

Vol. 21, No. 4/April 1999

# VIKING FLYER



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



Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

## Thirty years of service

*Honoring reservists with  
extended service*

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### On the cover

Tech. Sgt. Jerry Immonen (right) and Senior Master Sgt. Roy Shives (left), MXS, each have completed nearly 34 years of military service. For a salute to members with 30 years or more of service toward retirement, see Pages 8-14.



Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

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### UTA schedule

**May 1-2** ▶ UTA entrees:  
**June 5-6** Saturday, ham and  
**July 10-11** breaded fish fillets;  
**Aug. 7-8** Sunday, chicken  
**Sept. 11-12** Kiev and beef  
stroganoff.  
▶ UTA pay date:  
April 21.

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

## Commentary

# Web targets

### *Hackers aim at defense electronic communications*

Col. Richard Moss  
Wing Commander

**I**n the past couple of years, the Air Force Reserve has embraced the World Wide Web to deliver its message to the American people. Additionally, we have all come to rely on e-mail, intranets and other modes of electronic communication for internal business processes.



Moss

But take a look at recent news and you will see that while the electronic information age has its advantages, it poses a serious threat to the security of our Reserve mission, the 934th and forces abroad.

In recent testimony before Congress, **George Tenet**, CIA director, said, "I think that our government is hemorrhaging in a way that I have never seen in my lifetime." In the same testimony, **Lt. Gen. Patrick Hughes** of the Defense Intelligence Agency pointed his concerns at the Web.

"We seem now to have erred on the side of making so much information available that some of it has been damaging to our governmental collective effort," said Hughes.

As recently as March 6, the Department of Defense confirmed that its critical information systems have been under "cyberattack" for the last several months. Though no damaging information has been comprised, it points out that we must all be diligent and cognizant of the potential for harm in our electronic communications. It also illustrates that the threat is real and people throughout the world are actively attacking our information infrastructure.

One of the most effective strategies of hackers is to data mine or draw information from various electronic sources to piece together facts about people, missions and other military activities. This is achieved through Web sites, e-mail transactions and intranets to name a few.

The Reserve is addressing this issue. A 22-member team was recently created to monitor and evaluate DOD Web sites to ensure national security is not compromised or sensitive information revealed. The team is called the Joint Risk Assessment Cell, and they began their work in March.

As we begin to bring on more and more electronic modes of communication in the 934th, I ask that we all practice extreme diligence in our electronic communications practices, particularly in regards to deployments and people. Recognize the potential for harm and be careful with information you transmit or load onto computer systems.

When in doubt about the information you are transmitting, err to the side of caution and seek outside guidance on the appropriateness of transmitting certain information. Refer to Air Force Instructions 33-129 and 35-205 for what is proper on the Internet and proper for security review.

Information in battle is a key to decisive victory. Let's all work to ensure it is not compromised. □

### 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*.



### Travis airman discharged in anthrax refusal case

**Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Bettendorf** will be discharged "under other than honorable conditions" for disobeying a direct order to take the anthrax immunization.

This decision by the 15th Air Force commander, **Lt. Gen. John Sams Jr.**, terminates the court-martial that was pending against Bettendorf.

The case came to Sams for disposition after the airman requested to be discharged instead of being tried by a special court-martial. Bettendorf, an aerospace ground equipment specialist with the 815th Air Mobility Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., chose to make this request knowing he could receive the worst possible administrative discharge an airman can get.

"General Sams has total confidence in the DOD [Department of Defense] program to vaccinate and protect our troops against anthrax," noted **Col. Dave Thomas**, senior legal advisor to Sams. "He has personally received three of the six shots in the anthrax series." (*Air Force Print News*)

### Air Force newspaper launched

The Air Force launched its first official newspaper via the World Wide Web, *U.S. Air Force Online News*, March 17. The electronic paper is available at:

<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

Published every Wednesday, the paper will report on current news of interest across the Air Force and provide readers an opportunity to express their opinions and voice their concerns to Air Force leaders.

"Everyone interested in the U.S. Air Force needs to read *Online News* each Wednesday," said **Gen. Michael Ryan**, Air Force chief of staff. "It is going to give people information they need and want to know about their Air Force."

"We want all Air Force people to read this newspaper," said **Whit Peters**, acting Air Force secretary. "We know to win and keep an audience we have to earn their trust by telling the whole story, and telling it in real time."

