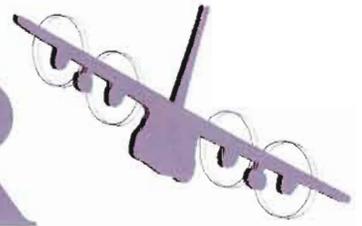




VIKING FLYER



934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.

September 2004, Vol. 26 No. 9

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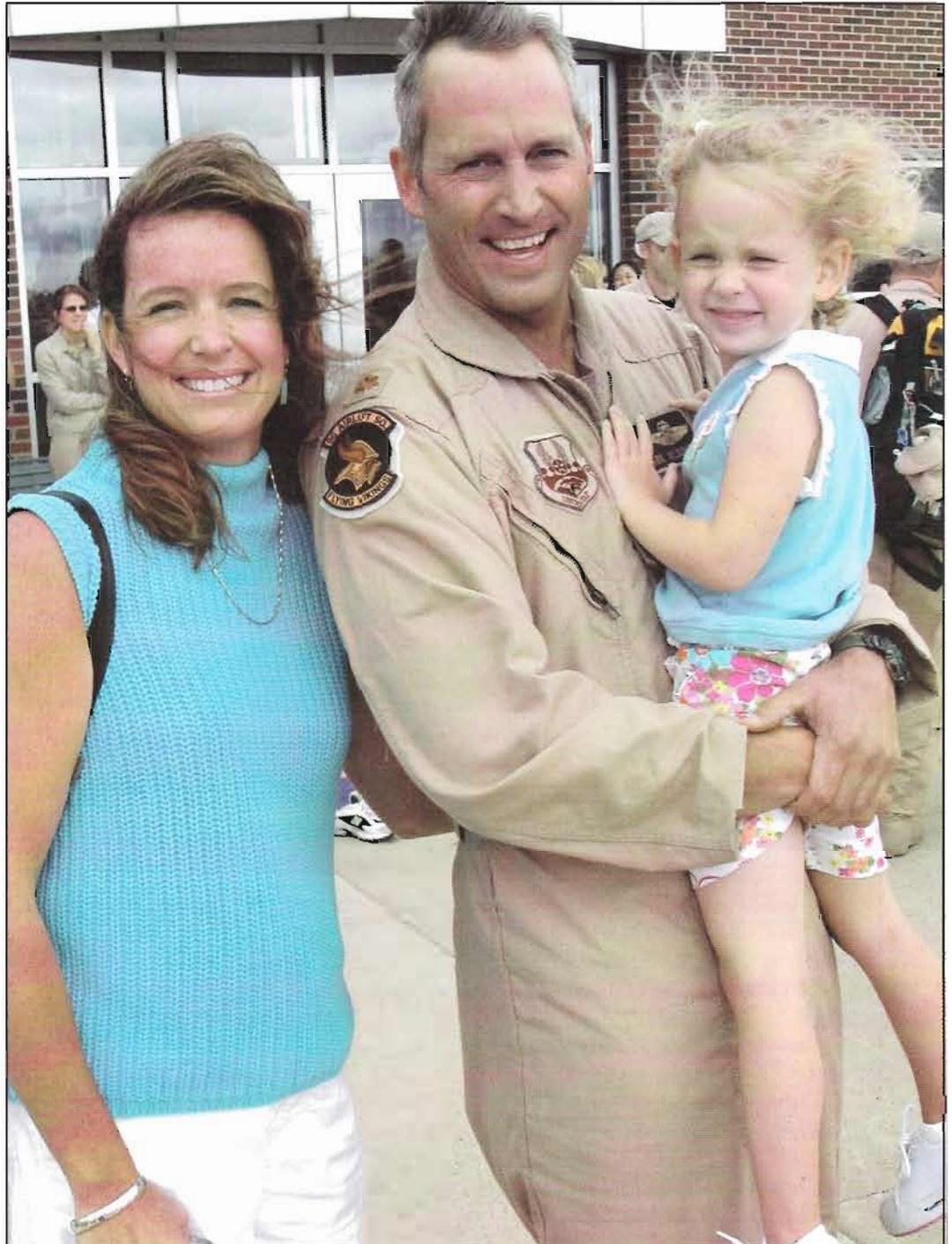


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams

Family reunion

Maj. Mark Vijums of the 934th Operations Support Flight, his wife, Robin, and daughter, Karisa, reunite when the major returned Aug. 9 from a deployment in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



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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.

The *Viking Flyer* is mailed to reservists' homes. Copies are also available at various locations on base. To receive an electronic copy of the *Viking Flyer*, send an e-mail to cristina.oxtra@minneapolis.af.mil.

All photos are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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

Communication

Staff Sgt. Christian Krug received a certificate of appreciation for his performance during a deployment in Kuwait. He also graduated from the Leadership Development Program course recently.

Staff Sgt. John Herrick graduated from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Tyson-McGhee Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

Aircraft maintenance

The squadron currently has more than 20 members deployed. It received the Outstanding Unit Award for its members' service in Oman.

The squadron provided support for a presidential visit at the base Aug. 4 by taking care of numerous transient aircraft and cooperating with the Secret Service for a secure, safe and problem free visit.

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Karpinski, Master Sgt. Mike Starr and Tech. Sgt. Todd Kopperud received Air Force One coins.

Sergeant Karpinski, Sergeant Starr, Master Sgt. Priebe, Sgt. Kopperud, Tech. Sgt. Timothy Giles and Tech. Sgt. Joseph Mohlis received the Headquarters U.S. Air Force Presidential Flight Support Certificate of Appreciation.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Lafreniere was selected for promotion to master sergeant.

Staff Sgt. John Cheney, Staff Sgt. Keegan Leahy, Senior Airman Ken McIntosh and Senior Airman Mike McGough graduated from the Leadership Development Program course.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Lucas Carey and Rebecca Sands on their marriage Aug. 28.

Aerial evacuation

Lt. Col. Cleo Bonham, squadron commander, retired after 22 years of military service. The squadron hosted a retirement party in her honor and squadron members said they were sad to see her leave.

Welcome to new squadron members, Senior Airman Holly Meyer and Senior Airman Nate Johnson.

