

VIKING FLYER



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

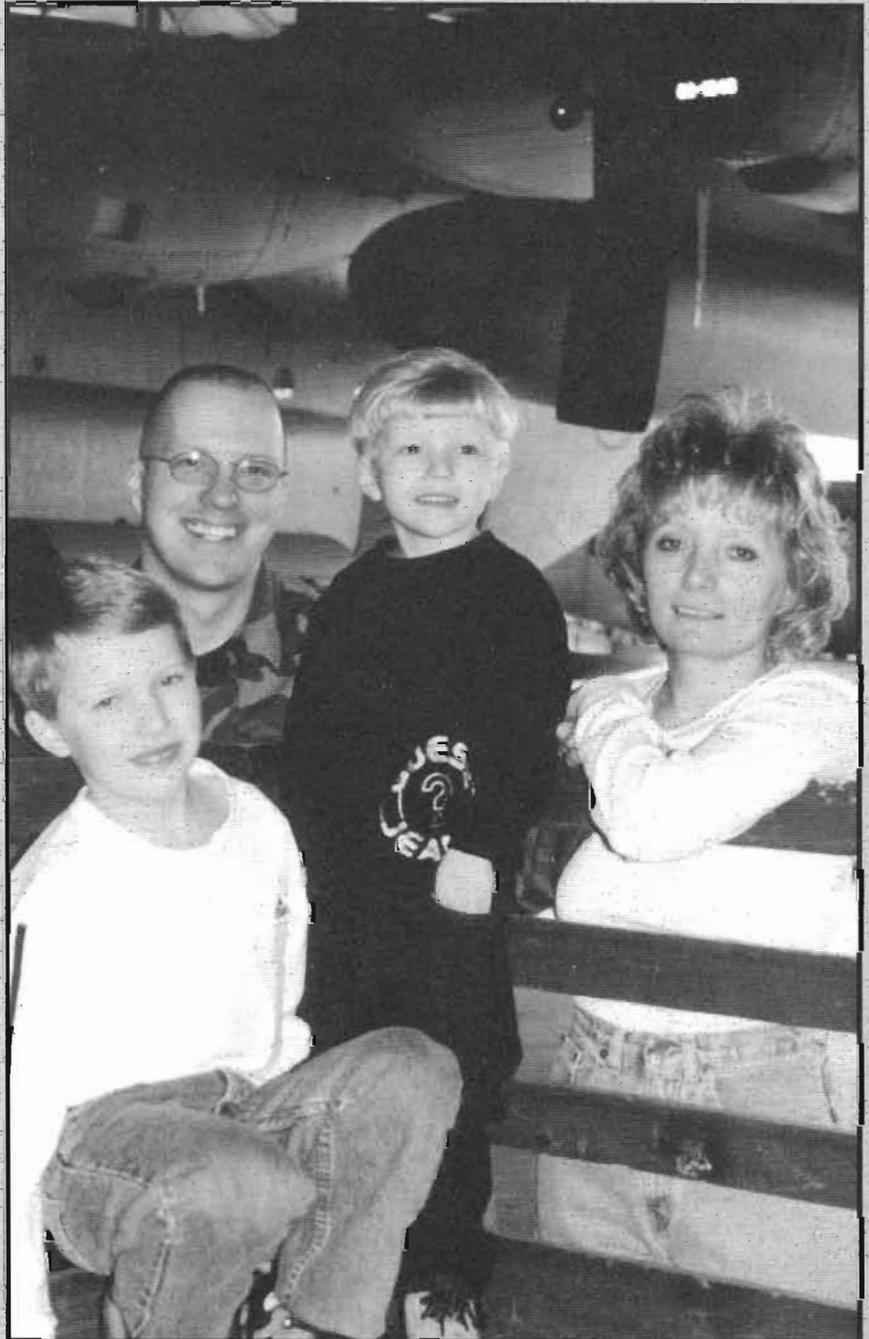
Family care

*From family care plans to
video phones, Reserve
puts family first*

► Pages 10-14

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On the cover

Staff Sgt. Patrick McCullough (back, left), AW, and wife Tammy, (back, right) pictured with sons Michael (8, left) and Andrew (4, right), discuss family care planning, Page 11. For information on family care issues, see Pages 10-14.



Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

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UTA schedule

April 10-11 ▶ UTA entrees:
May 1-2 Saturday, turkey
June 5-6 and spaghetti;
July 10-11 Sunday, fish and
Aug. 7-8 Swiss steak.
Sept. 11-12
▶ UTA pay date:
March 17.

934th Airlift Wing on the Internet:
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/default.htm>

Commentary

Fabulous facilities

Numerous base projects improve our quality of life

Col. Richard Moss
Wing Commander

It is hard to believe one year has passed since I had the good fortune to become the commander of the 934th Airlift Wing.



Moss

One goal I have is to ensure that the wing has the best facilities in the command. During this past year, we have seen continuous improvement to the base facilities — improvements that set the standard for other Reserve bases. All these facilities upgrades will greatly improve our ability to train and keep wing people combat ready:

- Last summer, we completed the construction of the combat arms training simulator building through the hard work and dedication of civil engineers from the wing, as well as reservists from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y.

- An addition to the medical training facility will help alleviate the lack of sufficient space for our medical people to perform their required mission.

- Additional storage facilities are under construction to protect our mobility assets.

- We recently completed a joint-use vehicle wash rack to prevent solid particulates from entering the waste-stream. We will also soon complete the construction of a corrosion control facility (*story, Page 6*) to contain and control any possible pollution from entering the atmosphere. Both of these projects will ensure we continue to meet strict environmental standards.

To improve the quality of life for members of this wing and for all members of the military community, we have several projects either in progress or completed:

- Our new lodging facility will be the model for the entire command. That project is currently in design, with the ground breaking to occur by September.

- We recently opened the Military Clothing Sales Store to provide all branches of the service the ability to purchase required uniform items.

- Finally, on Sunday of the unit training assembly, we will hold the grand opening for our new fitness facility (*story, Page 17*). It is truly a first-class facility with a basketball/volleyball court, a racquetball court, a free-weight training area and a separate area with top-of-the-line fitness equipment to provide a complete physical workout for everyone.

As you can see, we have been very fortunate to get the required funding to continue to upgrade our facilities to meet mission needs, environmental standards and the needs of base people. However, we need to ensure we take care of what we have as we continually strive to improve our base infrastructure to be the BEST in the Air Force Reserve Command. ☐

Commander's Hot Line 713-HOTL

Call 713-4685 to record questions for the wing commander. Callers may remain anonymous. Questions of general interest will be answered in the *Viking Flyer*.



Hemp seed products banned

All military members are now prohibited from consuming any products containing hemp seed oil, according to **Lt. Col. Greg Girard** of the Air Force judge advocate general's office in the Pentagon.

Some health-conscious Air Force body builders and other hemp seed oil consumers will now have to find alternatives. The Air Force has banned such products because they contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient of the marijuana

plant.

In urinalysis testing, no distinction can be made between a positive test because of hemp oil ingestion and one caused by the illegal use of marijuana. Such test results pose a real potential to ruin careers.

Recent scientific studies at several private research firms and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology show the ingestion of products made with hemp seed oil nearly always produce positive urinalysis tests. Hemp oil is most often used as a salad dressing or as a dietary supplement in capsule form.

"Service members need not be concerned that they are unwittingly ingesting hemp products in food and drinks," said **Lt. Col. Peter Durand** of the Air Force Surgeon General's Office, "because most of these products are still expressly marketed and sold in health food stores." (*Air Force Print ws*)

Cohen calls for more base closings

William Cohen, defense secretary, carried the case for increased defense spending to the American people recently in a speech to the Illinois legislature.

"We can never pay our men and women enough, but we can pay them more than we're [now] paying them," Cohen told the General Assembly.

Cohen told the legislators the Department of Defense needs two more rounds of base realignment and closure as well.

"I know BRAC is a four-letter word in most places, but I must tell you the vast sums we waste on unneeded facilities are robbing our men and women in uniform of needed training, weapons modernization and quality of life," he said.

Three rounds of closures since 1988 have already generated \$3.7 billion in savings, with \$25 billion forecast through fiscal 2003.

"Two additional rounds that we will fight for this year will ultimately save \$20 billion and generate \$3 billion annually," he said. (*AFPN*)

Airman refuses anthrax shots

An airman at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., faced a special court-martial Feb. 24 for refusing his commander's orders to receive his anthrax vaccinations.

This allegedly is the second violation of a lawful order to join the series for **Airman 1st Class Jeff Bettendorf**, 815th Air Mobility Squadron. In the first instance, he accepted an Article 15, nonjudicial punishment, for the offense. If convicted of the second violation, he could receive a reduction in rank to

airman basic, forfeiture of two-thirds pay for one month and 30 days confinement. (*AFPN*)

'Must runs' announced

The following were designated "must run" items from Air Force Print News:

- **Air Force helps military, civilians in transition.** The Air Force Family Support Center takes the lead in assisting military and civilian members with their needs as they transition into the private sector.

The local center, located in Bldg. 752 across from the Base Exchange, offers a variety of referral services for pre-separation counseling; developing/implementing an individual transition plan; certification of member's military job skills, experience, training and education; registration for employment opportunities; and the Defense Outplacement Referral Service program.