Besides logging onto the newspaper Web site, readers may subscribe. For airmen with limited computer or Internet access, the paper will be available as a printable file so unit leaders can print copies for distribution. (*AFPN*)

### Certificate honors Cold War vets

Millions of former and current service members and civilians are eligible to receive certificates honoring them for their role in winning the Cold War.

The Army, executive agent for the program, started taking applications April 5. Applications may be made by Internet at:

<http://sdcw.army.mil/coldwar/>

They may also be made by e-mail, fax and mail; however,

addresses and phone numbers were unavailable at press time.

People are eligible for the recognition certificate if they have military or civilian service with the war, navy or defense departments between Sept. 2, 1945, and Dec. 26, 1991. Applicants citing military service can present the following records as proof: DD Form 215, Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty; WD AGO Form 53-55, War Department Separation Document; or Oath of Office — Military Personnel or Letter of Appointment. Copies of these documents can be obtained by writing to: National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

Qualifying civilian service can be proved with a Standard Form 50, Notification of Personnel Action; Standard Form 2809, Health Benefit Registration Form; an award certificate with the employee's name, name of service or agency, and dates; or retirement forms with the employee's name, service or agency, and dates.

Employment verification or a copy of records may be obtained by writing to: U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Employee Service and Record Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045

Supporting documentation will not be returned. (*American Forces Press Service*)

### Army fraternization policies change

A new Army policy on fraternization started March 2, giving officers and enlisted soldiers who are now dating one year to marry or end their relationship.

The new "good order and discipline" policy revised Army Regulation 600-20. Besides restricting personal relationships between soldiers of different ranks, it also limits private business deals between officers and enlisted soldiers. While the policy does not prohibit transactions such as selling a car or renting a house, it does restrict the lending of money or entering into long-term business partnerships. Business relationships, allowed under the old policy, are exempt until March 1, 2000.

Relationships between reserve forces members are exempt from the new policy if the relationships are primarily based on civilian acquaintance. Personal relations between Regular Army and reserve component soldiers are also allowed, with the same stipulation. However, officers and enlisted soldiers cannot date if either are on active-duty tours or serving in full-time Guard or Reserve positions.

**William Cohen**, secretary of defense, directed in July 1998 that all services align their fraternization policies. (*Army News Service*)

### Clubs introduce 'Blue Star Benefit'

Air Force Services Agency officials announced another value to becoming a club member: the Blue Star Benefit.

Inspired by the World War II tradition of hanging a blue star in the windows of families with loved ones serving

(Continued on next page)

### Briefs ...

(Continued from previous page)

their country, the new enhancement gives Air Force club members a rebate of all interest charges accrued during active service in a military campaign. The end result is that members deployed to certain military locations will enjoy interest-free revolving accounts.

"Military campaign" is defined as a contingency location with satisfies campaign service award requirements, such as Bosnia. Once club members return to their normal duty assignment, they should send a copy of their military orders and a brief letter to First USA, and all interest fees accrued during that period will be refunded.

Club members can contact their local clubs for information: the NCO Club, Ext. 1655; or the Fort Snelling Officers Club, Ext. 3678. (AFPN)

### Federal scholarships offered

Federal and postal employees seeking scholarships to fund a college education for themselves or their family members can now obtain an application for the 1999 Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund annual scholarship competition.

Scholarship awards range from \$300 to \$1,500 per student. The merit-based awards go to applicants who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, a dedication to community service, clarity of thought as expressed in the required essay and a positive written recommendation.

Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and may be high school seniors, full-time college students or graduate students. Federal employee applicants may be part-time students; all other applicants must be attending school full time. In addition, the federal employee applicant or sponsor must have served at least three years of federal or postal service.

All applications must be postmarked by May 7. To receive an application, send a self-addressed, stamped No. 10 business-size envelope to: FEEA Scholarship Program, 8441 W. Bowles Avenue, Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-3245. The application is available on the FEEA home page at:

<http://www.fpml.com/FEEA/FEEAhome.html>

FEEA also offers a low-interest student loan program in cooperation with Educaid, the student loan division of First Union National Bank. These loans are available to both parents and students.

For loan requirements or an application, call Educaid, (800) 578-1233. (FEEA news release)

### 'Must runs' announced

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

- **Retention rates challenged.** Enlisted retention is a key ingredient to readiness and a major challenge facing

the Air Force. Officials report continuing losses of people with leading-edge technical skills and leadership experience to an extremely competitive job market and the strongest American economy in a generation. High operations tempo, its impact on quality of life, and pay and compensation issues are also major concerns.

Reenlistment rates for first- and second-termers and career airmen are down. Air Force officials are particularly concerned with second-term reenlistment rates. In fiscal 1998, only 69 percent of eligible second-termers opted to reenlist. The Air Force needs to retain 75 percent of this group to sustain appropriate experience levels.

- **Legal readiness emphasized.** With the transition to an expeditionary aerospace force, there will be an even greater emphasis on readiness. Air Force officials are stressing the need for a will for all members of the military.

- **Paid television time makes debut.** For the first time in its history, the Air Force bought national television advertising to support its recruiting efforts, the service announced Feb. 9. The increased exposure is designed to help combat difficulties all military services are reporting in today's recruiting marketplace.

The initial television plan includes an allocation of \$17 million, with the first paid spot during the NCAA regional tournament game, Feb. 27. A \$37 million network campaign will begin with the television fall schedule in October, or sooner.

- **Leave sharing helps others.** The Air Force voluntary civilian leave-sharing program is one way for employees to help other employees in need. The program lets an employee donate annual leave to another work who has a medical emergency and who has exhausted his or her own paid leave. Forms to donate annual leave or to become a leave recipient are available at civilian personnel offices.

- **Quality of life paper published.** The 1999 Air Force Quality of Life focus paper has been approved and published, focusing on field leaders' opinions on what has the greatest impact on readiness and retention.

Major commands, unit commanders and first sergeants responded by revalidating the seven areas the Air Force has been concentrating on for the last several years: compensation and benefits, operations tempo, health care, housing, retirement, community and family programs, and educational opportunities.

The paper can be found on the Air Force quality of life home page at:

<http://www.dp.hq.af.mil/DP/afqol/QOL.HTM>

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**Reserve**

**Pay delay affects reservists**

Some reservists experienced a delay in receiving pay in the past few weeks because the computer system maintaining the Air Force Reserve Pay System moved from Denver, Colo., to Mechanicsburg, Pa., March 26-28.

To make the transfer smoother, finance people did not perform scheduled pay updates March 19-30. For pay transactions conducted on March 18, the payout would have been April

1. Pay updates from March 19-30 should have been received by reservists by April 7. (AFRC News Service)

**High-year tenure policy receives temporary exception**

A temporary exception to the high-year tenure policy took effect on March 1.

Selected Reserve members with HYT dates of March 1-May 31 may be granted a 90-day extension to their current date. Eligible members will be identified, and with both commander and member concurrence, extensions will be processed immediately. Members not wanting the extension may continue to be processed for separation without penalty.

Officials said this is an urgent attempt to retain Reserve enlisted end strength plus suspend separations until new policy can be developed for granting the extension of enlisted HYT dates in 1999 and 2000.

For more details, contact **Tech. Sgt. Mike Ginapp**, Ext. 1503. (Headquarters U.S. Air Force message)

**Gaining command survey offered**

Air Mobility Command has initiated a computer-based survey for all its members, including gained Reserve and Guard units. The 934th Airlift Wing is an AMC-gained unit.

The survey, which must be completed by gained reserve forces members and civilian employees by April 30, requests feedback on topics such as operations tempo, leadership and teamwork. Active-duty members completed the survey March 31.

"I need to know your views if we are to continue to improve on our air mobility mission performance," said **Gen. Tony Robertson**, AMC commander.

Base members may complete the survey only from computer systems with the .mil or .gov domains. It is found on the AMC home page:

<http://amc.scott.af.mil>

Participants then click on the survey link. The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

For more information on the survey, call **Maj. Jill Guglich**, DSN 576-6757. If a disk-based version of the survey is required, call **Maj. Michele Reboulet**, DSN 576-6205, or **Marie Smothers**, DSN 576-6188. (AMC message)

April 1999



**Daddy's home**

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

**Maj. Jim Majors**, right, 934th Airlift Wing pilot and flying safety officer, greeted his happy family March 6 after returning from a two-week deployment to Panama. Majors holds Jacob (3), while wife Karen, left, totes Josh (16 months).

**Local**

**Home buyers' seminar set**

The next Veterans Affairs home buyer Saturday seminars are set for April 10, May 1 and June 5, 4:45-5:45 p.m., at the 934th Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 752.

To sign up for the free seminar or get more details, call the center, Ext. 1516.

**Base float needs volunteers**

Volunteers are needed to staff the 934th Airlift Wing float in spring and summer parades, according to **Master Sgt. Rosie O'Neal**, float coordinator.

Interested members should e-mail O'Neal the following information: name, work/home/base phone numbers, home address and unit. Required uniform is blues.

For more information, call O'Neal, Ext. 1719.

**CAP welcomes new members**

The Civil Air Patrol's Colonel Cabana Squadron moved to the base recently and welcomes new members. They meet each Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the transportation building, Bldg. 745.

According to **1st Lt. Antonia Kunitz**, squadron commander, squadron members are mostly cadets, age 11 and up, but adults are eligible, too. The squadron is named after a NASA astronaut who graduated from Washburn High School, Minneapolis.

For more information, call Kunitz, (612) 835-5353. □

# Reserve restructure

*Latest changes affect units in nine states — Minnesota stands fast*

**A**ir Force Reserve Command will expand its space role, realign its special operations units, diversify its training missions and reduce C-141 positions as part of force structure changes announced by the Air Force March 5.

Changes in the Air Force's force structure are the result of mission changes, adjustments for efficiency, congressional directives and implementation of the expeditionary aerospace force concept. These changes impact Reserve units in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas and Washington.

• **CALIFORNIA.** The Reserve will activate the 9th Space Operations Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Manpower authorizations for the new squadron call for seven full-time Active Guard and Reserve military positions and 30 Reserve drill authorizations.

Travis AFB's 615th Air Mobility Operations Group will transfer 29 active-duty slots to reserve forces for tanker airlift control elements. TALCEs establish airfield operations, usually at bare base locations overseas.

• **FLORIDA.** Reserve and active-duty special operations squadrons will relocate to align the same mission at one location.

The 5th Special Operations Squadron will remain part of the Reserve's 919th Special Operations Wing when it moves from Duke Field to Eglin AFB. Squadron aircrews will continue to fly MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft but in an associate unit capacity on active-duty aircraft. The squadron's supporting aircraft maintenance activities will also move to Eglin and reorganize into a detachment. This action will result in the transfer of 61 military and 199 drill positions to Eglin.

At nearby Hurlburt Field, the active force's 8th SOS will move four MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft, and 278 military and two civilian positions to Duke Field. This move assigns all Combat Talon I aircraft in the Air Force inventory under the Reserve's 919th SOW. It also means the 8th becomes an active-associate unit, flying and helping maintain the Reserve-owned aircraft. The 919th's 711th SOS at Duke Field will lose one MC-130E aircraft with an associated reduction of 29 drill positions.

"The Reserve experimented with a 'reverse-type' associate unit back in the 1970s with the EC-121 mission out of Homestead [AFB, Fla.]," said **Col. Mark Stogsdill**, 919th SOW commander. "We know that circumstances are right to try it again. From a consolidation and efficiency standpoint, it makes good sense."

• **GEORGIA.** At Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., the 94th Airlift Wing will convert its eight C-130H tactical airlifters to a training mission. This action will result in an increase of 48 civilian positions and a decrease of 186 drill positions.

The Reserve will expand its associate instructor pilot capability by activating a flying training squadron at Moody AFB, Ga. This action will generate eight AGR full-time military slots and 36 drill authorizations to support an active-duty squadron of 35 AT-38/T-38C aircraft.

• **ILLINOIS.** At Scott AFB, Ill., the Reserve's 932nd AW will gain two drill positions, and the active force will eliminate 18 military slots. This action is the result of a Defense Department audit, which recommended giving the Reserve associate unit an increased role in the C-9 mission.

• **MISSISSIPPI.** The Reserve will take three AGR and 16 drill

authorizations from its 43rd Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, Miss., to help build the new training squadron in Georgia.

• **NEW JERSEY.** The 514th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire AFB, N.J., will lose 31 civilians and 221 drill authorizations because the active-duty wing will retire 10 C-141s. Also, the 621st Air Mobility Operations Group at McGuire will transfer 31 military positions to the Reserve and Guard.

• **SOUTH CAROLINA.** At Charleston AFB, S.C., the 315th AW will lose 78 civilian and 401 drill authorizations as the active force host reduces its C-141 fleet by 12 aircraft.