Five squadron members deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The squadron raised funds for the wing riverboat cruise by participating in the Jail-and-Bail during the August UTA. Squadron members who were "jailed" included Lt. Col. Marjorie Boldenow, Maj. Anthony Trezza, Maj. Patrick Klick, Master Sgt. Christopher Sayre and Master Sgt. Denise Sanders.

Civil engineer

The squadron welcomed new member, Senior Airman Gabriel Anderson to the fire department. Airman Anderson separated from active duty and his last assignment was at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Tech. Sgt. Shawn Conway and Staff Sgt. Jason Rohman graduated from the Leadership Development Program course.

Senior Master Sgt. Clarence Super received two letters of appreciation for his volunteer service with the Honor Guard.

Squadron members bid farewell to Chief Master Sgt. David Skirka, base fire chief, when he retired after a 38-year career. He received the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his retirement. His fellow Chiefs' Council members, family and friends, along with squadron members, attended his retirement ceremony and party.



**Happy 57th
Birthday,
Air Force!**

The U.S. Air Force
celebrates its birthday Sept. 18.

Chief loses battle with disease, wins hearts of many in Air Force

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

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Bohnen, superintendent of nursing services at the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, died of coronary artery disease July 29. He was 56.

"Chief Bohnen was an icon of the 934th Airlift Wing," said Col. James Muscatell Jr., 934th Airlift Wing commander. "His leadership, can-do attitude and his ability to work with people will not just be missed here at the wing, but throughout the entire Air Force."

Chief Bohnen began his career in the Navy during the Vietnam era and arrived at the 934th ASTS in 1981 after a break in service.

In 1982, he joined the 47th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, the precursor to the 934th AES. He left AES in August 2000, when he transferred back to ASTS.

“ He will be sadly missed as our chief, as a great mentor and, most of all, as a friend. ”

- Col. Jorge Llambes,
934th ASTS commander

Promoted to chief master sergeant on March 1, 2001, Chief Bohnen spent his career serving people.

"He was a trusted leader for our members," said Senior Master Sgt. James Gustafson, 934th ASTS health services manager. "I've never heard anyone say anything bad about him, his leadership style and his decisions. He was well respected."

He added, "His death is an enormous loss. His leadership crossed all ranks of enlisted personnel from Airmen to senior noncommissioned officers. His people-focus



Courtesy photo

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Bohnen poses by tanks during a deployment in Kuwait in 2003. The chief died of coronary artery disease July 29.

as chief master sergeant just truly stood out. He will be deeply missed."

After returning from Kuwait in December 2003, Chief Bohnen was a regular presence at the unit. His orders were set to expire in September.

In a letter addressed to ASTS members, Col. Jorge Llambes, ASTS commander, wrote, "Like all of you, I am deeply saddened and grieve for Chief Dan's untimely death. His passing away brings a great void to our 934th family. He will be sadly missed as our chief, as a great mentor and,

most of all, as a friend...I ask all the members of our ASTS family to support each other and Dan's family during this time of sadness and grieving."

Chief Bohnen is survived by his wife, Lt. Col. Anne Jones, 934th AES, a brother and several sisters.

A funeral was held at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Aug. 4.

The chief's family requests that all memorials be sent to either the American Heart Association or the Alzheimer's Association.

Hispanic Heritage Month:

Honoring Hispanics' contributions to freedom

By Col. Jose R. Aragon
Pacific Air Forces
Financial Analysis Division

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — Many Hispanic Americans have been drawn to military service for myriad of reasons — to seek opportunities for education, growth, advancement, skills and professional success. Other factors include a sense of patriotism, love of country and hunger to serve.

Hispanic Americans have contributed gallantly to our nation's defense. We have 40 Medal of Honor recipients, more than any other demographic segment.

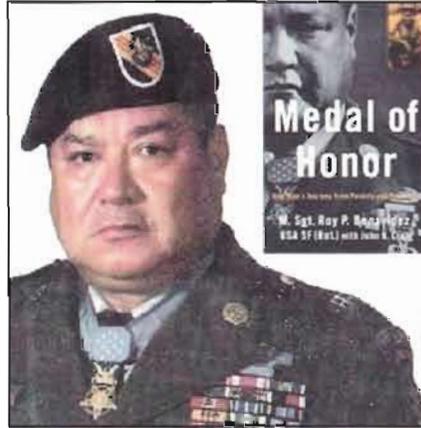
The military and civilian contributions of Hispanic Americans reflect a deep commitment to the principles of freedom and democracy. From the American Revolution to the global war on terrorism, Hispanic Americans have risked and sacrificed their lives to defend freedom. Here are just a few achievements of some of these heroes.

The Civil War's most famous Hispanic was Adm. David Farragut. He served gallantly in the Civil War and was instrumental in capturing New Orleans and seizing control of the Mississippi River. He is immortalized in history for his war cry, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" He was the first admiral in the Navy. Congress created the rank for him in recognition of his contributions during the Civil War.

Loreta Velazquez was the first Hispanic female spy in U.S. history. She was a Cuban-born woman who disguised herself as a Confederate soldier and served as Lt. Harry Buford. Velazquez left her married, domestic life in San Antonio and fought in battles at Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, Fort Donelson and Shiloh.

Marine Pfc. Guy Gabaldon, a Los Angeles native, captured more than 1,000 Japanese in the South Pacific during World War II. After learning Japanese from his adopted Japanese family, he used it to obtain vital information on enemy positions that aided in that capture. He received a Silver Star for heroism.

In Silvis, a small town in northwestern Illinois, there is a street named Hero



Courtesy photo

Army Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1981 for his actions during the Vietnam War. Despite being wounded by enemy fire and after engaging the enemy in hand-to-hand combat, he saved the lives of several soldiers. He is the author of Medal of Honor: One Man's Journey from Poverty and Prejudice. He died in Texas in 1999.

Street, formerly known as Second Street. It is a block and a half long in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. Joe Gomez, Pete Macias, Johnny Munoz, Tony Pompa, Frank Sandoval, Joe Sandoval, William Sandoval and Claro Soliz grew up together in this close-knit community, working for the railroad, just as their fathers before them had done. They went to war in World War II and never returned.

Eighty-four men from the 22 families who resided on this street participated in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. This street has contributed more men to military service than any other place of comparable size in the United States.

In 2001, America lost a Latino who protected American lives many times over. His code name, Tango – Mike – Mike, stood for That Mean Mexican. This patriot, who was a Medal of Honor recipient, was Army Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez. In his book "Medal of Honor: One Man's Journey from Poverty to Prejudice," He wrote these memorable words:

"I believe that there is no greater call-



Courtesy photo

World War II hero Lucian Adams received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in St. Die, France, on Oct. 28, 1944, when the staff sergeant single-handedly knocked out the three machine gun emplacements that were destroying supply lines between several Army companies in the area.

ing for a man or woman to serve in the military of a free nation. I believe that it is a calling that transcends all others because embedded deep within the soul of every free man or woman is the knowledge that every freedom we have was earned for us by our ancestors, who paid some price for that freedom.

"Each generation must relearn those lessons, and they are best learned by doing. The strength of every free nation depends on this transfer of knowledge. Only through the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation will free men survive."

Each day, we have an extraordinary opportunity, an opportunity to be better than we were yesterday. We must all strive to improve ourselves and be the best we can be. That is how we can honor the memory of those who have given their lives to fight and defeat terrorism and ensure their sacrifices are not in vain. When opportunity knocks, we must be ready to answer the door.



Hello, Minnesota!

President George W. Bush waves to the crowd as he steps off Air Force One. The president's aircraft landed at the base during his visit to Minnesota Aug. 4.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams

Congratulations to everyone selected for promotion!

Senior airman

Brian Haukoos, Aaron Korthals, Elizabeth Loveless,
Elizabeth Santoro and Robert Schaff

Airman

Kari Kuykendoll

Congratulations to Career Development Course Exam High Achievers!

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson scored 92 percent.
Staff Sgt. Douglas Ranke scored 91 percent.



Search for U.S. POWs, MIAs to resume soon in Vietnam

By Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Operations to account for missing Americans lost during the Vietnam War will soon resume in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, a U.S. official announced recently.

Technical experts from the United States and Vietnam will meet in September in Pleiku, Vietnam, to review cases and interview witnesses as an initial step.

Jerry D. Jennings, deputy assistant secretary of defense for prisoner of war and missing personnel affairs, met with Gia Lai Province officials in Pleiku July 27 to discuss the return of

American POW/MIA investigators, whose access had been denied for three years because of local unrest.

Senior province officials agreed operations will resume and that they should be conducted in the same manner as in the rest of the country.

"I am very pleased that Vietnamese officials both at the provincial and central government levels are again willing to allow us access to this sensitive region," Mr. Jennings said. "This is a very positive step."

Mr. Jennings has notified U.S. investigators to resume contacts with officials in Vietnam's central highlands in order to schedule operations.



Of the 1,855 Americans missing from the Vietnam War, some 110 are thought to be in the central highlands area.

Achieving the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans is of the highest na-

tional priority, officials said. Of the 88,000 missing from all conflicts, more than 125 are from the Cold War, 8,100 are from the Korean War and 78,000 are unaccounted-for from World War II.

Reservists can get medical, dental reimbursement

By Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — National Guard and Reserve members who paid their medical and dental bills and saved their receipts may now seek reimbursement from Tricare, officials of the military health care system announced recently.

Officials said the system will begin processing medical and dental claims for Guard and Reserve members who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Only guardsmen and reservists issued "delayed-effective-date active-duty orders" for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, and their families, may be eligible to have medical claims reimbursed. And according to Tricare officials, only those medical expenses incurred during the servicemember's "early eligibility" period — up to 60 days before reporting to active duty — from Nov. 6, 2003, to now are eligible for reimbursement.

This temporary entitlement is part of the Defense Department's 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program, which

sought to enhance benefits for Guard and Reserve troops called to active duty.

Normally, under Tricare guidelines, Reserve and Guard members cannot be enrolled into Tricare until they reach their final duty location. The temporary entitlement gives them access upon receipt of activation orders, up to 60 days in advance.

Last year, President George W. Bush signed legislation authorizing three new temporary provisions for guardsmen and reservists and their families that provided enhanced access to Tricare for a limited time during contingency activation. The provisions were made retroactive to Nov. 6, 2003.

A second provision temporarily extended eligibility for Tricare benefits to 180 days for those guardsmen and reservists who separated from active-duty status Nov. 6, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2004.

The third provision extends Tricare medical benefits to reserve component sponsors and family members who are either unemployed or employed but not eligible for employer-provided health coverage. All temporary provisions end Dec. 31.

However, the measure did include three provisions for permanent health benefits: making benefit counselors available for Guard and Reserve members in each Tricare region, authorizing medical and dental screening and care for members alerted for mobilization, and providing Tricare eligibility for reserve officers pending orders to active duty following commissioning.

Guardsmen, reservists and their family members must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and be eligible for Tricare to qualify for the temporary benefit.

To apply for reimbursement, eligible members must submit a Tricare claim form, a copy of their itemized bill, an explanation of benefits, and proof of payment (if the bill was already paid) to their regional Tricare claims processor.

Claims processing instructions and a downloadable Tricare claims form, DD Form 2642, are available at local Tricare service centers or from Tricare regional contractors. They can also be downloaded from the Tricare Web site.

AF approves Humanitarian Service Medal for Operation Enduring Freedom

By Air Force Personnel Center
News Service

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force has authorized wear of the Humanitarian Service medal for Operation Enduring Freedom.

During OEF, hundreds of Airmen participated in the packaging and delivery of nearly 2.5 million individual Human Daily Rations that were air-dropped in Afghanistan. The medal recognizes this and other humanitarian operations that took place from Oct. 7, 2001 to May 31, 2002.

To qualify for the medal, Airmen must

have been assigned or attached to a unit participating in the humanitarian efforts and have provided direct, hands-on participation in the relief actions that affected locations within the land area, airspace or waters of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Gulf of Oman or the Arabian Sea designated as 20 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude.