☎For more information on the 934th Family Support Center and services it provides to the Department of Defense community, call Ext. 1516.

- **Deployed airmen see tax breaks.** There are several items affecting tax filing for airmen stationed or deployed overseas. For those overseas on April 15, there is an automatic extension to June 15. For those serving in a combat zone of the Persian Gulf area or the qualified hazardous-duty area in the former Yugoslavia, the filing deadline is 180 days after the last day in a combat zone.

Also, airmen overseas can file an Internal Revenue Service Form 2848, which grants power of attorney to someone who can file and sign your return.

Finally, for enlisted people stationed in a combat zone or hazardous-duty area during any part of a month, all military pay for that month is excluded from income.

For more information, see IRS Publication 3, "Armed Forces Tax Guide," or contact this Web site:

<http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf>

- **Civilian raises approved.** Civilians received a 3.1 percent pay boost under Executive Order 13106, signed by the president on Dec. 7, taking effect the first pay period in January.

Reserve card holders warned

Air Force Reserve Command officials are warning members of two potential fraud scenarios regarding the NationsBank VISA government travel cards.

One company contacted an Air Force member under the pretense of security and made an unauthorized charge to the account. Another individual received an unsolicited e-mail from a travel agent to use the government VISA card for purchasing airline tickets and obtaining "triple frequent flyer miles."

To prevent such activities, card holders are reminded of

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Briefs ...

(Continued from previous page)

the following:

- Never give a credit card number to any unknown source who calls you soliciting information.
- If you are contacted by unknown sources concerning the government credit card, call the NationsBank security desk immediately at (800) 472-1424.
- When arranging for official travel, local members must use the Omega Travel office.
- Do not purchase anything being solicited of you related to your government card, as it is unauthorized. (AFRC News Service)

Local

Home buyers invited

The next Veterans Affairs home buyer seminar is set for Saturday, March 6, 4:45-5:45 p.m., at the 934th Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 752, across from the Base Exchange.

Future seminars are set for the same time and place on the following Saturdays: April 3, May 1 and June 5. Each event is free.

☉To sign up or get more details, call the center, Ext. 1516.

Annual state convention set

The Reserve Officers Association Department of Minnesota annual convention and banquet are set for Saturday, March 27, at the Fort Snelling Officers Club, Minneapolis.

The convention, free of charge, starts with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., with the business meeting at 9 a.m. Guest speakers include **Col. Richard Moss**, commander, 934th Airlift Wing. Activities wrap up at 1 p.m., followed by lunch at the member's expense.

The evening banquet begins with a social at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$27.50 per meal, and reservations must be made by Friday, March 19.

☉For a banquet reservation form, contact **Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz**, 1205; **Maj. Doug Kveene**, Ext. 1202; or **Capt. Dan Anderson**, Ext. 3571.

Employers' Day planned

The wing's annual Employers' Day will be held Saturday, May 1. Activities include a continental breakfast and briefings followed by an orientation flight.

Only one employer per reservist may be invited, and no substitutions may be made. Ineligible people include family members, Department of Defense employees and anyone who has flown on a previous Employers' Day flight.

Nomination forms are available in all orderly rooms and are due by Monday, April 12.

☉For more information, call public affairs, Ext. 1217. ☐

Air Force leader makes readiness top issue

Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Air Force Print News

The Air Force chief of staff told members of a key congressional committee recently that an additional \$5 billion annually for the next six years is what the service needs to sustain an effective level of readiness.

Gen. Michael Ryan and other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff focused on military readiness in testimony to the House Armed Services Committee. He said the \$30 billion increase to what **President Clinton** has already agreed to will stabilize the force by addressing the needs of the people.

The Department of Defense released its budget Feb. 1.

Increased pay, a revamped retirement system and changing the frantic pace of operations are paramount to retention, according to Ryan. He and the rest of the service chiefs agreed that while monetary incentives alone won't fix the problem, they are a major step in the right direction.

In summation, Ryan told the committee the budget increase is needed because readiness is fragile and the indicators are not good. He cited stateside readiness, down 28 percent from last year, as the largest indicator. He said the Air Force front-loads its overseas and forward deploying bases so they have high readiness, but as a result, readiness suffers at home.

The committee brought up added bonuses for pilot retention, but Ryan said, "I am not sure bonuses are the answer; it's all the other intangibles."

In addition to monetary incentives for people, the chief said the beefed-up budget will be used to improve and replace an aging aircraft fleet and put predictability into a military lifestyle that performs in an unstable world.

"They want to know how long they'll be gone and when they'll be coming home," Ryan said.

"If the family is taken care of, they'll do anything you ask of them," the chief of staff said in reference to a force that has performed nearly three times more combat, enforcement and humanitarian operations in the last 10 years than in the last four decades.

According to Ryan, modernization of fighter aircraft like the F-22, coupled with the expeditionary aerospace force, can simplify the Air Force way of life. EAF will give airmen predictability and stability when it comes to deployments, he said.

When queried by the committee about other potential incentives, Ryan said he would consider a 401K-type plan for active-duty airmen as long as it remains supplemental and does not replace the improved retirement plan. For active-duty members who joined after 1986, that plan returns them to the old 50 percent of base pay formula rather than just 40 percent. (Air Force Print News, "must run") ☐

News bytes

May mobility exercise tests new program

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

The mobility exercise during the May unit training assembly, May 1-2, will offer the usual rallying of troops and cargo but adding a couple of interesting twists.

First, a new computerized mobility program will be introduced. Then a scenario of total power loss is expected. Finally, with a number of retirements and transfers since the last exercise, some vacant positions may catch units off guard.

Around 350-400 reservists will be tasked for mobility activities, according to **Master Sgt. Anthony "Zack" Zacheretti**, wing logistics plans craftsman.

"We'll be processing people and cargo," he said. "Everyone processing will bring a personal bag. We'll be marshalling cargo and processing people, bags, weapons and munitions."

The exercise, involving no flying or deployment from home station, will provide the wing's first test of a new computerized deployment information system called Logistics Module, or "Logmod."

"This system lets each unit deployment manager update their own information," Zacheretti said. "They can update personnel data, make weight changes to increments and print out their own products and packing lists."

The plus to the program, he said, is unit ownership of mobility data. Before, changes had to be submitted to wing plans for update in the Integrated Deployment System, as the information was "read only" in unit computers. However, Zacheretti acknowledged one drawback: training.

"The program should be loaded on all mobility computers by the March UTA," he said. "Deployment managers will receive training in March during the week and on UTA. Then we'll have follow-on training."

Zacheretti encouraged units to take a hard look at personal requirements as the wing "gets back into the mobility mode." Also, as work centers are activated, some units may find themselves short of people, since many familiar with such exercises have moved on.

"This will tell the tale of where our manning stands," said Zacheretti. "We may be going to units asking for manning assistance once we get the bugs worked out in the work centers. We need to find out our shortages and ask the commanders for bodies to fill the vacancies."

Also, with civilian losses possible from A-76 developments looming in the year ahead, civilian exercise support will be scrutinized in a new light. "This could have a huge impact down the road," he said. "If we end up with shortages on the civilian side, we may be looking for more military support positions."

Information on the May exercise is located on the G-drive under "Plans." All units will be involved except the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Defense Travel System set for next year

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

With at least 9,000 travel orders issued a year, the 934th Airlift Wing's reservists and civilians are no strangers to worldwide missions.

Soon members will be no strangers to serving as their own travel agents as well, as the new Defense Travel System could start here as early as next year, according to **Michael Burgess**, wing comptroller.

"There will be slips, trips and falls along the way," he said, "but we'll eventually get it worked out."

The contract for the estimated \$264 million paperless travel administration system was awarded last May, with worldwide implementation by the Department of Defense expected by 2001. The first location to take on the system is Defense Travel Region 6, an 11-state region including Minnesota and a total of approximately 200,000 travelers.

Officials claim DTS pilot studies resulted in traveler reimbursement in half the time while cutting half the steps involved, saving 65 percent in cost while increasing customer satisfaction.

In fact, according to an informal survey Burgess ran recently, the average travel voucher here from drop-off to payout was eight days. "With DTS, they say that will drop to just 48 hours," he said, adding that payout includes a split disbursement option — or automatic payment to the NationsBank government travel card.

Burgess explained that DTS involves travelers setting up their own travel plans via a computer-based program to be loaded on a number of base computers. People will select their mode of travel, dates and times, and rental car/lodging reservations. The plan will then be transmitted to an authorizing official and on to the local contract vendor for final details such as ticketing.

Upon completion of the trip, the traveler returns to his or her computer for wrap up — a "trip record," rather than a travel voucher, according to **Roger Hanson**, wing transportation officer.

"The whole concept of DTS is to make travel quicker, easier and better," Hanson said. "Management will be capable of controlling the travel budget with an 'in-house checkbook.'"

Hanson and Burgess said the first travelers here to convert

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News bytes

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to DTS will be civilians. Problems with the Air Force Form 938 for military orders will delay reservists' use as long as three to four years, said Burgess.