• **TEXAS.** Two AGR and 18 drill slots from the 100th FTS at Randolph AFB, Texas, will add to the new training squadron in Georgia.

• **WASHINGTON.** The Reserve's 446th AW will gain eight civilian authorizations and lose 31 drill positions as the active-duty wing is trading 10 C-141s for nine C-17s.

The force structure announcement included additional manpower authorizations required to implement the expeditionary aerospace force concept, anticipated to become operational by Jan. 1, 2000. The Reserve will not receive EAF manpower allocations because those additional troops will help the active-duty people who remain at home base when others in the unit deploy overseas for an extended period.

However, the Reserve will provide operational and support people for the EAF in overseas deployments. By scheduling deployments more than a year in advance, Air Force leaders believe they can more efficiently integrate reservists into contingency operations. (AFRC News Service) □

## Ready to rumble

### Local members head to Florida for Readiness Challenge VII

**Tech Sgt. Larry Dean**  
Public Affairs

**E**ight 934th Airlift Wing members are preparing to take on the world in the Air Force's Readiness Challenge VII international competition, April 24-May 1. Held at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., teams will enjoy one final week of preparation at Barksdale AFB, La., immediately before the contest starts.

A 33-person team of reservists, including wing members, will represent the Air Force Reserve Command in this biennial international competition to test wartime readiness of the Air Force's civil engineers, services, chaplains and public affairs members.

934th Services Squadron members include **Master Sgt. Ron Knutson, Tech. Sgts. Bob Dittel and Ken Kruger, and Staff Sgts. Stacy Campbell, Mary Miller-Huff and Jim Rutz.**

934th Civil Engineer Squadron members include: **Senior Master Sgts. David Halverson and Jerry Belle-Isle.**

"We were notified at the January UTA [unit training assembly] that our unit was selected again to provide people for the competition and have practiced each weekend since," said Knutson. "This is the third time we have been selected to join in the competition but will be the first time Sergeants Dittel and Rutz have competed."

In 1990, CES won the Reserve-level contest and was ready to proceed to international level, but the event was cancelled for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Local members also participated on the Reserve team in 1995, placing seventh; and in 1997, placing fifth.

"Our two people have joined the civil engineers from Selfridge, Michigan, about two or three weekends a month to practice," said **Tech. Sgt. John Kline**, CES.

According to Knutson, the exercise provides physical and mental challenges with events including rifle marksmanship, setting up multi-room kitchen tents, casualty processing, immersion heater assembly, rations preparation, aircraft pallet building, wartime engineer skills, bomb identification and disposal, fire fighting and the obstacle course. Teams will also be thrust into the furious, unpredictable pace of the "Fog of War" event. Members respond to a wide range of scenarios they may face in war and are judged on their response to each task.

The Reserve team will compete against active-duty and reserve forces from the United States, Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom. □

## Best of both worlds

### Aerial port members enjoyed 'outstanding training' with active-duty force in Hawaii

**Tech Sgt. Larry Dean**  
Public Affairs

**F**orty members of the 27th Aerial Port Squadron may have lived the best of both worlds in their recent annual tour, Feb.

13-27.

Not only did they benefit from critical skills training not available at home station, but they also basked in the fun and sun of Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

"It was very busy and an outstanding opportunity to work directly with the active-duty people in their day-to-day operations," said **Staff Sgt. Hans Vinge**. "They allowed us the chance to run shift turnovers; assign, divide and prioritize tasks; handle mail bound to and from overseas APO [Army Post Office] boxes, and more."

Local members supported the active-duty force in cargo processing,

ramp control, orderly room functions, special handling, air traffic operations, and fleet/passenger services, added Vinge. The team gained experience using equipment used in wartime yet not available for training at home station.

Additionally, with the wide variety of air and cargo traffic through the base, they gained hands-on experience in dealing with the full range of aircraft in the Air Force inventory. Cargo was being shipped via the Pacific island to points overseas or returning to the mainland. That included special-handling items like hazardous and sensitive materials and courier mail shipments.

According to estimations of **Master Sgt. Tom Arneson**, team chief, one shift of cargo handlers loaded more than 600,000 pounds of materials aboard aircraft such as C-17s, KC-135s, DC-8s, C-141s, C-5s and more.

Experiences such as that rated high praise from aerial port members.

"Our people were broken down into three shifts to cover activities around the clock," Arneson said. "We worked side-by-side with the active duty there in all facets that our career field covers. It was invaluable training for us."

"It was outstanding training," said **Tech. Sgt. Mike Pasbrig**, air cargo craftsman. "We worked with 60K and 40K loaders, not available for us to use at home; and every aircraft in the fleet at one time or another came through during our 15 days."

"Our people really fit in with the active duty people there, which is a real tribute to the caliber of people we have in APS," said **1st Lt. Glenn Spotto**, flight supervisor and officer in charge. "... They saw how our people could step in to get the job done without their day-to-day activities skipping a beat." □

# Salute to seniority

## Some are weary; some, surprised. For others, years flew by on C-130 wings

**S**urely few could disagree: achieving a 30-year milestone in military service requires more than just sticking around.

Consider 30 years of inspections, deployments, exercises. Think of what the world was like in the 1960s when each of these youths raised his right hand before a recruiter — his enlistment papers typed on a manual typewriter, with carbon paper copies.

They've survived changes and challenges, trends and troubles. They've supported the country and around seven commanders in chief through wars, conflicts and disasters, through downsizing and upgrading. And during all that chaos — personal as well as professional — the military remained a constant in their lives. Even though some "left the fold" for years, they returned to serve again.

Humble though they may be, they have each achieved something most of us will not. We salute them and their dedicated service to our nation and our armed forces. □

• **Thirteen more 30-years-plus members, Pages 10-14**

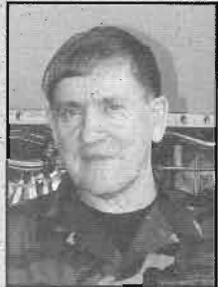
• **A look back at 1969, Page 14**

Salute to seniority

# 'Carrying that toolbox'

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly  
Public Affairs

**C**old showers and C-rations — 33 years later **Tech. Sgt. Jerry Immonen** can vividly recall these two distasteful memories of two 75-day rotations he pulled near Saigon in 1966.



Immonen

On his first temporary duty assignment at Tonshut Air Base, the young airman would go to see the sights in Saigon.

"We were all young, and we wanted to go out and see the world," he said.

After a few mortar attacks, his view changed. "You start thinking about life, and being able to get out of there and go home becomes more important," he said.

Immonen fondly recalled his days as a jet engine mechanic stationed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines where he was stationed from 1966-67.

"When you think back about how much work we did, it was phenomenal," he said. "Clark was a busy place; I think we had 16 or 17 C-130Bs. I worked the midnight shift, and we were busy all night. We'd fix airplanes 'til the sun came up."

## Life's work

### Aircraft interest led to career of a lifetime

**A**s far back as high school, growing up on an Iowa farm, **Senior Master Sgt. Roy Shives** knew he wanted to work on airplanes.

Joining the Air Force fulfilled that aspiration, but it wasn't until he joined the 934th that he knew aircraft maintenance would be his life's work.

"I didn't see an end to the war," Shives said. "At the time, my career field was moving around a lot, with maybe six months at a base."

Even though he was single and enjoyed traveling, he saw there would be no end to that nomadic life. "I knew that eventually I didn't want

that, because it wouldn't be conducive to family life," he said.

After separating from active-duty service, he was ready to pursue civilian licensing in aircraft maintenance, but an air reserve technician position opened up here in the propeller shop.

"I always liked the military to a certain point," Shives said, "so I thought, hey — this is something I might like to do."

In the Reserve, he also found more flexibility and opportunities to be involved in decision making. "You could be your own person," he said.

(SHIVES, continued on Page 13)

## After nearly 34 years, aircraft maintenance member still believes he has best job in the Air Force

After working on C-130s for nearly his entire career, one might expect Immonen, an air reserve technician and propulsion shop supervisor here, to have an encyclopedic knowledge of every potential problem on the engine.

"When I started working on this aircraft in 1964 at Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, I had a staff sergeant tell me 'as soon as you think you've got this engine figured out, it will turn around and kick you,' and that has come true more than once over the years," he said.

Through the years, Immonen has stayed in the same career field, despite the lack of opportunity for higher rank.

"It would have been nice to make master sergeant after all those years," he admitted. "If you want to make rank you have to bounce around the system. I'd just as soon retire doing this."

When he reaches age 55 and mandatory retirement this summer, he plans to hunt and fish, work on tractors he keeps at the farm he grew up on in Menasha, Minn., ride his bike and maybe work a part-time job.

The young mechanics who take his place will be working in a different Air Force, a computer-driven shop with tool kits they sign in and out, and parts inventory that has to be ordered from far-flung vendors. But the bottom line will remain the same.

"It's still the best job, carrying that toolbox," he said. "Somebody has to fix the airplanes." □

### Tech. Sgt. Jerry Immonen

**Unit/position:** 934th Maintenance Squadron, propulsion shop supervisor.

**Years as of this month:** 33 years, 10 months.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1964-1968. C-130 jet engine mechanic, Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, 1964-1966; Clark Air Base, Philippines, 1966-1967; 1966 and 1967, temporary duty to Tonshut AB, Vietnam. C-141 jet engine mechanic, McChord AFB, Wash., 1967-1968. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1971 as an air reserve technician C-130 jet engine mechanic with Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. Joined the 934th as an ART propulsion specialist in 1983. Assumed current position in 1996.

**Best place traveled:** Kaufburen, Germany.

**Favorite part of the job today:** Travel.

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** Travel, job satisfaction in providing airworthy propulsion systems.

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Stay in school — get an education."

**Comments about this milestone:** "It's an honor, but I am ready to turn the reins over to someone younger."

**Home:** Eagan, Minn. □

## Senior Master Sgt. Roy Shives

**Unit/position:** 934th Maintenance Squadron, propulsion flight chief.

**Years as of this month:** 33 years, six months.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1965-1969. Propeller technician, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., with temporary duty throughout Europe, 1965-1968; Dang Muang Air Base, Thailand, 1968-1969, with temporary duty throughout

Southeast Asia. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1970 as an air reserve technician propeller shop supervisor with the 934th. When the prop and engine shop were combined, became shop supervisor until that position was abolished. Assumed current position in 1995.

**Best places traveled:** Germany, Thailand, Panama, Japan.



Shives

**Favorite part of the job today:** "The challenge of the job is rewarding."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Maintaining the C-130 aircraft brought me a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction. When an aircraft meets its mission and returns safely, there is a lot of satisfaction knowing all of your hard work helped contribute to a successful mission."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Get the best education you can, and do your best at whatever you do."

**Comments about this milestone:** "It's a good feeling but also sad knowing it's coming to an end. There are both good and bad memories, but you should always stay on the positive side so the good ones come to mind most often."

**Home:** Bloomington, Minn.; wife, Pamela; adult sons, Monte and Travis. □

Salute to seniority

(Continued from previous page)

## Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Weber

**Unit/position:** 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, liquid fuels maintenance.

**Years as of this month:** 32 years, eight months

**Military career:** U.S. Army, 1959-1966. Printer, U.S. Army Security Agency in Bavaria, Germany then Washington, D.C. Army National Guard, 1973-



Weber

1981, artillery. Joined the 934th CES in 1981.

**Best places traveled:** Bavaria, Germany; Panama; McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "NOT the Operational Readiness Inspections. But perhaps the ongoing training just to be ready in case 'the phone rings.'"

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Serving with the U.S. Army Security Agency in Germany in 1960-1962, and CES annual tours."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Take all the training you can. Give the Air Force your best effort and take advantage of what it offers you. Wear the uniform proudly."

**Comments about this milestone:** "I feel lucky, and a sense of dedication and accomplishment."

**Home:** Farmington, Minn.; wife, **Evelyn**; granddaughters, **Reghma** (16) and **Sunita** (14). □

## Master Sgt. John Lightner

**Unit/position:** 934th Maintenance Squadron, accessory maintenance flight chief.

**Years as of this month:** 32 years, four months.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1965-1969. C-130 aircraft mechanic, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, 1965-1967, and 1967-1969, Clark Air Base, Philippines. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1970 with the 934th as an air reserve technician. Assumed current position in 1997.

**Best places traveled:** Kaufburen, Germany – did a two-week operation with the German air force in 1981.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Working with the people we have in right now. They are the best I've ever worked with in this unit."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Traveling."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "The same thing I say to all the new people I meet: the Air Force Reserve has unlimited opportunities to achieve. The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it."

