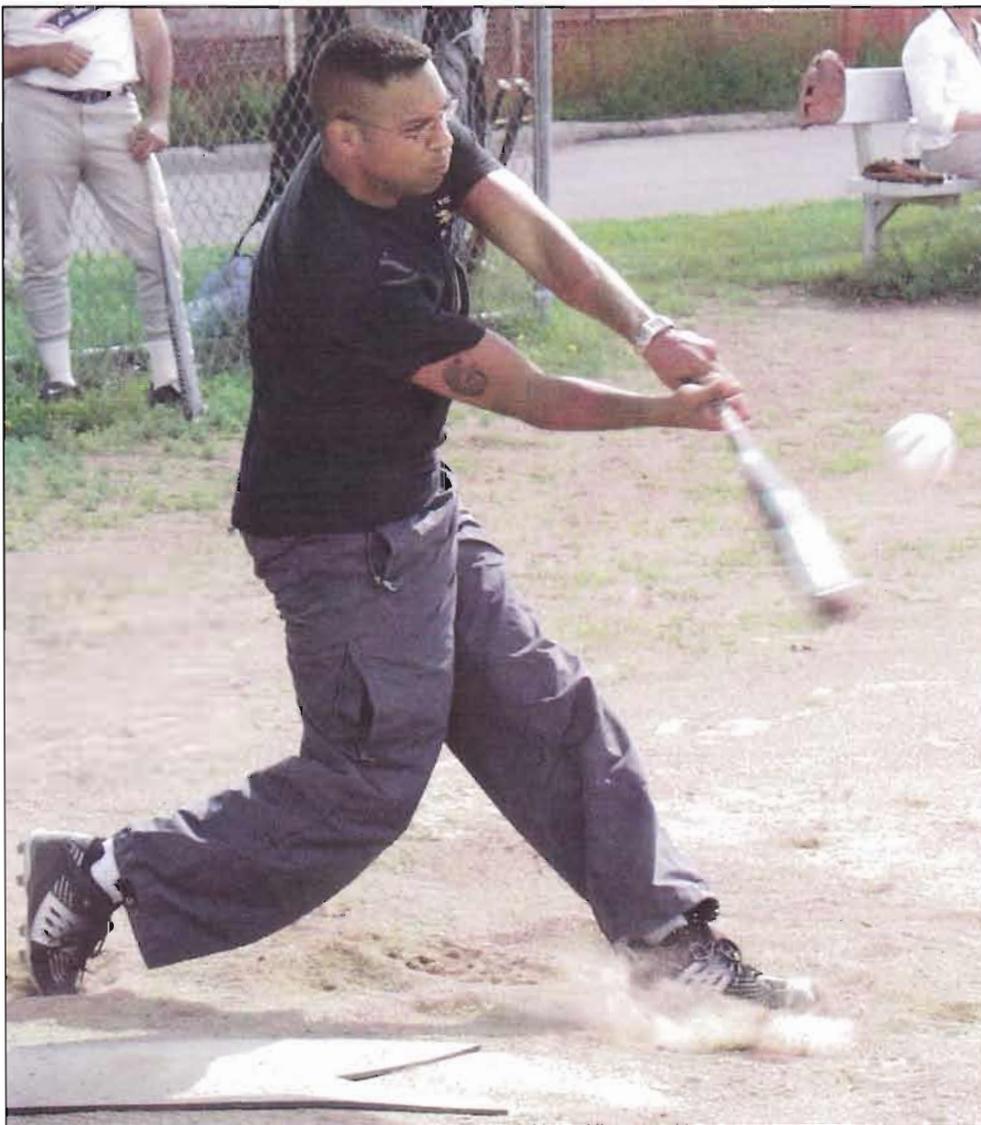


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

John Brown of the Air Force Sergeants Association intramural softball team takes a swing at the ball at a recent game against the Marines.

GO FISH



An all-you-can-eat fish buffet is offered every Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. The cost is \$5.95 for club members.

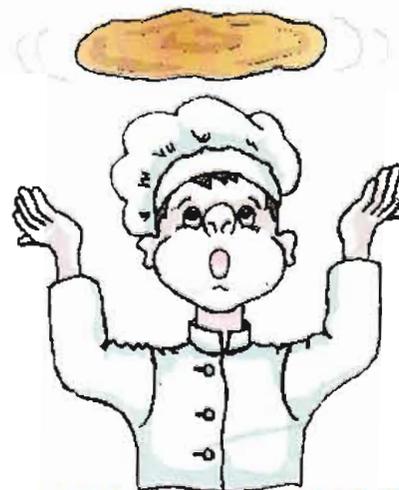
Call (612) 713-1655 for more details.

August club events

Aug. 6 - Outdoor Recreation building grand opening from 10 to 11 a.m. Enjoy giveaways and free pizza and soda.

Aug. 18 - Membership Night at the Officers' Club

Aug. 25 - Mongolian barbecue from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Officers' Club



Chill Out Lounge and Pizzeria now open at the Enlisted Club

Pizza

**Tuesday through Friday
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Delivery available during lunch hours.

Pizza and Pasta

**Wednesday through Saturday
4 to 9 p.m. in the club lounge**

For pizza orders, call (612) 713-1672.

934th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs office
760 Military Highway
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

PRST STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Helmer Printing

To the family of: