

Vol. 21, No. 1/January 1999

VIKING FLYER



934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.

Student reservists

*It's a win-win situation
— students earn money,
gain experience;
wing benefits from
fresh talent*

► Pages 5-6



Staff Sgt. Robert Waiz

Col. Richard Moss,
Wing commander
Capt. Rob Clark,
Director of PA
Mark Davidson,
Chief of PA
Cherie Huntington,
Editor/PA specialist
Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch,
NCOIC
Master Sgt. Tim Turner,
Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly,
Tech. Sgt. Larry Dean,
Senior Airman Jeff Williams,
Public affairs staff
Staff Sgt. Robert Walz,
Photographer

On the cover

Senior Airman
Tricia Miller,
934th Aeromedical
Staging Squadron,
is one of many
students taking
advantage of the
Reserve's
education
benefits. For
more on student
recruits, see
Pages 5-6.



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. 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 Air Reserve Station, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2000, DSN 783-1217 (fax, Ext. 1425) or commercial (612) 713-1217.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for unsolicited submissions is Friday, one week prior to UTA. For editor, call (612) 713-1213 or e-mail: cherie.huntington@mfp.afres.af.mil

UTA schedule

Feb. 6-7 ▶ UTA entrees:
March 6-7 Saturday, beef or
April 10-11 chicken fajitas;
May 1-2 Sunday, baked
June 5-6 chicken or roast
July 10-11 beef.
Aug. 7-8
Sept. 11-12 ▶ UTA pay date:
Jan. 20.

934th Airlift Wing on the Internet:
[http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/
default.htm](http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/default.htm)

Commentary

Busy year ahead

Three main goals represent focus for 1999

Col. Richard Moss
Wing Commander

Happy
New
Year to
every-

one. I hope you had a safe and happy holiday season and enjoyed the time with family and friends.



Moss

This year promises to be another busy one for 934th members. In this fiscal year, we will deploy more than 770 people throughout the United States and overseas to provide support to the active duty for contingencies or through annual tour deployments.

We have numerous people supporting Operation Joint Forge in Germany and Italy, Operation Coronet Oak in Panama or Puerto Rico, and Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe in England. Reservists will deploy on annual tour to over 20 different locations in the United States. In addition, aircrews and maintenance people will fly all over the world providing airlift support. As you can see, the operations tempo will be high once again.

To meet this demanding operations tempo, there are three major goals for the wing covering the areas of facilities, training and equipment:

▶ The first major goal I have for the wing is to continue to improve our facilities to better support not only members of the 934th but also reservists and guardsmen of all services. Hopefully, we can get the necessary funding to complete the remaining phases of the new lodging facility. Thanks to the support of our elected representatives, we already have the necessary dollars to complete the first phase. By

obtaining the remaining required funds, we can not only improve the quality of life for those who commute to the base for training, but we can also save approximately \$1 million in the overall cost of the facility. In February, we hope to open the new fitness center to better provide for the health and well-being of reservists and guardsmen.

▶ The second major goal is to improve the planning process to better facilitate training for our people. One facet of this is already in progress with the development of a long-range planning calendar available to all on the base intranet. We will also develop an annual wing training plan that will incorporate all facets of mandatory ancillary training. This will allow us to make more productive use of training classes on our already busy unit training assemblies. Hopefully, these two initiatives will allow individuals to see the big picture and improve the quality and timeliness of training.

▶ The last major goal will be to continue to upgrade mobility equipment and aircraft assets. We need to ensure our people are provided the best possible equipment to do their job when they deploy. We need to identify any shortages in our mobility assets and actively pursue the required funding. Our 1962 C-130E-model aircraft are excellently maintained, but we need to continue to modify them to keep pace with changing requirements and threats in the world environment.

The challenges as we enter 1999 are varied and many. We must work together to achieve these goals as we strive to continue to be the best C-130 wing in the Air Force Reserve Command. It will be a demanding year for all. However, with the help of everyone, we can meet all tasking and make 1999 another banner year. □

Air Force

Fitness test enters trials

Eight Air Force bases worldwide have volunteered to serve as test sites this year as the service plans to add muscular fitness and flexibility tests to its annual physical fitness assessment. Members at the test bases will do push-ups, sit-ups and the sit-and-reach flexibility test in conjunction with their annual cycle ergometry testing. *(Air Force Print News)*

Uniform issues clarified

The Air Force Personnel Center is answering numerous questions about uniform items, indicating existence of widespread rumors about newer items. The following information should help clarify Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel:

- ▶ Battle Dress Uniform stripes for women are the 3 1/2- or 4-inch chevrons, while males may wear only the 4-inch chevrons.
- ▶ The white cardigan sweater may be worn as part of the maternity uniform but must be worn under an outergarment when worn outdoors.
- ▶ The blue cardigan sweater must be buttoned when worn outdoors.
- ▶ A slide-on cloth rank insignia worn on the tab of the GORE-TEX parka should be available in supply channels soon. However, members should check their major command supplement to AFI 6-2903 for specific policy.
- ▶ The green, cloth jungle combat boots are not planned for phaseout.
- ▶ There is no requirement to change the buttons on the mess dress jacket from the Air Force shield to the Hap Arnold buttons. It is permissible for people to buy the transformation kit and affix the newer buttons.

People with questions about the uniform may e-mail **Staff Sgt. Randy Larson**, noncommissioned officer in charge of dress and appearance, AFPC, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, at:

Randy.Larson@afpc.randolph.af.mil
(AFPC News Service)

Reserve

New enlisted leader chosen

The Air Force Reserve Command selected a new command chief master sergeant, effective Jan. 1. **Command Chief Master Sgt. Billy Blackburn** is the former first sergeant of AFRC Recruiting Squadron

and has been a reservist for 13 years. During his three-year tour of duty, he will work for **Maj. Gen. James Sherrard**, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, serving as a liaison among the commander, key staff members and the enlisted force. The command's highest-ranking enlisted person communicates with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force, and in turn ensures the commander's policies are known and understood by enlisted people.

"Coming from recruiting, I view retention as my greatest challenge, keeping those talented folks in the command," Blackburn said. "We also have some quality of life issues to tackle, and I will be relying on the first sergeants I've met and worked with over the years to provide me valuable information about those issues and other concerns."

Blackburn replaced **Chief Master Sgt. Carol Smits**, who remains at the headquarters as chief of international programs in the special projects division. Before Nov. 1, 1998, command chief master sergeants were referred to as senior enlisted advisors. *(AFRC News Service)*

Local

Wing hosts holiday projects

Several wing charity projects took place last month:

▶ The Civilian Welfare Fund Council hosted a holiday continental breakfast for base full-time employees, Dec. 10. Several boxes of food shelf items and \$190 were contributed to the Trinity Mission, St. Paul, Minn.

▶ Three members helped deliver food baskets to needy families in South Minneapolis, Dec. 18.

Master Sgt. Mike King and **Tech. Sgt. Tom Stratton**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron, and **Doug Wold**, 934th Maintenance Squadron and detailed to Base Supply, delivered 60 baskets.

▶ Services hosted the annual Toys for Tots drive on the base, with **Dave Theisen** as the project officer. Base members donated 600 toys and \$324. Members from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron, LSS and MXS delivered the toys and cash, Dec. 21.

Area code transition period ends

The area code split transition period ends Jan. 10, making it mandatory to dial the area code when calling outside the 612 area code on the base. To call the 651 area code, base callers dial "9" to get an off-base line, then dial 651 and the seven digit phone number. This is not a long-distance call. □

Promotion highlights equal opportunity value

The recent promotion of retired **Lt. Gen. Benjamin Davis Jr.** to general brings to the forefront equal opportunity in the military. Immediately following the signing of E.O. 9981, by **President Harry Truman** in 1948, the Air Force took the lead among the services in integrating its

force, according to personnel officials.

Davis graduated from West Point in 1936, 35th in his class of 276. His classmates shunned him for four years because of his race. He was the first black general in the Air Force, and the service was viewed as a trailblazer in integrating the military.

In 1949, the Air Force implemented a policy against discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The Air Force further demonstrated its commitment toward ensuring an environment of fair and equal

(OPPORTUNITY, continued on Page 8) ▶

Wing roundup

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Staff Sgt. Brady Kiel
The squadron loaded a Russian AN-124 aircraft with shoe boxes full of toys and personal items in support of Operation Christmas Child last unit training assembly. This month, members will deploy to Volk Field, Wis., to support a humanitarian airlift to Nicaragua.

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Senior Airman Shana Strozewski
The unit has been extremely busy packing everything to vacate the building as it undergoes renovation during the next four to six weeks. Our air reserve technician staff moved to Bldg. 852 last month, while our drills will be held in the Air Guard medical facility.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford
Most of the unit was busy packing and moving supplies and equipment. Although we will be displaced through April, our administrative office will be in Bldg. 852. Physicals will be done at the Air Guard facility.

96th Airlift Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jess Lind
Last UTA, the first rotation came back from Panama. Also that weekend, the unit flew to Eau Claire,

Wis., to "fly" some children to the North Pole.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews
The squadron completed installation of a sidewalk for the new combat arms building. Nine firefighters returned from an assignment at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y. Half of the unit has been involved in the pre-training tasks for our upcoming Silver Flag deployment to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., in January. Also, members raised \$180 for the Toys for Tots program.

934th Communications Flight

Staff Sgt. Robert Walz
Unit members began planning for the annual tour to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in March, and the mobility exercise in May.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Robert McGonigal
Three unit retirees — **Master Sgts. Dan Loftus and Terry Sturlaugson,** and **Tech. Sgt. Mark Williamson** — returned during December drill to receive accolades, certificates and medals.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken
Unit members recovered three aircraft returning from Panama on Sunday, Dec. 6, and also launched

an aircraft heading to North Island Naval Air Station, Calif.

934th Operations Support Flight

Tech. Sgt. Cara Utecht
The unit celebrated the holidays with retirees and members from maintenance, the flying squadron and logistics support. **Tech. Sgt. Vern Beal Sr.** will spend Christmas in Germany as a postal augmentee, returning Jan. 10.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Niklas Hammarberg
Classroom training was held during the drill on operations security, weapons safety/use of force, explosive safety, range line instructor, Law of Armed Conflict and Uniform Code of Military Justice, and blood-borne pathogens.

934th Services Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Pamela Peck
The wing has been selected to participate in the 1999 Readiness Challenge, and services will take part.

Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

Senior Master Sgt. Patricia Boettner
Extensive self-aid and buddy care training was held for unit members. We welcome **Staff Sgt. Jody Knight** to the unit, filling a critical vacancy in the orderly room. □



Wing around the world: January

- 27th APS:** Germany, Wisconsin
 - 934th AES:** Bosnia, Germany, Louisiana, Texas
 - 934th ASTS:** California, Texas
 - 96th AS:** California, Florida, Louisiana, Oregon, Panama, South Carolina, Wisconsin
 - 934th AW HQ/MSF:** No travel
 - 934th CES:** New York, Pennsylvania, Texas
 - 934th CF:** No travel
 - 934th LSS:** Florida
 - 934th MXS:** Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri
 - 934th OSF:** Germany
 - 934th SFS:** No travel
 - 934th SVS:** No travel
- This list shows official travel destinations for wing members, via commercial or military transportation. For space-available travel information, call the 96th Airlift Squadron at 713-1741 or the local Air National Guard wing at 713-2450. □*

Student airmen

Military service helps solve problem of funding college education

Cherie Huntington
Public Affairs

Friday night for a typical college student might be a time to relax with friends. For the economically challenged student, it could mean a long evening flipping burgers or delivering pizzas.

For others, it might mean putting a spit shine on combat boots, because on Saturday, Joe College becomes GI Joe.

College students traditionally view service in the reserve forces as a source of funds for school plus training and experience useful in a future civilian career. But there are benefits for the service as well, according to **Senior Master Sgt. Kay Martin**, senior recruiter for the 934th Airlift Wing.

"Students and non-prior service members help keep the unit fresh and flowing," said Martin. "We've got to have young people coming in all the time."

She cited the typical attributes of youth as beneficial to the service: resilience, energy, less resistance to change and openness to learning new things. "They can be a challenge, but that's good sometimes," Martin said. "We need to be knocked off dead center sometimes!"

Searching for fresh talent

Martin said wing recruiters are starting to become more heavily involved in seeking student-age recruits, and college kids usually present the best possibilities, though high schoolers also are eligible.

"We don't get many just out of high school," she said, adding that those youth may have big dreams of college and lucrative careers, so military service seldom interests them. They head off to school, and then reality sets in.

"A great many don't make it through college or vocational/technical school because they run out of money," Martin said. "At that point,

they're more interested in the military. They need help, and life's not the bed of roses they thought it would be."

Or at least, financing an education presents more thorns than expected — a problem the Reserve finds simple to remedy.

Pennies from heaven

A student reservist may find military service easily beats delivering pizzas.

First, GI Bill benefits provide a full-time student with \$251 a month in cash (*story, next page*). Then there's salary for the weekend each month and at least 15 annual tour days during the year. Finally, there are now 11 bonus specialties offering \$5,000 each to new recruits (*list, upper right*).

"Plus, what kids might not realize, we're providing training they can use on the outside," said Martin. "For example, not one of the bonus specialties is strictly for a military career, and we're paying them to go to school."

She said the training, experience and extra money help out, but there is at least one intangible. "This helps them mature at the same time," she said, "because they become so much more independent."

Taking the plunge

Martin encouraged interested students to sign up early to nail summer school class dates.

"But the chance of completing basic training and technical school in one summer is almost impossible," she said. "Training probably will interrupt at least a semester of school. While you may have to take a little time off from your current life, though, you'll come back with a skill you can use and money in the bank."

No matter what, the new recruit shouldn't encounter any unpleasant shocks. "They choose the job — we don't choose it for them," Martin said. "That a neat benefit of the Reserve program. No one is shoving a job down your throat, and there are no surprises."

Bonus Listing

Jan. 1-June 30

2A1X2 Avionics guidance/control
2A1X7 Avionics electronic warfare systems
2A6X6 Air conditioning, electrical and environmental systems
2T0X1 Traffic management
2T2X1 Air transportation
2T3X2A Special vehicle maintenance/fire trucks
2T3X5 Vehicle body maintenance
2T3X7 Vehicle maintenance control/analysis
3M0X1 Services
4A1X1 Medical material
X4N0X1 Aeromedical services □

She said the newcomer will know the length of technical school and where it will be, with their choice of dates. College students head to training with more rank — and more pay — than a high school grad, too. A student with 20 semester hours or 30 quarter hours enters with the rank of airman instead of airman basic; with 45 semester or 67 quarter hours, airman first class.

"With 60 semester or 90 quarter hours, they may be promoted to senior airman once they return from technical school," added Martin. "This is a recent change, and it helps moneywise to pay for more school."

Getting down to basics

Here are a few eligibility rules concerning non-prior service applicants:

▶ You may enlist at 17 with parental consent, with up to a year delayed entry.

▶ You don't have to be a high school graduate, but you would have to score higher on entry exams than a graduate or person with a General Education Degree.

▶ Test scores and physical exam results determine career field eligibility.

▶ You must enlist by age 35.

ⓄRemember, wing recruiters handle enlistments exclusively for the Air Force Reserve. For more information, call recruiting, Ext. 1456. From off base, call (612) 713-1456 or (800) 257-1212. □

College fund via GI Bill

Benefit soothes 'ouchie' of high-cost college, technical school

Tech Sgt. Larry Dean
Public Affairs

Among the most popular selling points for new recruits to join the Air Force Reserve are education benefits offered to members through the GI Bill.

"For a new recruit, it's a substantial incentive for joining the military," said **Tech. Sgt. Mark Kosht**, wing recruiter. "For a high-school graduate, it's pretty exciting to know you can work on your degree and earn more than \$400 a month as a part-timer with the Air Force Reserve."

A substantial portion of those earnings come from full-time student GI Bill benefits — benefits, not loans, requiring primarily the member's continued satisfactory service with the Reserve for the duration of the enlistment.

Simple requirements

"To qualify for GI Bill benefits, reservists must enlist, re-enlist or extend an enlistment in the Reserve for a period of at least six years," explained **Geraldine Theisen**, base training office. "They must have received a high school diploma and then complete initial active-duty training. Reservists also must have

satisfactory participation with their Reserve unit."

For enlistments after Oct. 1, 1990, the benefit is available for additional schooling after receiving a bachelor's degree, opening use of the GI Bill to officers and enlisted people with degrees.

"The GI Bill allowance increased by about 25 percent since last year and is based on semester hours of classes the student is enrolled in," Theisen said. Full-time students carrying 12-plus hours receive \$251 a month; those carrying nine to 11 hours receive \$188; six to eight hours, \$125; and less than six hours, \$62.75.

Benefit uses, restrictions

Eligible students may use the GI Bill toward a second degree that is not in the same field of study as the first degree, for technical and vocational school classes leading to a certificate or diploma, or for cooperative training.

Benefits can also be used towards on-the-job training and apprentice training programs offered by a company, correspondence courses, independent study programs by accredited institutions, flight training and remedial/refresher training.

Benefits cannot be used for classes

while receiving an ROTC scholarship, bartender or personality development programs, courses by radio or closed-circuit television, self-improvement courses, recreational courses, farm-cooperative courses, courses previously successfully completed or for federal employees under the Government Employees Training Act.

"Reservists have 10 years to use their benefits," said Theisen, "and that clock starts ticking down from the date of your qualifying six-year enlistment or extension."

Those who are prior service who have active duty GI Bill benefits will not gain additional benefits from enlisting directly into the Reserve for six years, she said. Since the clock begins ticking from the point of the enlistment, both benefits would expire simultaneously.

Those enlisting as a reservist after a break in service or enlisting for six years after a period of time would have a few years to enjoy Reserve GI Bill benefits after their active duty benefits have expired. But again, the clock begins ticking from the point of the six-year Reserve enlistment or extension.

☐ For more information, call the base training office, Ext. 1504; or recruiting, Ext. 1456 or (800) 257-1212. ☐

Wing officer helps recruit lawyers for Air Force

Senior Airman Jeffrey Williams
Public Affairs

When the Air Force judge advocate general department calls for new recruits, **Lt. Col. Rocco Maffei Jr.** answers.

Maffei, 934th Airlift Wing staff judge advocate, has served as the legal staff recruiter for Minnesota for approximately 12 years. He is the first contact in the process of hiring new lawyers, commonly called JAGs, and has helped a number of people become active-duty JAGs.

"We basically visit three [local] law schools twice a year — University of Minnesota, Hamline and William Mitchell — and provide information to students interested in becoming an Air Force JAG," Maffei said.

The Air Force employs more than 1,300 attorneys specializing in areas ranging from criminal law to environmental

and real-property law, he said.

"With such a wide department, there is a continual need for new recruits," he said. "Recently we interviewed 30 candidates and nine had later applied — the most ever."

There are benefits for new JAGs not readily available for their civilian counterparts, according to Maffei. A newly-licensed, civilian attorney may perform research for another attorney's use and not obtain courtroom experience for a number of years. Air Force JAGs, however, perform confidential client counseling and gain courtroom practice within several months of service, in addition to their regular pay and benefits.

Applicants must either be attending or a graduate of an American Bar Association-accredited law school, a U.S. citizen under 35 years of age on the day of commissioning and medically qualified. Reserve JAGs must first serve on active duty.

☐ Anyone interested in the program may call Maffei during unit training assemblies, Ext. 1230. ☐

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, AS, retired, first oak leaf cluster

Master Sgt. Debra Smith, AS, retired

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Steven Chapman, AS

Senior Master Sgt. David Halverson, CES

Tech. Sgt. David Roach, AS, first OLC

Tech. Sgt. Randy Schauer, APS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. Robert Jones, MXS, second OLC

Newcomers

► Senior Airman David Cadry Jr., MXS, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

► Senior Airman Susanne Carter, APS, Air Reserve Personnel Center

► Senior Airman Therman Elliott, CF, ARPC

► Senior Airman Howard Glockzin, APS, prior service U.S. Navy

► Senior Airman Jeffrey Gruhlke, MXS, ARPC

► Airman 1st Class Terry Mackowick, STS, Fairchild AFB, Wash.

► Airman 1st Class Nanette Maglinao, CES, Hickam AFB, Hawaii

► Airman 1st Class Keisha Marshall, LSS, Travis AFB, Calif.

► Capt. Caleb Merriman, AS, Moody AFB, Ga.

► Senior Airman Edward O'Brien, LSS, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

► Senior Airman John Provold, CES, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

► Senior Airman Kevin Swanson, AS, Minnesota Air National Guard

► Maj. James Treutel, AS, General Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Wis.

Air reserve technicians

► Maj. Pamela LeBlanc, OG, Individual Mobilization Augmentee

► Maj. Timothy Purcell, AS, Willow Grove ARS, Pa.

► Master Sgt. Aaran Weinzirl, MXS, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

► Tech. Sgt. Richard Welter, MXS, reservist with MXS

Achievements

► **Staff Sgt. Sue Holmgren**, SFS, was selected as the Member of the Quarter for her performance as the unit security manager.

► **Master Sgt. Mike King**, LSS, received the squadron's Superior Performer Award.

► **Tech. Sgt. Bernardette Lunde**, MSF, was selected "Outstanding

Enlisted Woman of the Year" for the Air Force Reserve by the American Legion. She was nominated during her previous service with the 934th Maintenance Squadron, making this the third time and the second consecutive year an MXS person achieved this honor.

An outstanding man or woman is chosen from each branch of the Reserve and Guard each year. Lunde also received the "Get One" recruiting award for recruiting a new member.

► **Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez**, AW, was named distinguished graduate of the financial management and services course, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

► **Capt. Patricia Rautiola**, AES, was selected the unit's Member of the Month.

Service certificates

30 years

Rick Glodek, OG

Terry McLaren, SF

(Continued on next page) ▶



Lunde

Viking Search:

Aeromedical evacuation

Clip this for a colleague or family member and assist recruiters in their search for new reservists.

Specialty code/unit: X4NOX1, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Job description: Provide in-flight emergency care in peacetime and wartime environments.

Testing: Class III flying physical, requiring higher standards than normal.

Training:

► Phase I: 14 weeks, medical

service apprentice course, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

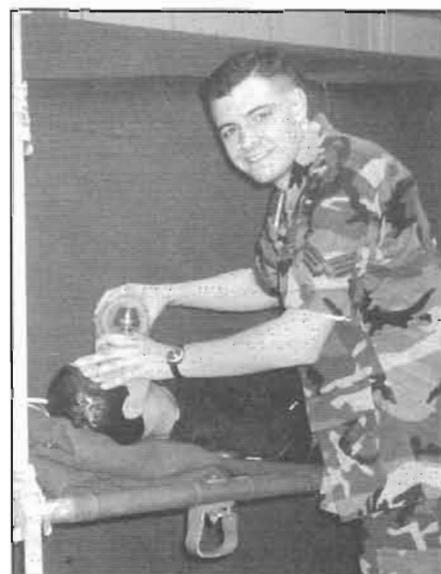
► Phase II: Seven weeks and four days, on-the-job clinical training at a major Air Force medical facility.

► Five weeks and two days, aeromedical evacuation technician course/flight school, Brooks AFB, Texas.

► Clinical Phase III/5-skill level upgrade: 60-120 days, depending on civilian experience; on-the-job training at a major Air Force medical facility.

Commitment: Must participate in flights during the month in the evenings and up to 48 Additional Flying Training Periods per fiscal year to maintain proficiency/currency.

Contact: 934th Recruiting Office, (612) 713-1456. □



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

► **Senior Airman Aidan Anderson**, aeromedical technician

(Continued from previous page)

20 years

Sam Baty, MXS
Dale Klein, MXS
Ken Schifsky, LGS
Darryl Strickland, LGS

10 years

Linda Boyda, XP
Jeff Dentz, MXS
Michelle Ingrahm, SF

Suggestions

Fred Walker, MXS, cash award

Births

- ▶ **Kelley Caudill**, AES, and her husband, **Steve**, have a new daughter, **Gwenda Reeghan**, born Nov. 23, weighing 8 pounds.
- ▶ **David Hanson-Best**, APS, and his wife, **Cindy**, have a new daughter, **Kami Lynn**, born Nov. 29, weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces.
- ▶ **Brady Kiel**, APS, and his wife, **Lori**, have a new son, **Jack Leo**, born Oct. 23, weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce.
- ▶ **Jeffrey Nyhus**, LSS, and his wife, **Merry**, have a new son, **Lucas Jeffrey**, born Dec. 5, weighing 8 pounds.

Retirements

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Davidson, AW, 26 years
Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, AS, 21 years
Master Sgt. Debra Smith, AS, 20 years
Tech. Sgt. William Steinke, ASTS, 23 years

Civilians

Andrew Vavreck, CE, 29 years and nine months. □

Equal opportunity value ...

(OPPORTUNITY, continued from Page 3)

treatment for all service members by creating the Military Equal Opportunity and Treatment Program in 1971.

The objectives of the Military Equal Opportunity Program are to improve mission effectiveness by:

- ▶ Seeking to eliminate unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment against military members,
- ▶ Processing and resolving discrimination complaints filed by military members,
- ▶ Training all military members on equal opportunity and human relations, and
- ▶ Assessing the on- and off-base human relations climate.

Equal opportunity is a function of leadership. Commanders are responsible and held accountable for ensuring an environment free of discrimination. The installation commander must provide an environment free from unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment, develop policies to prevent discrimination, review all closed discrimination cases, ensure appropriate disciplinary and corrective actions are taken and direct the assessment of the base human relations climate. Unit commanders are further required to investigate allegations of discrimination and take action to end it.

Education programs have been the cornerstone of the Air Force EO program efforts, said officials. On-

going education programs are being conducted at Basic Military Training, technical or pilot training, first duty station, base newcomers orientation, Professional Military Education, and professional continuing education courses. Two days of EO training have been incorporated into the Senior Leader Orientation Course for all new brigadier generals and senior executive service civilians.

In 1994, as a training initiative to address sexual harassment and unlawful discrimination, the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force directed all its military members and civilians to attend a four-hour training course called EO 2000. The Air Force received rave reviews for the program's hands-on, interactive approach to training.

In fiscal 1998, equal opportunity formal complaints continued a downward trend that started in fiscal 1994. The rate per 1,000 decreased from 2.14 in fiscal 1994, to the fiscal 1998 rate of 0.87. This decrease can be attributed to the increased use of the informal complaint process, said officials. The validation rate decreased slightly from the previous fiscal year by 4 percent.

Senior leadership believes equal opportunity is integral to readiness and a cornerstone of our commitment to each member of the Air Force team. The issues of discrimination and sexual harassment will always remain a top priority of the Air Force and its leadership. (Air Force Print News, "must run") □

Services Briefs

NCO Club

A membership appreciation dinner will be held Tuesday, Jan. 12. Enjoy a buffet-style dinner and maybe win a prize, too. Members eat free; call for reservations.

☎Call Ext. 1655 for details on NCO Club activities.

Officers Club

A Super Bowl party is set for Sunday, Jan. 31, with

plenty of prizes and free snacks at halftime.

☎For reservations or information, call the front desk lines, Ext. 1983 or 1984.

Recreation services

Fun on the January unit training assembly with the fitness center includes their annual "Lazy Man Marathon" and an early Super Bowl party.

☎For details, call recreation services, Ext. 1128. □