"In a sense, the 'gradualness' will be better for us," he said. "We won't be so inundated with changes as you get with some new systems."

Civilian travel amounts to around \$150,000 a year, compared to at least \$1.5 million for military travel. "So only about 10 percent of our business will move to this system at first," Burgess said.

Burgess and Hanson will be able to observe how the system works at other bases going on-line prior to Minneapolis, including Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., and Whiteman AFB, Mo. Also, base members will start seeing descriptive brochures on the service as the implementation date nears, according to Hanson.

Medical squadron trains in California

Tech Sgt. Janet Byerly

Public Affairs

Despite travel delays both coming and going, the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron deployed 26 people to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., for annual tour in January.

The 934th reservists trained in a host of medical specialties as they worked alongside their active-duty counterparts at the David Grant Medical Center at Travis.

"We were there for sustainment training," said **Master Sgt. Brandy Fulton**, dental technician and noncommissioned officer in charge of the deployment.

"We have a requirement to meet every two years," she explained, "but really, it's a continuous process. Anytime we go on active duty we try to attain as much sustainment training as possible."

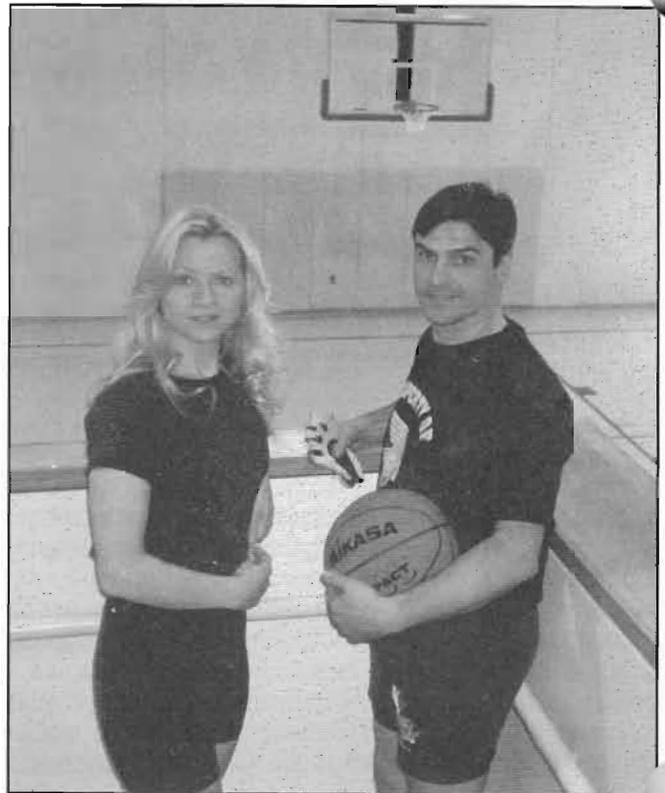
In wartime, the unit would backfill, or replace, active duty medical people at a facility such as David Grant Medical Center. Their peacetime mission is to get the training, known as sustainment training, so they could effectively fulfill their wartime mission, Fulton explained.

So rather than the physicals and immunizations they deal with on most drill weekends, the reservists were scattered throughout the facility working with the latest equipment and medical techniques.

"It's a state-of-the-art facility," said **Lt. Col. (Dr.) James Schreiner**, dental surgeon and troop commander of the deployment. "The people were wonderful. They were very cooperative and supported our needs for training."

Other than the travel delays, which included a stay in lodging on the original departure date, Jan. 9, while the aircraft was repaired, and two delays due to weather on the way home, Schreiner said the deployment was a success.

"On the way home, they told us they couldn't land in Minneapolis due to an ice storm," he said. "We stayed



Cherie Huntington

Base fitness center opens

Bernadette Koehle (left), 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and Chuck Super, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, dropped by the new \$1.6 million fitness center prior to its opening Feb. 22. Grand opening activities start Sunday of the March drill. For details, see story, Page 17.

overnight at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., and then in the morning couldn't leave because of fog. Finally, by mid-afternoon the fog had lifted, and we left for Minneapolis, arriving that evening."

Corrosion control facility nears finish

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

A \$1.6 million, state-of-the-art corrosion control facility should be open for business next month after waiting about seven years "on the drawing board" for funding and a year under construction.

The building, an 7,000-square-foot addition to the northwest corner of the fuel cell hangar, Bldg. 870, matches perfectly that a newcomer would never suspect the entire

(Continued on next page)

News bytes

Complex wasn't built at the same time.

"This will be one of the best facilities in the Reserve," said **Master Sgt. Dan Pekel**, airframe repair supervisor and chief of corrosion control. "We helped design the building — we were sent to [the design firm in] Omaha, Neb., three times to ensure we got what we wanted and needed."

The section, merging corrosion control and sheet metal/structural repair around six or seven years ago, handles refurbishing aircraft components and systems, explained Pekel, including repainting, corrosion treatment and fiberglass work. Though the aircraft is painted at the depot, high-use items require frequent stripping and painting, such as the crew door, dual rail system — floor rollers used in loading cargo, cargo doors and wheels.

Highlights of the new facility include a paint preparation room, media blast area, two paint booths, fiberglass repair area, paint mixing room, offices and ample storage for tools, paints and thinners.

"This facility is more environmentally-friendly," said **Staff Sgt. David Dudash**, airframe repair craftsman and senior painter. "It has a high-tech filter system and air line respirator system — meeting the highest OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] standards."

Currently, the corrosion control section has offices in the main hangar, Bldg. 821, and paint facilities in Bldg. 813, a small building north of the propulsion facility or "engine and prop shop," Bldg. 822. "We've always been short on space," said Pekel. "The new facility is much bigger — we'll be able to train our reservists there."

The section has 12 reservists and two other air reserve technicians, **Tech. Sgt. Tim McCullum** and **Staff Sgt. Blake Andrist**. One of their biggest challenges is their role in isochronal inspections, or ISO.

"We might find 200-250 write-ups in ISO," said Pekel. During this major inspection, the entire aircraft must be searched for any speck of corrosion or the slightest crack.

Dudash said fighting C-130 corrosion is a constant fight. "It's an aircraft's worst enemy — it's like cancer," he said.

Wing granted inspection credit

Five Air Force Reserve Command units, including the 934th Airlift Wing, will face reduced requirements during their next Operational Readiness Inspection, thanks to their real-world performance.

Both the 934th and the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., received initial response credit and met employment mission execution criteria. For the 934th's scheduled ORI in November 2001, the unit will be evaluated on mission support and ability to survive and operate. Grissom is scheduled for inspection in May 2000.

"It makes sense to me that we get credit for all the real-world deployments we do," said **Master Sgt. Anthony "Zack" Zacheretti**, wing logistics plans craftsman. "If it ain't broke, why bother to come and fix it?"

He said the wing's many taskings following the last ORI in 1996 achieved the credit. Major deployments included two

trips to Southwest Asia; three times to Germany supporting Operation Joint Guard, now called Joint Forge; and three trips to Panama in support of Coronet Oak rotations.

"We'll continue doing the Coronet Oak and Southwest Asia deployments," said Zacheretti. "We're here to stay. We're demonstrating we can get our people deployed, do the job and then get them home. We demonstrate that year in and year out."

According to Zacheretti, the credited portions include all the initial response functions of receiving a tasking order; assembling work centers, cargo and people; and the actual deployments, as well as employment, which includes all flying.

He explained that the wing will be observing other credited units in their ORIs to see what form the abbreviated inspection takes. A realistic scenario could result in the wing deploying with another unit to provide mission support functions and participate in ATSO exercises. "So we're not out of the woods yet," said Zacheretti.

Credits were granted by Air Mobility Command. Three units received credit for initial response: the 302nd AW, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., with an ORI set for December; 910th AW, Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport Air Reserve Station, Ohio, to be inspected in December 2000; and the 927th ARW, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., with an ORI due in September 2001. *(Background courtesy AFRC News Service)*

Alternate fuel vehicles support base, Air Force environmental goals

Master Sgt. Tim Turner

Public Affairs

The 934th Airlift Wing's continuing support of environmental programs now includes the use of alternative fuels for vehicles in the base fleet.

"Using alternative fuels helps clean up the environment by ridding the air of polluting emissions caused by burning oil-based fuels, such as gasoline and diesel," said **Roger Hanson**, wing transportation officer. "In turn, reducing use of those fuels helps lessen the nation's dependence on foreign oil."

Eager to support these goals and meet federally-mandated alternate fuel programs, the vehicle maintenance section recently converted nine pickups to compressed natural gas.

"This gives us 10 vehicles in our fleet capable of using compressed natural gas as our alternate fuel," said Hanson.

Hanson feels positive about the use of alternate fuel for the Air Force — and the entire country.

"Natural gas has a great deal going for it," he said. "There's an abundance of domestic supply. It's less expensive and cleaner burning, which produces less carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons emissions that cause smog. And it's nontoxic, noncarcinogenic and noncorrosive." □

Wing roundup

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson
Not available.

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Senior Airman Shana Strozewski
In February, we began our block training for fiscal year 1999. Members participated in chemical warfare training, wound management, Geneva Convention, M-16 firing and other annual requirements on top of the usual hectic schedule. This month, we will wrap up our block training and start planning to move into our renovated facility.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford
We are working diligently between the Reserve and Guard sides of the base during our facility's renovation. We continue to do physicals on the Guard side, providing a shuttle bus, while our administrative office is in Bldg. 852 on the Reserve side.

96th Airlift Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jess Lind
The unit completed water survival at Key West, Fla., and performed joint airborne air transportability training at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., for Army paratroopers. Other activities included members volunteering to work at the wing display at the Government on Display program at the Mall of America, Feb. 6-7, and reading to children at Wenonah School, Minneapolis, in February's

"I Love to Read Month" activities.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews
Engineering has begun preliminary design work on the Camp Ripley, Minn., runway 1,100-foot extension project. This will be a joint construction project with the 934th, the Air National Guard and civilian contractors. Also, the squadron, along with the 910th CES, Youngstown, Ohio, and the 927th CES, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich., will join to form a composite team for Readiness Challenge competition at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., in April.

934th Communications Flight

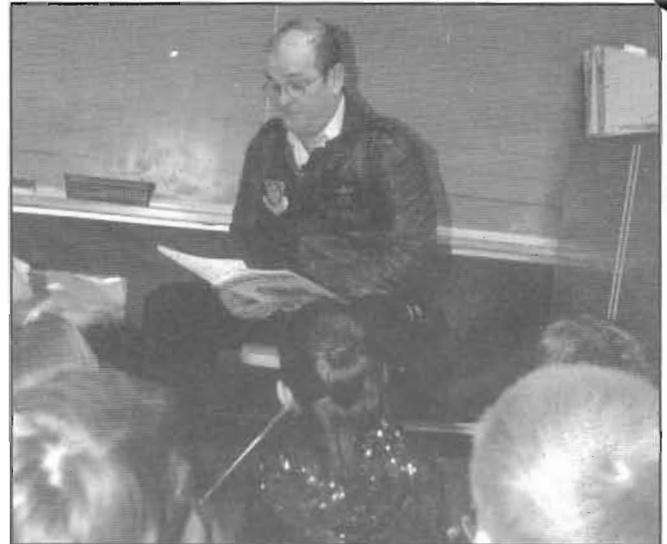
Staff Sgt. Robert Walz
The unit will deploy 30 people to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., March 13-27, for annual tour. Preparations were completed during the February drill.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Alma De La Garza
The unit is planning for the upcoming mobility exercises in May and October, as well as an annual pancake breakfast for commanders and top three enlisted members.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken
Twenty-five members attended pre-deployment briefings for the upcoming Panama rotation. Two aircraft have been modified with the new electrical



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

Story time

Col. Richard Moss, wing commander, was one of 20 wing volunteers who participated in reading circles during "I Love to Read Month" activities at Wenonah School, Minneapolis, Feb. 10 and Feb. 17.

upgrade. The third aircraft is scheduled to begin in early February. Also, a home-station check was performed on aircraft 1848.

934th Operations Support Flight

Tech. Sgt. Cara Utecht
Not available.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Niklas Hammarberg
Squadron members attended classroom training on the enlisted performance report, installation entry control, antirobbery procedures, building and repository checks and surviving edged-weapon attacks.

934th Services Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Pamela Peck
The Hennessy Award inspection took place during the February drill.

Those involved felt all went well. Please note dining hall meal times: breakfast, 6-7 a.m.; lunch, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and dinner, 4:30-5:30 p.m. In the past, when members lined up early at the dining hall in anticipation of early opening, we obliged; but we must now observe the posted hours.

Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez
Two new air reserve technicians have joined the military personnel section of MSF. The unit welcomes **Maj. Louis Hatten**, military personnel flight chief, and **Sgt. John Daye**, customer service section. Both the plans office and the military personnel readiness section are preparing for the Coronet Oak deployment starting in February. □

January frustrations

Tough month of weather and maintenance challenges puts damper on flying schedule

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

Operations and maintenance members reached new heights of frustration over low hours of flying in January.

Traditionally, December through February end up with perhaps 200 flying hours monthly, compared to 300 hours in summer months. However, January's 115 hours was the lowest in many years.

Obstacles included not only "WX CANX" — bad weather cancellations — but also unscheduled depot maintenance at various locations across the country, and aircraft undergoing modifications. Also, a mere two-pound part proved itself a huge handful of trouble — and a show-stopper.

Valve woes

"The frustration level is pretty high right now," said **Capt. Jay Smeltzer**, maintenance officer. "We seem to work through the weather conditions only to have a valve fail, or the aircraft returns with a valve failed in flight."

The troublesome part is a recently-modified anti-ice valve. Though it can be held in one hand and replaced in 30 minutes, it is critical to winter operations. Located on the leading edge of the wing, it regulates bleed air to keep the wing free of ice in flight.

The modified valve used on the leading edge is a result of a time compliance technical order that changed the valve. The old valve remains in production for use in the tail of the aircraft, according to **Tech. Sgt. Roger Smith**, electro-environmental shop chief. He said problems started surfacing in November.

"We're constantly changing them — we must have done dozens by now," Smith said. "It has been a lot of work."

The failed parts must be returned to vendor locations in either Oklahoma City or Phoenix.

"Only northern-tier bases with E-model C-130s are having this problem," said Smith, adding that the only other wing in that category is the Idaho Air Guard. The challenge is not ice and snow, however, but dynamics of cold-weather flight: cold air makes the engines more powerful, equating to more pressure and more air volume, said Smith.

Local maintenance experts offer a theory, however. "The modified valves can't react to the additional volume of air," Smith said, explaining that H-model aircraft have a regulator keeping pressure at 60 pounds per square inch, whereas an

E-model on a cold day might face pressure as high as 120 PSI.

"We're not any closer to a solution than we were four months ago," said Smith. However, he said a team of experts from the vendor and the military maintenance depot were scheduled to visit and study the problem the last week of February.

Depot maintenance

With one aircraft in normal depot maintenance at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., releasing two for unexpected structural corrosion work was tough.

"We found problems through routine isochronal inspection that was beyond our immediate capabilities," said Smeltzer. "It would be too time consuming, especially with the shortage of hangar space. In the summer, we could have taken the aircraft outside and worked with a depot team to take care of it locally."

Another aircraft was out of play for wiring and automatic pilot modifications, an ongoing project conducted by a visiting contract field team. This work is scheduled for completion in late spring.

An aircraft borrowed from Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa., in December helped ease the load. However, off-station taskings in recent months have included two Panama rotations, a week of training at the C-130 tactics school in Missouri and aircrew water survival training at Key West, Fla. So with four planes out of commission, another off station, and as many as three others with the anti-ice valve problem, often just one of the 37-year-old Herks remained to meet demands of the daily flying schedule.

"The poor workhorse gets run into the ground," said Smeltzer.

Even with just one "flyer," however, and aircrews waiting to fly, even an out-of-order pilot's windshield wiper forces maintenance people to cancel the flight.

"We want to deliver the product," said Smeltzer, "but we have to go by what it takes for the aircraft to operate safely and know when to draw the line. Some things just have to be fixed before we can turn the aircraft over to the crew."

Flight training

Flight and training schedulers said they understand the problems, but crews struggling to meet overwhelming semiannual training requirements grow farther behind every day.

"When you build the schedule, you factor in a loss of 10 percent of the missions," said **Lt. Col. Larry Snider**, senior navigator and scheduler. "But in January, we lost 50 percent."

"This has been an incredible streak of maintenance bad luck," said **Capt. Drew Hansen**, scheduler. "Anything that could go wrong went wrong. All the behind-the-scenes work still happens — scheduling, planning, people coming in for duty. It's frustrating sometimes."

Hansen said he sympathizes especially with reservists dealing with last-minute flight cancellations. "They block time away from work and family, spend the time to drive in here, and then the mission doesn't go," he said.

And though everyone predicted a sunnier flying-hour forecast in March with three planes returning from depot work, it is also historically the state's snowiest month. □

Senior Airman Jeffrey Williams
Public Affairs

One of the most important responsibilities a reservist faces when deploying – and sometimes when simply heading to unit training assembly – is arranging child care and ensuring the family is taken care of during the separation.

"My parents are very supportive of my military career," said **Senior Airman Johnette Frazier**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. "Between my parents, who live five minutes away, and my children's father, it is less of a worry for me on UTAs and deployments."

She has two children, **Kyle** (7) and **Haiden** (3), and left active duty to join the Reserve due to family concerns.

"When I was on active duty, if a plane crashed I had to deploy," Frazier said. "The ambulance wouldn't wait, and it was hard finding good child care on such short notice. I just didn't feel that it was fair to them."

Especially as a single parent, Johnette welcomes the Reserve's rewards. "The GI Bill, extra money and benefits are helpful," she said. "It also lets the kids see how important something like this is."

Dual-military couple

Tech. Sgt. John Steffen and his wife, **Staff Sgt. Roxanna Steffen**,

both of 934th Services Squadron, have experienced some of the struggles associated with raising children while preparing for war. John works in readiness, while Roxanna works in base recreation. They have two children, **Amanda** (9) and **Aaron Phillips** (6).

"Right now, we've hired a nanny to take care of the kids while we are gone on UTA," Roxanna Steffen said. "Our parents live in the same area, and that sure helps, too."

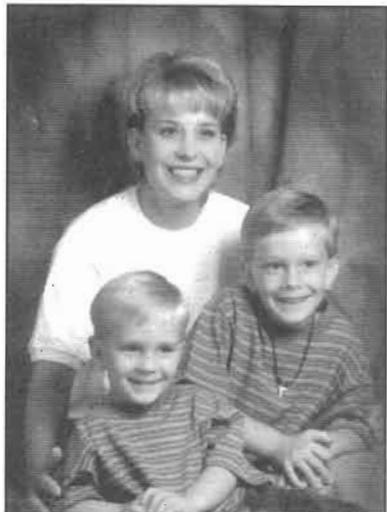
After completing 12 years of active duty, family concerns were an important factor in her decision to join the Reserve three and a half years ago.

"I spent one year in Korea away from my daughter when she was five," she said. "I wasn't going to be away from my family again!"

For the Steffens, building a family care plan made them think about what might happen and make contingency plans.



Frazier



Courtesy photo

Frazier and sons Kyle (right) and Haiden (left)

Family care plan

Required to be ready at a moment's notice, reservists must take care of family matters first



Senior Airman Jeffrey Williams

The Steffens



Courtesy photo

Clockwise, from top: children Amanda and Aaron with their parents, Roxanna and John Steffen

"We let our family know what to do in case of deployment so we can be better prepared," she said. "Our main concern is the stability of the kids, because we don't want to disrupt their

lives. It takes lots of planning."

Being assigned to the same squadron has helped alleviate some concerns, according to John Steffen.

"It is easier to give each other a helping hand and make preparations and planning," he said. "Since we come up from Mankato [Minn.] on Friday to prepare for the weekend, we make detailed notes for the kids, and our commander sends us a letter to give to work and school explaining what we do. It helps everyone."

His wife added, "We let our kids know one to two weeks ahead of time that UTA is coming. It's just good manners. It takes a lot of planning, but it's still hard leaving the kids with somebody."

Local assistance

The family readiness program, created after the Gulf War, is one avenue military families may approach for

(Continued on next page)

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information on creating and maintaining a family plan.

According to **Patricia Botkins**, director of the 934th Family Readiness Program since 1994, "We help our reservists and family members with setting up wills, powers of attorney, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and in making sure other legal documents are in order."

Family readiness maintains packets of family information, often given to members prior to deployment. Each packet contains a family readiness checklist, guide for personal records and mobilization preparation brochure, along with other important materials reservists should review for proper family care planning.

"We are an extended family," Botkins said. "We want our reservists to be proactive and make sure they are ready. From a spouse who's been there, this is really important stuff."

Juggling school, work, family, Reserve

Staff Sgt. Pat McCullough, 934th Airlift Wing Financial Management, and his wife, **Tammy**, have a family plan. "We've talked about it. I've made a living will," he said. "She's got one, too, in case something happens. Our finances are together if I ever leave."

The McCullough's have two sons, **Michael** (8) and

Andrew (4). Pat spent six years in the Army National Guard before joining the 934th nearly five years ago. Juggling responsibilities has proven quite a challenge.

"When we were just starting out as a newly married military couple, it was harder," Tammy McCullough said. "Eventually it got easier. Between Pat going to school, work and Reserve, he was gone quite a bit."

She added, "When I know that he is going to be gone, I plan the day care ahead of time, especially when I'm home alone."

"If my mom and dad come down from up north, they'll watch the kids," her husband said. "Generally it is my mother-in-law ... Sometimes the UTA will throw the schedule into a crunch, and we have to cancel some plans. It's easy to forget about things month to month."

Asked if he was ready if called up tomorrow, Pat McCullough said, "It would be tough. I picture myself as being ready, but you never know until it happens. I think I have everything taken care of with the wife's work and taking care of the kids. It would be a shocker, but I'd have to go. That's what I signed up for." □



McCullough

Combat-ready families

Reserve monitors family care plans as a readiness concern

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

At first glance, the Air Force Reserve Family Care Program may look and sound like a "feel good" public relations effort.

The program's objective, however, is to ensure members with families have family care arrangements covering all reasonably practical situations, both short- and long-term, according to Reserve officials.

But there's much more behind the required forms and legal arrangements. To the Reserve's leadership, proper family care planning remains essential to readiness and deployability.

According to **Tech. Sgt. Steven Robinson**, former chief of customer service and now chief of education and training, at least 100 wing members are required to participate in the program.

"The family care program involves single or divorced members with sole or joint legal custody, military-married-to-military members with minor children, or members with unique family situations," said Robinson. "Minor child" is defined as a dependent under age 19.

The family care program is administered by first sergeants and commanders, Robinson explained. It is governed by Air Force Instruction 36-2908, Family Care Plans, and is documented via Air Force Form 357, Family Care Certification.

Unit newcomers required to participate in the program have 90 days after assignment to complete paperwork requirements. Reservists may receive an extension to 120 days if necessary, according to Robinson.

The AF Form 357 requires the member to determine the following:

- Primary short-term care giver for military duty of 30 days or less,
- Primary long-term care giver for duty of more than 30 days, and

• Temporary custodian, who would assume custody of minor children in the event of the military member's death or incapacitation, until a legal guardian is appointed by the court.

For some reservists, all three of these requirements might be fulfilled by one person; for others, three people might be listed. Each must sign the form. The member must have a power of attorney for each care giver listed.

The form is also signed by the first sergeant or commander and recertified annually. Annual staff assistance visits from the 934th Military Personnel Flight ensure continued program currency.

"It's extremely important that Reserve members develop and maintain a workable family care plan that ensures their dependents are well cared for in the event they are mobilized," said **Senior Master Sgt. Patty Boettner**, first sergeant for the 934th Mission Support Flight and wing headquarters section. "Make sure your care givers know and understand their responsibilities." □

Family first

Family readiness remains focused on needs of military community

Master Sgt. Tim Turner

Public Affairs

Patricia Botkins, 934th Family Readiness Center director, speaks with heartfelt dedication of her role serving the "purple" community — military members, civilians, retirees and their families, with purple signifying the mix of all military services.

Her gratefulness to the Air Force Sergeants Association is heartfelt, too.

"AFSA helped establish and support the nonprofit Friends of Family Readiness volunteer program," said Botkins. "They serve as the 'umbrella organization' for this program as the custodian of funds."

The family readiness program here, the first joint service center in the nation, was established in 1994 to support the local Department of Defense community, according to Botkins. The second such facility is projected to open in the spring of 2000 at the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

AFSA also supports family readiness by donating much-needed funds.

"Because we are nonprofit, we have two major sources of support: volunteers and donations," said Botkins. "We receive contributions from AFSA and other local, military-affiliated organizations, such as the Air Force Association and Ladies Auxiliary, Flower and Garden Club, Officers' Wives Club, military units and many others."

Such generosity has enabled Botkins to coordinate providing more than \$28,000 to DOD community members in the past four years.

"One example occurred last summer," she said. "An Air Force Reserve member's wife here donated one of her kidneys to their daughter. Two of the Friends of Family Readiness organizations donated \$1,500 to the family to help pay medical expenses."

Helping military members and their families is the top priority of family readiness, and volunteers are an essential part of the assistance, said Botkins. No DOD employee can solicit fund raising in an official status. "That's why our joint services volunteers and local organizations are so important to conduct our fund raising events, after we

(FAMILY FIRST, continued on Page

To family readiness, with love

This family remembers helping hand received while far from home, in dire circumstances

The following letter was forwarded to Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz, 934th Support Group commander, regarding a reserve forces member's experience with the 934th Family Readiness Center. It is printed with the author's permission.

"I want to bring to your attention a wonderful group of people you have working for you and the extraordinary lengths they

will go to in helping a family in need. I am a member of the 123rd Airlift Wing [Kentucky Air National Guard], and though I have always counted on the Kentucky Guard like family, I never realized how far my Reserve family extended.

"I was traveling with my family through the Minneapolis airport ... after a funeral. I had to fly a trip for Northwest Airlines that day out of there, and I thought I had seen my wife and four sons off on their flight back to Louisville [Kentucky]. Unfortunately, their flight returned to the gate and later cancelled, stranding them in Minnesota. Luckily, my wife was able to find lodging in your North Country Inn, but she had a long wait for the next flight out and not much to entertain my boys. That's when she poked her head into the Family Readiness Center.

"My wife told me Patricia Botkins and her staff of volunteers were both helpful and encouraging. They made my family feel welcome and provided

them a place to relax during a stressful situation. My family joined [the staff] in putting together very professional information packets. The hard work and good humor made my family feel right at home. They even allowed my wife to make a telephone call to her mother to let her know everyone was fine. When it was time to go back to the airport, Darryl Graves [see focus, Page 20] graciously gave my family a ride, saving an expensive cab fare.

"I extend my sincere thanks to all the people who supported my family in their time of need. They were there when I could not be and did not even know there was a problem. Many see the military as a very cold institution or a bureaucracy, and sometimes that is true. Still, there are those few like Patricia Botkins and the center who remind you it has a heart."

Greg Hamilton, Major, Kentucky ANG □

Phone home

New video phone helps unite reservists, families during separations

Tech Sgt. Larry Dean
Public Affairs

The wonders of technology are hitting even closer to home for members of the 934th and allowing for more face-to-face time together, despite deployments.

With the addition of a state-of-the-art desktop video phone at the 934th Family Readiness Center, deployed members now can enjoy a video conference with friends and loved ones across the globe.

"The new video phone is available by reservation and was donated by Air Mobility Command," said **Patricia Botkins**, family readiness director. "They bought each base a \$500 model for use in morale calls for military members and families we serve here."

The desktop system gives an adjustable high-resolution color picture similar to a small television set. Users can adjust the resolution and frame rate to suit their needs at speeds of up to 15 frames per second over a regular analog, or touch tone, phone line. The unit is compact in size, 9.2 inches high, 6.3 inches wide and 7.8 inches deep, and the screen is about 3 inches in diameter.

"It's amazing, the clarity of the picture and how easy it is to operate," Botkins said. "You simply place or receive a call as you would a standard call and then press # and 1 to activate the television monitor and receive the



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

Amy Kuntz, family readiness volunteer and daughter of Tech. Sgt. Vicki Kuntz, 934th Airlift Wing, calls

picture transmission. Then you just talk like a normal phone call but actually see the other person at the same time."

She added that it's wonderful for families who have to be apart for an extended time during temporary duty. And it can be especially valuable if loved ones were away in a wartime situation. Family members could call them and see their loved one's face and be reassured he or she is okay.

A proposal is under review to purchase an additional video phone

Master Sgt. Jessie Gadson in family readiness with the 911th AW, Pittsburgh.

portable system to make available for units to sign out and take with them for annual tours and other deployments. Since the system is quick and easy to set up, merely needing a standard touch tone telephone line to operate, it would give wing members a taste of home when deployed to locations that do not have a similar system.

Currently, 39 bases now have the video phone in their family readiness centers. To learn more or find out which bases offer this service, visit the center or call Ext. 1516. □

Going my way?

Car pool matching service starts

Arising from several of the wing's Leadership Development Program classes, a car pool matching service is now offered by the 934th Family Readiness Center.

"We've already had three people come in to check on the program, simply from word-of-mouth news," said **Patricia Botkins**, family readiness director.

The center has a simple, zip-code listing of reservists and their military phone numbers.

Members seeking a car pool match select names from the listing to call and make a possible arrangement. At present, the list contains all wing members; however, anyone wishing to be removed from the list may call the center. In the future, the nearby Army Reserve unit may be added to the list, as the two units drill the same weekend.

For more information, call family readiness at Ext. 1516, or drop by Bldg. 752 across from the Base Exchange. □

Sweet relief

Act offers financial rights for reservists called to active duty

Tech Sgt. Larry Dean
Public Affairs

When war breaks out, it's critical to the military mission that all those called to respond can focus completely on accomplishing the objectives of the United States. Outside distractions could be fatal.

Congress recognized the importance of this when, in 1940, it passed into law the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. This act is designed to protect individuals called to active duty military service by postponing or suspending certain civil obligations in order to concentrate fully on the duty at hand.

"The act allows those called to duty to make necessary arrangements for personal activities," said **Lt. Col. Rocco Maffei Jr.**, wing staff judge advocate, "such as terminating or keeping an existing lease agreement for personal living arrangements, business, agricultural or professional leases, etc. The act provides breaks on mortgages and contracts for real property, postpones pending court actions, offers interest rate breaks for financial hardship instances caused by serving, and protects personal insurance policies. Certain considerations do apply, however, for exercising act rights."

Lease agreements

Maffei added that, for lease agreements, the lease must be entered into before being called to active duty, and the member or his/her dependents must have been the occupants. The lease can be terminated, under act conditions, only by written request and is effective 30 days after the upcoming month's payment.

So a letter to terminate on Jan. 1 would still require a Feb. 1 rent payment and then would terminate as of March 1. The member is still required to pay for those months prior to the lease termination. Also, landlords are prohibited from evicting a member called to active duty or

Family first ...

(Continued from Page 12)

receive approval from our commander," she said. "Some of the volunteer fund raising special events are held right on our base: the spring basket auction, book fairs, rummage sale, flag pins and tins, selling flowers, bouquets and donuts."

Botkins said she has volunteers from all of the branches of service, including spouses, retirees and family members — and even some civilians in the local area. However, new volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis, as people move away or personal availability changes.

"We absolutely could not provide

his/her dependents without court permission if the rent doesn't exceed \$1,200 per month.

Home, property owners

The act also protects those called to duty who are home owners with mortgages or have contracts for other real property, if military service materially effects their ability to pay.

"For example, a person who makes \$1,500 a week in a civilian job but only \$500 a week in military duty may find that the income is not there to make necessary payments," Maffei said. "The member must have entered a mortgage agreement or contract and paid a deposit or installment before called to serve on active duty. The creditor, however, can argue in court that the individual was not materially affected. Generally, if you are earning the same amount or more because of military service, the creditor will prevail."

The act also postpones any pending civil court proceedings and default judgements against a service member while serving on active duty. Courts can delay proceedings for the 60 days beyond the time served on active duty and can reopen pending default judgements 90 days after the member is released from active duty. Income tax filing can be deferred as well for up to six months after release from active duty.

Loans, obligations

The act also provides the opportunity for those materially affected to better manage their loans and obligations. The member can apply with the lender and then will not be required to pay above a 6 percent interest rate per year during active military service.

The creditor, however, could also assess interest above 6 percent to your co-signer — in other words, your legal dependent. The act offers protection to them as well; however, it will mean handling it through the courts for them, rather than the application process the member merely completes. Service members, however, cannot receive a reduced interest rate on student loans, regardless of the material effect.

Personal insurance policies are also protected from lapse, termination and forfeiture for nonpayment of premiums for an additional two years following active-duty service.

☉For more information, contact the base legal staff, Ext. 1230.□

assistance to our community without the generous contributions from military-affiliated organizations and our wonderful, dedicated volunteers," she said.

☉Anyone interested in volunteer opportunities or emergency assistance should call the center, Ext. 1516.□

Uniform turns 50

Air Force trades brown shoes for black, Army khakis for blues

President Harry Truman began his second term in office, the Berlin Airlift was in full swing and the Air Force was in the midst of furthering its distinction as a separate military service. It was January 1949, and the Air Force was about to receive the O.K. for a new uniform — one it could call its own.

Throughout World War II, Army Air Force members continued to wear the same uniform as their Army counterparts. Airmen tried to be distinctive from Army soldiers, sometimes removing the stiffener from their peaked visor caps, but the basic uniform remained the same.

In 1947, the National Security Act allowed the Air Force to become a separate service. With this new independence, Air Force officials began seeking approval for a new, blue uniform. However, according to **Sheldon Goldberg**, Air Force History Support Office reference

team member, the officials were met with congressional-level resistance.

This resistance didn't distract officials from their quest for uniform distinction. In their research, a regulation was found stating the president had the authority to prescribe what type of uniform the troops shall wear. With this regulation in hand, history records show that Air Force officials approached Truman with their ideas.

History was then made on Jan. 25, 1949, when **Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg** released a message stating the president had approved the blue uniform.

Although actual distribution of the new uniform began in September 1950, the Korean conflict caused

distribution to be slower and less organized than had been originally planned, according to Goldberg. The new uniform was phased in with many Air Force members still wearing the old khaki-style uniforms well after the distribution date.

"As I recall, in order to make a break from the Army, we traded in our brown shoes for black ones, our khaki belt for a blue belt and purchased a blue tie and a blue cap," said retired **Maj. Gen. Larry Fleming** of the uniform distribution.

Although the Air Force blue uniform has gone through many changes since its conception 50 years ago, the pride felt by most Air Force members when they wear it remains constant. *(Air Force Print News)* □

Check your look

The Air Force chief of staff reinstated the uniform board after a "suspension" of more than four years. The 96th uniform board will meet in October. The last one met in January 1995.

Officials said the board will meet on a recurring basis to handle "routine maintenance and continuous improvement of proper design and fit of the uniform." Here is a review of some commonly-questioned areas:

- **Members have until Sept. 30, 1999, to get the new blue uniform.**
- Satin oxidized and highly polished miniature and regular occupational duty and aeronautical badges with matching accouterments, phased out last year, have been temporarily reinstated until Oct. 1.
- **Sunglasses may not sport brand names on the frames or lenses.**
- The Navy Expert Rifle and Pistol Shot Ribbon and Medal may only be earned by Navy members. The only exception for wear would be a member of another service earning the ribbon/medal during prior service in the Navy. Units will require documentation to prove the honors were earned during Navy service.

Uniform looks older than you do? Review these requirements to polish your appearance

- **Wear of ankle bracelets is not authorized.**
- Men and women must wear the 3 1/2-inch chevrons on the blue shirt. Women may wear either the 3 1/2- or 4-inch chevrons on the service dress, mess dress, lightweight blue jacket and Battle Dress Uniform, but men must wear the 4-inch chevrons.
- **Specialty badges are centered on the left side, parallel with the ground, with the bottom aligned with the bottom of the name tag.**
- **Combat boots may be worn with the blue uniform.** For women, the common-sense rule is to wear them with slacks, not skirts or the maternity jumper. The boots may not be worn with the mess, semiformal or formal dress.
- **The blue cardigan sweater must be buttoned when worn outdoors.**

○ Anyone with questions about the uniform may call **Staff Sgt. Terry Glover**, customer service branch, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, at DSN 497-1288 or (912) 926-1288. *(Air Force Personnel Center)* □

SUPER BOWL

Wing reservist wins dream trip in NCO Club contest

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly
Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. James Rutz wasn't expecting much out of his free trip to the Super Bowl. The full-time college student even brought along his biology textbook so he could keep up on his studies while in Miami.

"I pictured a stay at a budget motel, limousine ride and tickets to the game, and that was about it," said Rutz, a services journeyman with the 934th Services Squadron. "I mean, the military is pretty frugal; I guess I didn't know what to expect."

Roll out the red carpet

From the time his plane touched down in Miami, expectations of thrift and economy were swept aside by the extravagance and opulence of the accommodations and parties, and the extraordinary treatment afforded the prize winners.

Rutz, one of five winners of the Air Force Reserve Command and U.S. Air Force "Football Frenzy" drawing sponsored by NCO clubs worldwide, traveled with his friend, **Rico Fajardo**.

"It was excellent, much better than I expected," said Rutz. "We stayed at a hotel where the rooms cost more than \$300 a night. Our room looked out on a golf course. There was a Jacuzzi, swimming pool, all the extras. We could order anything we wanted from room service; everything was covered."

Because Rutz arrived before the other prize winners, he and his guest were invited to a party for Miller Brewing Company employees. Miller Brewing, Scheduled Airline Ticket Office Travel and the Air Force Services Agency sponsored the trip.

"It was great. They had a huge array of food; oysters, crab legs, steak — you name it, it was there," he said.

Rutz arrived on Friday and had a full itinerary each day. On Saturday, they took in the sights along the beaches of South Miami, with a visit to the National Football League players party for autographs and souvenirs.

That night, they had access passes to a number of Fort Lauderdale parties.

Game day

On game day, Rutz attended a pregame party. Not only was there the customary huge array of food as well as live music, but the event was attended by Chicago Cubs star **Sammy Sosa**.

Rutz said he collected autographs from a number of celebrities, including **Terrell Owens** of the San Francisco 49ers and **Tim Brown** of the Oakland Raiders.

After the pregame party, it was time to leave for Pro Player Stadium, site of the big game between the Denver Broncos and the Atlanta Falcons.

Rutz knew he would be traveling by limousine. What he didn't know was there would be six police cars escorting the entourage, whisking them through what would have been bumper to bumper traffic, bringing them right into the stadium through a special players' entrance.

"As we arrived at the game, **Franco Harris**, the former Pittsburgh Steelers star, got out of the limo next to ours," he said. "I snapped a picture of him."

Rutz and Fajardo settled into their \$325 seats in the Falcons end zone.

Both were rooting for Atlanta, but for different reasons.

"He wanted the Minnesota Vikings to be in the Super Bowl real bad," said Rutz. "I had hoped for the Vikings too. If they'd made it, it would have been special with **Randy Moss** and all the great players they had this year."

"My favorite team, the San Diego Chargers, is in the same conference as Denver, so I don't like them," he explained. "I'm for anyone who can beat Denver."

"Rico didn't much care for Denver either, and was pulling for the underdog," he said.

Rutz found the game enjoyable, despite the outcome.

"You could see everything perfectly," he said. "The game seemed to go faster than it does on television. On television they focus on one small part of the game, so you miss the overall workings of the offense and defense."

Throughout the game, blimps passed overhead, game images flashed on the big screens around the stadium and an announcer gave the play-by-play.

"Each time they scored a touchdown, they set off fireworks," he said. Despite all that was going on, Rutz said he didn't need the ear plugs he'd brought along for the noise.

The fans seated in the end zone were largely Falcons fans, said Rutz, which may have partially explained the lack of noise.

"The Falcons were beating themselves," he said. "There were some poor play calls, and the Denver blitz was very effective."

"I did enjoy the kickoff return by **Tim Dwight** of the Falcons," he said. "I didn't realize how fast he is."

Despite a few bright spots for Falcons fans, it was clearly Denver's game, and they won by a score of 34-19.

Heading back to 'winter land'

After spending Monday shopping and soaking up some sun, Rutz packed up for the return trip to snowy Minnesota.

He packed the freebies he received, including a backpack, a camera and several T-shirts. He returned his biology textbook to his suitcase as well.

As it turned out, he'd had no spare time for studying on this trip. □

Fitness with style

New base fitness center offers fun, fitness with new equipment, services

Cherie Huntington
Public Affairs

Base members can have a ball – basketball, volleyball or racquetball – with the new \$1.5 million base fitness center now open for business.

Located next door to the Base Exchange, the center offers 7,600 square feet of free sports and fitness fun for military members, Department of Defense civilians and their families. Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 7 a.m.-6 p.m., weekends.

According to **Ronna Puck**, civilian

recreation services manager, some equipment was kept from the old, smaller facility, but \$56,000 in new training equipment is now offered.

"We have a weight room upstairs," she said, "with more weight and cardio equipment downstairs." New equipment includes elliptical trainers, treadmills and a recumbent bike.

Half-court basketball is available at alternating times with volleyball. The following are the hours for each, with reservation hours 2-4 p.m. daily, no more than seven days in advance:

Basketball. Lunch play:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 15-minute blocks. First eight people play four-on-four, up to 10 people. *Evening play:* 4-6 p.m., 15-minute blocks. Basketballs are available for sign out. Later-evening hours may be reserved for league play in the future.

Volleyball. Lunch play: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. First six people play three-on-three,

Grand opening set

The fitness center grand opening will be on Sunday, March 7, and Monday, March 8, starting at 10 a.m. The staff will be on hand to demonstrate use of all new equipment, and free prizes will be available.

For details, call 1-GYM, or Ext. 1496. □

up to 12 people. *Evening play:* 4-6 p.m., one-hour blocks. Volleyballs are available for sign out.

Racquetball. One racquetball court is available, and one reservation is allowed per person per day for a one-hour block, except for lunch play, which is half-hour play, 10:30-1 p.m. Safety goggles must be worn, and

(FITNESS CENTER, continued on Page 20)

Time to walk

Six wing units will start the fitness ball rolling next month as annual three-mile walk testing begins Saturday, April 10.

Units scheduled to walk during April drill include:

- 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Sunday afternoon;
- 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, Saturday and Sunday afternoons;
- 934th Communications Flight, Saturday afternoon;
- 934th Logistics Support Flight, Saturday and Sunday, morning and afternoon;
- 934th Maintenance Squadron, Saturday and Sunday, morning and afternoon; and
- 934th Mission Support Flight, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

According to **Tech. Sgt. Ronna Puck**, fitness and recreation craftsman with the 934th Services Squadron, units received complete scheduling calendars extending through August.

Walkers will follow previous years' route, starting at the tennis courts and continuing to the Air National Guard

Start practicing – annual fitness testing starts next month for six wing units

Military Annual Walk Time Requirements – Three Miles

Age	Women	Men
17-29	43.52	40.54
30-34	45.10	42.04
35-39	46.29	43.15
40-44	47.44	44.25
45-49	48.55	45.34
50+	52.02	48.19

facilities. Signs and spotters will line the route, and water will be available at the finish line.

Puck said schedules also are completed for unit course monitors, listing when each unit is required to serve. Four monitors must be present, or the walk must be cancelled. Also, unit fitness program managers are required to be present when their unit is scheduled to walk.

Walkers should find no surprises in this year's testing, but reviewing basic requirements should help in preparation.

"You have to wear fitness clothing," said Puck. "No BDUs [battle dress uniforms] are allowed. Also, there is no running allowed on the course." She encouraged walkers to bring a water bottle to tote on the course.

Each age group has its own start time for morning and afternoon sessions, with 10-minute increments between each group. For the age group 17-29, morning sessions begin at 8:30 a.m., and afternoon sessions start at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact your unit fitness monitor. □

People

Medals

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Scott Calvert, SVS
Capt. Toby Hammer, MXS
Capt. Donald Kom, CES, first oak leaf cluster
Master Sgt. John Maki, APS
Maj. Christopher Lewis, MXS, second OLC
Capt. Jerin McRath, ASTS
Master Sgt. Adan Sylva, APS, first OLC

Air Force Achievement Medal

Capt. Edna Langenfeld, ASTS
Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Perry

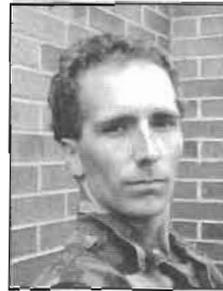
Newcomers

- Senior Airman Brian Cole, APS, *Minnesota Air National Guard*
- Staff Sgt. Edward Cox, CF, *Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.*
- Airman 1st Class Rachel Curilli, SVS, *non-prior service*
- Tech. Sgt. Dennis Gauthier, ASTS, *Air Reserve Personnel Center*
- Senior Airman Derek Green, MXS, *Minnesota Air National Guard*
- Staff Sgt. Jesse Hagen, APS, *prior service Air Force*
- Senior Airman Sean Kuck, ASTS, *Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska*
- Senior Airman Melissa Newell, MXS, *prior service Air Force*
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Stumpfl, MXS, *Travis AFB, Calif.*

Achievements

• **Senior Airman Aidan Anderson**, AES, was selected as the member of the month for the squadron in honor of his selection as the wing airman of the year.