Other Airmen, such as aircrews, who may be approved are those who were in direct support of OEF humanitarian operations from stateside locations, or deployed overseas and were assigned to or working from one of the following loca-

tions: Combined Air Operations Center, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Regional Air Movement Control Center, Al Udeid, Qatar; 437th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron or 37th Airlift Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany; 351st Air Refueling Squadron, RAF Mildenhall UK; 2nd Space Operations Squadron, Falcon Air Force Base, Colo.; 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.; 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, McChord AFB, Wash.

For more information, contact the local military personnel flight's awards and decorations section or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.



Photo by Roger Hanson

Habitat helper

Maj. Jeffrey Higgins, 934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, measures lumber at a Habitat for Humanity build site in St. Paul. Thirty-two wing members volunteered this summer to help build a home for a family in need.

Employers cross into blue, learn about Air Force at Employers' Day

By Cristina Oxta
934th Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Thirty-six employers from the local area got a taste of what it is like to be in the Air Force Reserve. They participated in the 934th Airlift Wing's annual Employers' Day Aug. 7.

The event is held to thank employers for their support of the reservists in their offices and businesses. It also helps educate employers about the Air Force Reserve's mission and its role in the nation's defense.

During the event, employers listened to several briefings and went through a mock mobility line, where they received dog tags, shot records and briefings to prepare them for their mock deployment to a fictitious base in Morocco.

They also flew aboard one of the wing's C-130s, had lunch with reservists and visited their workplaces.

David Gardner, a former member of the Navy now a business unit manager at Metropolitan Council in Eagan, said he enjoyed his Employers' Day experience.

"I'm a veteran myself and this showed me things I already knew — how highly motivated and trained people are in the Air Force. As far as I'm concerned, this showed you guys are the best of the best."

Master Sgt. Craig Molm, 934th Maintenance Operations Flight, said it is impor-

tant to have Employers' Day.

"It is good to help employers understand how important their employee is in the Reserve. Plus, it gives them a feel for what their employee does and his or her part in the Reserve," Sergeant Molm said.

Tech. Sgt. Steven Johnson, 934th Mission

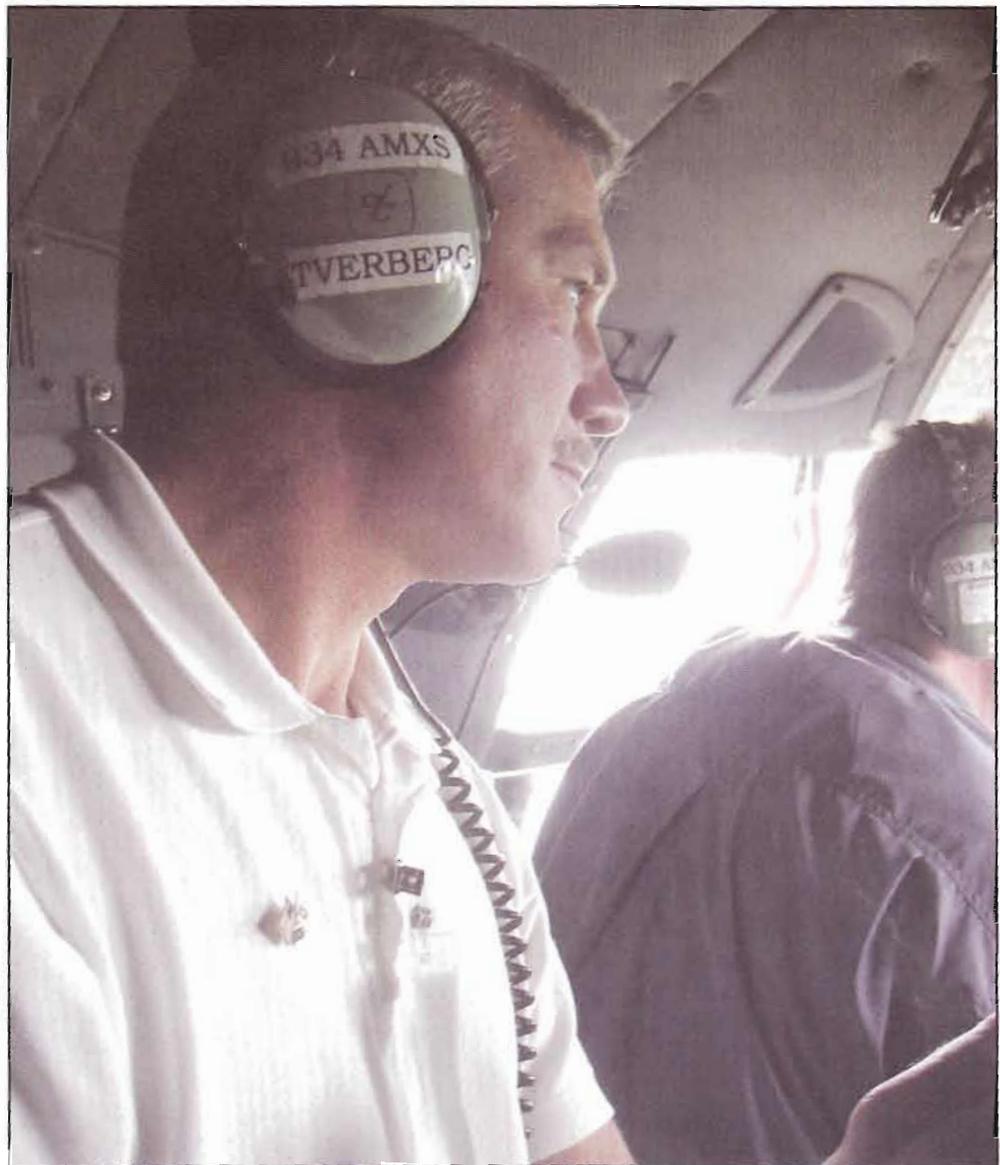
Support Flight, agreed.

"It was a great way to show employers what is going on here at the 934th, and I thought it was a huge success," he said.

Sergeant Johnson's employer, Jim Swanson at Goodrich Sensor Systems in Burnsville, shared with him his thoughts about the event.

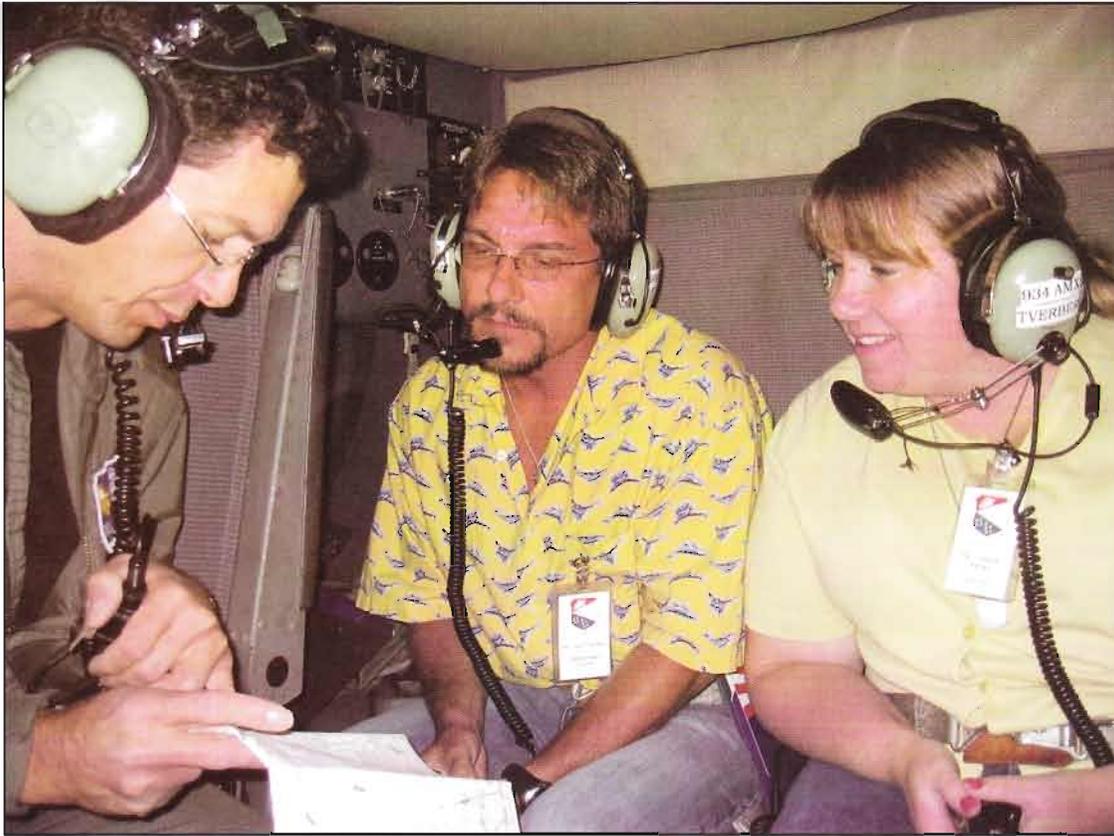
"He thought it was very informative, and he loved the C-130 ride. It was a lot of fun and eye opening," Sergeant Johnson said.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve thanked the employers by providing them with breakfast, lunch and souvenirs of their day with the 934th AW.



Photos by Staff Sgt. John Herrick

Ken Dose, a captain at the Rochester Fire Department, sits in a C-130 cockpit and observes the view as the aircraft flies over the local area.



Left: Employers David Gardner and Christina Ramler receive a briefing from an aircrew member aboard a C-130 during the 934th Airlift Wing's Employers' Day Aug. 7. Below: Maj. Rick Erredge of the military personnel flight and his staff brief employers before they leave for a mock deployment.



Military spouses can find ways to manage household during loved one's deployment

By Cristina Oxta
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Deployments can pose challenges for military members and their families, especially spouses.

For a spouses who is left behind, deployments mean making emotional adjustments and taking on more responsibilities. It can be a difficult daily balancing act, but spouses can find ways to make this task more manageable.

The following tips were obtained from a brochure that is available at the 934th Airlift Wing Family Support Center. These tips are designed to help spouses manage their household during their loved one's deployment.

Take care of yourself. – Eat right, exercise and get enough rest.

Treat yourself. – Have a special dinner or night out once in a while.

Find enjoyment. – Manage stress by setting aside time every day to do something enjoyable.

Take care of your children. – Make sure they get proper rest, nutrition and exercise. Set aside some time to spend with each individual child. Plan family activities.

Keep a deployment calendar or deployment map. – Doing so will help children better understand and deal emotionally with the other parent's absence. Deployment calendars and other similar items for children are available at base family support centers.

Stay safe. – Do not make it public knowledge that a loved one is deployed. Tell children to do the same and instruct them on what they should say to people, like on the telephone. Have and use a peephole on the front door. Keep doors locked with deadbolt locks.

Know who to call for help. – Always keep emergency phone numbers for police, fire department and ambulance close to the phone. Call the police or security forces for additional suggestions on staying safe or to report any suspicious activity.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams

Family members gather on the flight line Aug. 9 to cheer and greet their loved ones who were returning from a deployment in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Do not be afraid to ask for help. – Do not try to do everything yourself. Call a base family support center for any information or assistance.

In addition, talk to family, friends, a chaplain, a loved one's supervisor or first sergeant, neighbors, military spouses' club or spouses of other deployed servicemembers to get practical or emotional support.

To talk to a staff member at the 934th AW Family Support Center, call (612) 713-1516. The center offers a variety of reading materials and numerous programs that are designed to meet the needs of military members and their families in all kinds of circumstances.

To talk to a chaplain at the wing, call (612) 713-1226 or 1227. For a chaplain at the 133rd Airlift Wing at the Air National Guard, call (612) 713-2519 or 2520. To speak with a chaplain at the 88th Regional Support Command, Army Reserve, call (612) 713-3000. For the Officers' Spouses' Club, call (952) 831-5252.

Military information 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

* Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
www.esgr.org

Remembering World Trade Center:

Sergeant proposes memorial design while building on architectural dreams

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

When Staff Sgt. Bradley Taplick competed in his sixth grade spelling bee, he did not know he would spell a word that would change his life.

The sergeant from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron had no idea what architecture was when he spelled the word correctly, so later on, he looked it up in the dictionary.

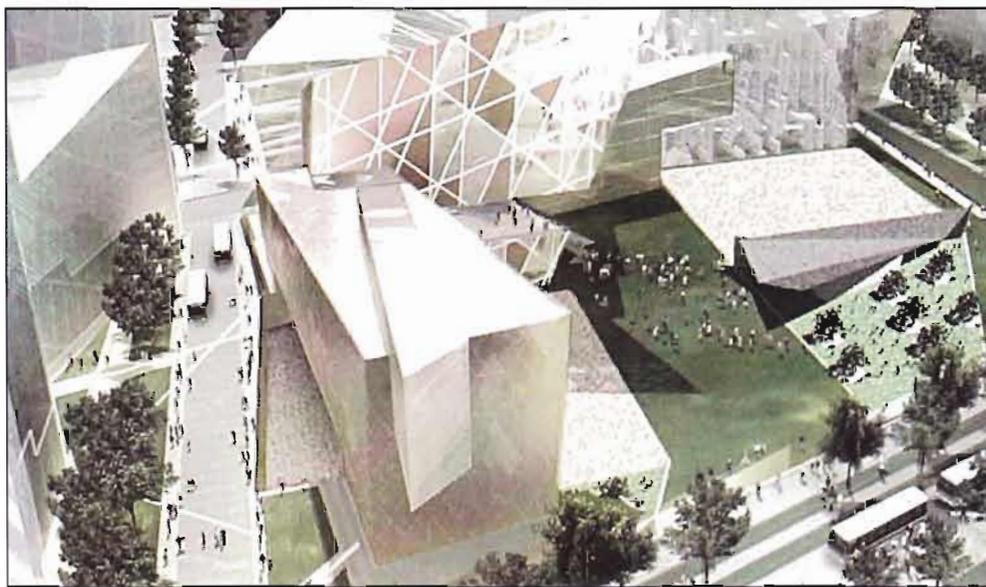
“Ever since then, I had a word to describe what I wanted to do in life,” he said.

Sergeant Taplick said the creative and artistic aspects of architecture interest him the most. But he also emphasized how much architecture can impact people’s daily lives.

“You aren’t just putting paint on the canvas for people to look at. You are building a sculpture that people work and live in. It takes art to a very large scale,” he said. “A lot of people don’t understand the aspects architects go through for design, but they would understand it if they worked in an office without windows. Wherever they go, they experience it.”

Many years after the spelling bee and with an undergraduate degree in architecture in hand, the sergeant is still pursuing his dreams. Currently, he attends the University of Minnesota to earn a master’s degree in architecture and works part time for an architectural firm.

But his dreams do not



Courtesy photo

Pictured is the design Staff Sgt. Bradley Taplick, 934th Aerial Port Squadron, and his friends created for the World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition.

stop there. Sergeant Taplick, who usually works on historic renovations, had the opportunity to follow another goal — to see if he and his best friend, Toby Van Sistine, could work together and perhaps establish their own company. They got a chance to try this idea when they, along with Toby’s wife, Heather, submitted a design in the recent World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition.

The competition judges selected a design for a single memorial that remembers and honors all loss of life in the World Trade Center terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 and Feb. 26, 1993. The competition received 5,201 submissions from 63 nations.

Despite countless e-mails, phone calls and faxes, creating the design proved the

three friends could work together even though they lived more than 300 miles away from each other. It also allowed them to work on a project marking an event that affected thousands of people worldwide.

“It didn’t just touch the hearts of Americans. It touched the hearts of the world,” said Sergeant Taplick. “Even if you didn’t know someone in New York or someone who died, we all know what it meant.”

Sergeant Taplick and his friends incorporated numerous symbolic images in their design to commemorate the people who died in the attacks. Their proposed design included using recycled metal from the fallen towers to create statues of people going about their daily lives. Each figure symbolized the 92

countries from which the victims originated.

The team also proposed having a visually changing Liberty Wall, on which people in the community could display their patriotic artwork and reflect on the tragedies.

Although Sergeant Taplick and his friends did not win the competition, he learned a great deal from the experience.

“It was a design competition that was true to the heart. It was probably true to the heart of everyone who entered,” he said. “A lot of my thinking that went into it was very emotionally based on the circumstances, and I pray those circumstances will never be recreated in the future.”

To see more of Sergeant Taplick and the Van Sistine’s design, go online to www.wtcsitememorial.org.

Association helps military retirees

By Mark Davidson
The Retired Enlisted Association

Retiring from the military does not mean becoming uninformed about military issues, activities or programs. There are many organizations that are dedicated to meeting the needs of military members, including retirees.

One of these organizations is The Retired Enlisted Association. The group has a direct connection to enlisted Air Force reservists who are continuing their military service. Two retired Air Force master sergeants, George Skonce and Dean Sorell, with the help of other retired enlisted personnel, founded the organization on Feb. 18, 1963.

As the TREA Web site at www.trea.org indicates, the purpose of TREA is to protect and ensure the health and welfare of all military personnel, especially retirees. TREA focuses mainly on issues of military health care, cost of living adjustments and other benefits and rights.

Any enlisted member of the Air Force Reserve and Guard or active duty with 10 or more years of retirement creditable service is eligible to join TREA.

"Just like the many other professional military organizations, TREA maintains that becoming a member is the most important step you can take because numbers count in Washington, D.C.," said Richard Habeck, president of TREA Central Minnesota Chapter 115.



"The more members we have, the more politicians pay attention."

TREA supports programs and legislations that benefit military members.

"TREA is fighting to lower the minimum guard and reserve retirement age," Mr. Habeck said. "In addition, TREA is supporting legislation that helps Guard and reserve personnel with the GI Bill, Tricare and tax credits."

TREA has two chapters in Minnesota. Chapter 96 is in Hibbing, Minn., and draws its members from the Iron Range and Duluth. Central Minnesota Chapter 115 represents the southern two-thirds of the state, including the Twin Cities area. Western Wisconsin reservists can join Chapter 115 or the TREA chapter in Eau Claire, Wis.

The Central Minnesota Chapter hopes to increase its membership to more than 300, Mr. Habeck said.

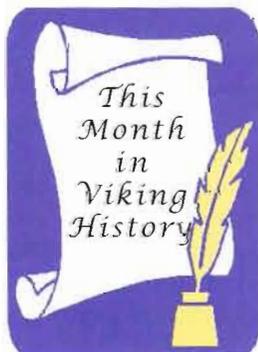
TREA mission statement:

"To enhance the quality of life for uniformed services enlisted personnel, their families and survivors, including active components and all retirees; to stop the erosion of earned benefits through our legislative efforts; to maintain our esprit de corps, dedication and patriotism; and to continue our devotion and allegiance to God and country."

"The chapter is only 4 years old and is looking for new members to show the politicians in Minnesota that the military, reserve, Guard, active duty and retired, is a force that needs to be heard," Mr. Habeck said. "Chapter 115 is also the host chapter for the international TREA convention that will be held September 2005 in St. Paul, and we need to get ready for that event."

TREA offers its members better money-saving benefits and services, Mr. Habeck said. TREA offers members discount plans in life and health insurance, Tricare supplement, dental and hearing care, and vision and eye care wear. It also offers discounts on auto and homeowners insurance, car rental and legal advice.

For information on joining TREA, call (952) 884-6077, send a letter to 10007 Harriet Ave. South, Bloomington, Minn. 55420 or e-mail Ldavidson7@juno.com.



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

September 1970

The Carrier Courier, the predecessor to the Viking Flyer, reports that the 934th Tactical Group, now the 934th Airlift Wing, is preparing to follow new Air Force grooming regulations.

The report cited Air Force officials saying there was a need to "amplify personal grooming regulations" because "society has reflected changes in hairstyles and the Air Force is part of that society."

Part of the new regulations stated, "Wigs or hair pieces may not be worn while on duty or in uniform, except to cover natural baldness or physical disfiguration. When worn under these conditions, a wig must conform to Air Force standards."



Safety: vital lesson for children

By Jan Dalton
934th Airlift Wing Safety office

Although the 101 Critical Days of Summer are over for the year, it does not mean people can forget about safety, especially since school is back in session.

Whether their children walk, ride a bike or ride a school bus to school, parents are advised to teach their children safety guidelines.

Pedestrian injuries is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5 to 14. As such, children under age 10 should never cross the street alone, warned Ron Jester, safety specialist at University of Delaware Cooperative Extension.

"The majority of pedestrian injuries occur to children ages 5 to 9 because they dart into traffic," he said. "Accurate judgment about the speed and distance of approaching vehicles is difficult for children."

Parents should ensure their children know to obey all traffic signals and to stop, look, listen and look again before crossing the street. Children should be warned not to walk between parked cars where motorists cannot see them well. They should use crosswalks, be alert in all weather conditions and use streets where crossing guards are on duty.

Another way children travel to and from school is bicycling, and a good helmet is a must. Head injuries are the most common type of bicycling injury, and research shows wearing helmets reduce these injuries by 88 percent.

Bicyclists should ride by the side of the road with traffic (on the sidewalk for younger children), use hand signals to indicate turns and stops, and obey all traffic signs and signals. They should also look left, right and left again before crossing the street.

Perhaps the most common mode



Courtesy photo

Children should always be alert when walking to and from school.

of transportation for school children is the school bus. Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so.

The National Safety Council asks parents to teach their children the following school bus safety rules:

- * When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness.
- * Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.
- * Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches. Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- * Use the hand rail when stepping onto or off the bus.
- * When on the bus, find a seat and

sit down. Loud talking or other noise can distract the bus driver. Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.

* Keep aisles clear of books or bags. They are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.

* Before reaching their stop, children should get their books and belongings together.

* When the bus reaches a stop, children should wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from their seat.

* Children who must cross the street should walk at least 10 feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until they can turn around and see the driver. They should ensure that the driver can see them.

To learn more back-to-school safety tips, call the wing safety office at (612) 713-1284.



Viking Vibes



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 civilian personnel who are not air reserve technicians.

Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

For additional information, talk to a unit first sergeant.

Officers' spouses

The Officers' Spouses' Club always welcomes new members.

Spouses of U.S. Armed Forces officers who are members of the 934th Airlift Wing Officers' Club are eligible for membership.

For more information, call Lee Claar at (952) 831-5252.

Nose art

The wing is looking for creative ideas and 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 should be submitted by Sept. 13 to Maj. Jeffrey Higgins. Call (612) 713-1314 for more details.

Retirees

An event to celebrate 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.

Stop by the Sato Travel booth to register for prizes donated by Navigant/SATO Travel. Enter to win a \$100 rental car voucher or enter for a chance to win a trip for two to a resort in Antigua.

Voting

Military members stationed overseas are encour-

aged 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.

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

For more information or to join the HRDC, call Col. Kristin Rudin at (612) 713-1298 or Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson at (612) 713-1217.

Lodging

For reservations, call (612) 713-9440/1983/1984 or (888) AF-LODGE.

To cancel a reservation by phone, call (612) 713-1007. This line is dedicated for this purpose only. To cancel a reservation by fax, send it to (612) 713-1966.

UTA schedule

Primary UTA

Sept. 11 and 12
Oct. 2 and 3
Nov. 6 and 7
Dec. 4 and 5
Jan. 8 and 9, 2005
Feb. 5 and 6
March 5 and 6
April 2 and 3

April 30 and May 1
June 4 and 5
July 23 and 24
Aug. 13 and 14
Sept. 10 and 11

Alternate UTA

Sept. 24 and 25
Oct. 16 and 17
Nov. 13 and 14
Dec. 11 and 12
Jan. 22 and 23, 2005
Feb. 19 and 20
March 19 and 20
April 16 and 17

May 21 and 22
June 18 and 19
July 30 and 31
Aug. 20 and 21
Sept. 24 and 25

Tour de Iowa:

Reservists put 'pedal to metal' to support AF

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

It took her 350 miles to get there. But when Carolyn Lohman, 934th Mission Support Flight commander, stepped off a bus July 24 in Onawa, Iowa, she knew she still had 500 more miles to go.

This time, her mode of transportation would not be powered by a motor, but by her own muscles and endurance.

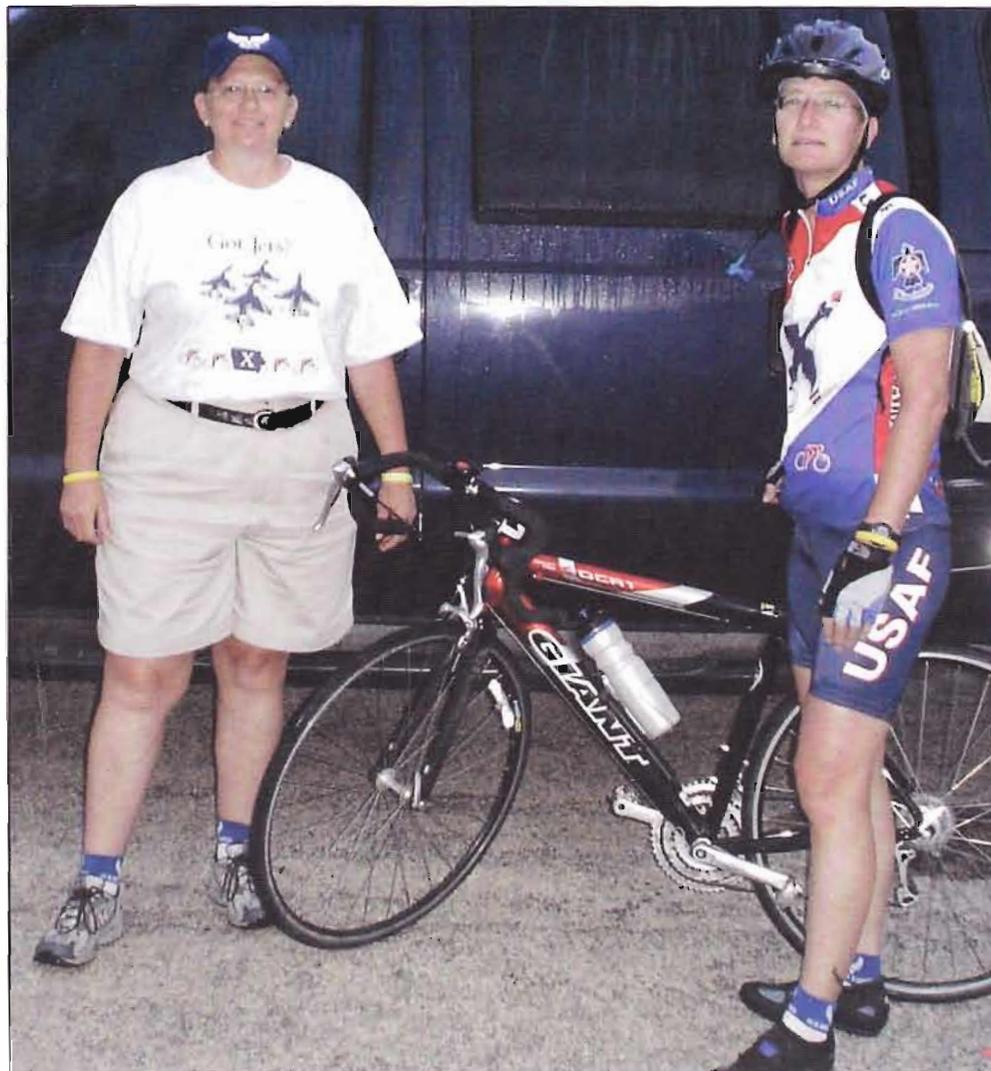
Lohman and fitness center manager, Ronna Puck, who was part of a support crew, were members of Team Air Force at the 32nd Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, better known as RAGBRAI.

From July 25 to 31, the more than 100-member Team Air Force, along with thousands of cyclists from across the world, gathered to complete one goal — to ride from one side of Iowa to the other. Team Air Force also had a second goal — to promote the Air Force.

"Most people think this is an active-duty Air Force plug, but I was able to promote the 934th Airlift Wing, too," Lohman said.

Lohman, who has participated in other rides, such as the Twin Cities to Chicago AIDS ride, said the most surprising aspects of RAGBRAI were the number of participants and the generosity of the Iowa people.

"They were just awesome," she said. "The people of Iowa and their hospitality were the most impressive things for me and are what made it a really positive experience. There was a lot of people along the



Courtesy photo

Ronna Puck (left) and Carolyn Lohman participated in the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa in July to support Air Force recruiting.

route who were really jazzed up about seeing the Air Force."

Ms. Puck was also awed by the patriotism she experienced. She said there were times when she felt like a celebrity, like when someone wanted to take her picture because she was part of Team Air Force.

"People would come up to us and thank us for everything that we do for the country," she said. "We went through one small town and there was a gentleman who stood and sa-

luted us. I would have to say that was one of the most memorable experiences."

Not only did the communities support the Air Force, but they pulled out all the stops for all the RAGBRAI participants throughout the 55-town trip.

"Whole towns would come out to support the activities that each city did to support the ride," Lohman said.

The towns had different themes. For example, Eagle Grove imitated the Andy

Griffith Show. City council members dressed up like the characters from the 1960s TV show. There was even a makeshift jail and an old squad car.

Before reaching the end of the road in Clinton, Team Air Force formed up. The cyclists, dressed in specially-designed cycling uniforms, lined up in twos and were led by three-wheelers that sported the U.S. and Air Force flags. The team crossed the finish line together as spectators cheered them on.

September UTA Menu at
the Viking Inn

Lunch:

**Roast turkey
Herb baked chicken
Stuffed cabbage rolls
Mashed potatoes
Black-eyed peas/Rice
Cauliflower, Sweet potatoes,
Mixed vegetables**

Short order:

Cannonball sandwiches

Dinner:

Sandwiches, Chips



Renaissance Festival discount tickets at fitness center

**Tickets cost \$14.95 for adults and \$6.75 for children
ages 5 to 12. Food books cost \$5.**

**The festival will be held in Shakopee, Minn., from 9 a.m. to
7 p.m. now through Sept. 26.**

For more details, call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496.



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