• **Tech. Sgt. John Byerly**, AW, was selected for the Air Force's four-person ski team to compete in multi-service military trials,



Byerly

March 4, in Stowe, Vt. Byerly will compete in the giant slalom event. The top five military skiers head to international competition in Norway in late March. Byerly, a wing ground safety technician, is a U.S. Postal Service employee in Minneapolis, and a skiing instructor at Afton Alps, Hastings, Minn. Prior to joining the Reserve, he was a nationally-ranked ski racer. Read about the competition in a future issue of the *Viking Flyer*.

• **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Sayre**, LSS, achieved 100 percent scores on both tests at hazardous material preparer school, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

• **Airman Sara Webb**, CF, was selected for the unit's "Look Sharp" award in February.

• The following members completed the Leadership Development Program, January-March class:

Staff Sgt. James Blackburn, CES
Tech. Sgt. Duane Cook, CES
Tech. Sgt. Roddy Crosgrove Sr., MXS
Staff Sgt. Michael Eastridge, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Michael Ginapp, MSF
Staff Sgt. David Hanson Best, APS

Staff Sgt. Diane Johnson, AS
Tech. Sgt. Steven Jones, AES
Staff Sgt. Todd Kopperud, MXS
Staff Sgt. Joseph Mohlis, MXS
Senior Airman John Morrison, APS
Tech. Sgt. Harold Naatz, CES
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Olson, SFS
Staff Sgt. Christopher Reese, AES
Tech. Sgt. Scott Rian, AES
Staff Sgt. Mark Serstock, MXS
Staff Sgt. Timothy Thompson, APS
Staff Sgt. Wayne Tompkins, APS
Staff Sgt. Brian Wollak, SFS

• **The 934th Public Affairs Office and 934th Military Personnel Flight** received awards in February for outstanding support of recruiting in fiscal year 1998. The engraved, oak-framed clocks were presented at the annual recruiting workshop in San Antonio, Texas.

Marriages

Kirby Bauer, CF, and **Shannon Armitage** were married in full military ceremonies at the Fort Snelling Chapel, Minneapolis, Feb. 27.

Births

Martin Maher, LSS, and his wife, **Jennifer**, have a new baby daughter, **Molly Frances**, born Feb. 3, weighing 7 pounds, 15.5 ounces.

Jerin McRath, ASTS, and her husband, **Michael**, have a new baby daughter, **Elaina Grace**, born Jan. 12, weighing 7 pounds, 12.5 ounces.

Retirements

Tech. Sgt. Wayne Roehrick, 20 years □

Top honors

Wing magazine staff members earn Reserve media awards

The 934th Airlift Wing earned first-place awards in two categories for Air Force Reserve Command in the 1998 Air Force Media Contest, announced last month.

The *Viking Flyer*, edited by **Cherie Huntington**, was selected as the top magazine in AFRC. Significant contributors were **Master Sgt. Tim Turner** and **Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly**.

The second place magazine was *Contact*, 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Byerly also won honors as the top sportswriter in AFRC. This is her second sports-writing win, as she won top honors in 1995. Last year, she was the Reserve's top news writer.

The *Flyer* and Byerly now continue to Air Force-level competition in March.

Huntington has edited the *Flyer* since 1992. Prior to that, she served on the staff for two years as a reservist. The paper achieved third-place ranking in 1993, its first honor earned in Reserve competition, followed by first place in 1994 and second place in both 1995 and 1996.

A major in the Minnesota Air National Guard, Huntington also edits the 133rd Airlift Wing newspaper, the *Northstar Guardian*. The *Guardian* was selected as the top newspaper in the Air National Guard for 1998, the fourth time in five years; and Huntington was selected as the ANG's top news writer for 1998. □



Wing around the world:

March

- 27th APS:** Not available
- 934th AES:** Bosnia, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Japan, Mississippi
- 934th ASTS:** Texas
- 96th AS:** California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, Texas
- 934th AW HQ/MSF:** Panama
- 934th CES:** Alabama, Florida, Texas
- 934th CF:** Florida, Texas
- 934th LSS:** Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Panama, Texas
- 934th MXS:** Georgia, Hawaii, Mississippi, Panama, Texas
- 934th OSF:** Not available
- 934th SFS:** New Jersey, Texas
- 934th SVS:** Delaware, Georgia

This list shows official travel destinations for wing members, via commercial or military transportation. For space-available travel information, call the 96th Airlift Squadron, 713-1741, or the local Air National Guard wing, 713-2450. □

Viking Search:

C-130 fuel systems technician

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

Specialty code/unit: 2A6X4, 934th Maintenance Squadron.

Job description: Perform maintenance on and inspect C-130 fuel tanks and cells; advise on fuel systems removal, repair and installation maintenance procedures and policies.

Civilian job equivalent: Fuel system repair with commercial airlines. Hours of military experience should help

in working toward the airframe and powerplant license required in a civilian career.

Special requirements: Must be able to work in confined spaces and must not be color blind.

Training: Seven weeks and two days, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Bonus career field: If you have six to 10 years of service for pay purposes and are cross-training into this field, or if you are a new recruit, you may be eligible for a three-year, \$2,500 bonus or six-year, \$5,000 bonus.



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

Tech. Sgt. Doug Roden, aircraft fuels system craftsman

The bonus is paid in increments over the enlistment time at the completion of each year of service.

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

Services Briefs

NCO Club

The **Jukebox Express DJ** will play on Saturday, March 6, starting at 8:30 p.m.

A **two-for-one dinner** is featured for Tuesday, March 23, with grilled ribeye steak. Call for a reservation.

Dinner specials are offered every Friday and Saturday night.

Breakfast every day is a club specialty, served 7-9:30 a.m.

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

Officers Club

The **Ivory Keys Premier Show** is set for Thursday, March 4, with drinks at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and the show at 7:30. The menu is tenderloin tips or champagne chicken for \$14.95 per person, including gratuity and a glass of champagne.

A **St. Patrick's Day** corned beef and cabbage dinner is set for Wednesday, March 17.

The **annual chili feed** will be held on Monday, March 22 in the lounge. Cook your best batch of chili and bring it to the club at 5 p.m. for registration, with judging starting at 6. First place wins \$50; second, \$25; and third, \$10. If you don't feel like cooking, just come and taste!

A **winter warm-up** special of a cigar and cognac will be offered all month, plus bring home a free prize.

☎For reservations or information, call Ext. 3678. □

Fitness center...

(Continued from Page 17)

racquets must have protective safety ends. Racquetballs will be available for sign out. Lessons are offered, by appointment only, at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, taught by reservist **Larry O'Connell**.

Free daily-use lockers are available in the restrooms, which are equipped with showers. Patrons must bring their own locks. Free towels will be available for check out. No black-soled shoes are allowed. Services requiring fees, such as fitness classes and personal trainers, are being considered.

☎For reservations or information, call 1-GYM, or Ext. 1496. Also, volunteer staff are needed, particularly on non-drill weekends, in blocks of two to four hours. Sign up at least one week in advance by calling the 934th Family Readiness Center, Ext. 1516. □

Family readiness selects volunteer of the quarter

Patricia Botkins

Director, Family Readiness Program



Graves

The joint service family readiness volunteer of the quarter is **Darryl Graves**.

Darryl, a familiar face on base, has been volunteering for the 934th Family Readiness Center since January 1998. He has volunteered more than 500 hours and now holds the FRC record.

Many people here know Darryl from his career in aircraft

maintenance. He began his military service with a tour in the Air Force, 1954-1957. He entered the Reserve in 1964, accepted an air reserve technician position and held the same position from 1966 until retirement in 1993. He worked as an aircraft hydraulic mechanic, aircraft mechanic, nondestructive inspection technician, aircraft quality control technician and retired as an aircraft mechanic foreman.

"My association with the family readiness center allows me to keep my hand in with the 934th," said Darryl, "and also with innumerable members of all services and their family members."

When Darryl started volunteering, he said he wanted to keep this center open when the director is gone because there is a wealth of information at the center along with all kinds of assistance available to the Department of Defense community. He volunteers three days a week in the afternoon.

Darryl, along with several other retiree volunteers, took advantage of free computer training offered to family readiness volunteers. He said he "just wanted keep up with his granddaughter."

That training helps him provide outstanding computer-related assistance to help newcomers to the community looking for housing or maps. He knows how to access the Web to download information for reservists who are deploying to any worldwide military installation. Since he is a "print merge expert," he ensures every family member who has a deployed reservist receives a letter from family readiness to inform them we are here if they need us.

Darryl goes out of his way to help families and has even transported families to the airport (see story, bottom of Page 12). He is a true gem, or as we like to tell him at the center is a "rough diamond."

Thank you, Darryl, for sharing your valuable time to our DOD community. We truly appreciate you. □