**Comments about this milestone:** "It is a good feeling but it has been a fun job."

**Home:** Anoka, Minn.; wife, **Susan**; adult children, **Heather** and **Tayna**. □



Lightner

(Continued on next page)

## Tech. Sgt. John Johnson

**Unit/position:** 934th Airlift Wing, senior air reserve technician, command post.

**Years as of this month:** 32 years, five months.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1966-1969. Jet engine mechanic, Selfridge Air Force Base, Mich. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1970 as an ART turboprop mechanic with the 934th. In 1989, moved to maintenance control until September 1998, moving to the flightline as the dispatch and debrief specialist. Assumed current position Jan. 17.

**Best places traveled:** North Bay, Canada, in the late '60s; Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, in the '80s; as well as Frankfurt, Germany. But Howard Air Force Base, Panama, from 1979-1998 has always been the best.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Right now, I'm



Johnson

waiting for school dates for command and control school, so [the best part is] learning, meeting new people and working with energized and qualified people."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "I enjoyed being a jet engine mechanic. Being able to fix something that is broken and see it fly safely gave me a lot of self-worth and satisfaction, also working with mechanics from all systems of the aircraft field. Now I'm on the 'other' side of the hangar, meeting and working with the operations side of the house."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Learn as much as you can; take pride in what you do and who you work for; and be flexible!"

**Comments about this milestone:** "Seems like yesterday I was interviewing with **Bob Cripe** and **Red Louhr** for a job in the jet shop back in 1970. I still work with some of my best friends and remember a lot of people I would still work with who have retired."

**Home:** New Trier, Minn.; adult children, **John**, **Christopher** and **Katheryn**; six grandchildren; mom, **Fran**. □

(Continued from previous page)

## Master Sgt. Bruce Heuer

**Unit/position:** 934th Maintenance Squadron, repair and reclamation shop.

**Years as of this month:** 32 years, four months.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1966-1969. aircraft mechanic, Clark Air Base, Philippines, 1966-1967, with many temporary duty tours to Saigon, Vietnam. Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio, 1968-1969, with many TDYs to Europe and South America. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1970 with the 934th, becoming an air reserve technician in 1971 and spending the next 17 years as a crew chief. Assumed current position in 1988.



Heuer

**Best places traveled:** Venice, Italy; Europe.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Staying home and leaving the traveling to the younger troops."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Traveling. During my career here, I have enjoyed many TDYs to Europe, South America and all over the United States, and I have worked with and met a lot of great people."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Enjoy seeing the different parts of the world that you will never see after you get out."

**Comments about this milestone:** "I have really enjoyed my career here, but I would have never dreamed of spending so many years in the service."

**Home:** Bloomington, Minn.; wife, **Vickie**; adult children, **Stacey** and **Travis**. □

## Chief Master Sgt. Andy Berg

**Unit/position:** 934th Logistics Support Squadron, supply superintendent.

**Years as of this month:** 32 years, two months.

**Military career:** Served entire military career in supply specialty within the 934th Airlift Wing, first with the former 934th Combat Support Squadron, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron and then LSS. Assumed current position in 1992; promotion to chief in 1997.

**Best places traveled:** Panama, Germany, and Westover Air Force Base, Mass., during Operation Desert Storm.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Coordinating all the tasks that must be accomplished on a unit training assembly weekend; planning future UTA schedules and deployments."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Working in the individual equipment unit, meeting all the new members coming into the wing and saying goodbye to everyone leaving the wing."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Find a career field you like. Learn all you can about it and enjoy it. Also, take advantage of all the different programs the Air Force offers."

**Comments about this milestone:** "It has been an enjoyable and interesting 32 years. It doesn't seem like it has been that long."

**Home:** Maplewood, Minn. □



Berg

## Senior Master Sgt. David Pudney

**Unit/position:** 934th Maintenance Squadron, fabrication flight chief.

**Years as of this month:** 32 years, two months.

**Military career:** Minnesota Air National Guard, 1967-1983. Parachute rigger, became technician in 1970. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1983 with the newly-established 901st Airlift Group, formerly the 302nd Airlift Wing, Colo., for a promotion to shop chief. Joined the 934th in 1991 as shop chief. Assumed current position in 1994.

**Best places traveled:** England, Germany.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Working with and being the branch chief for the best fabrication flight in the Air Force."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Meeting new people and continuing lifelong friendships with the people I've met."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Enjoy the people you meet. Learn as much as you can, take advantage of what the Air Force Reserve has to offer, and have fun."

**Comments about this milestone:** "I really didn't think that my career would span over 30 years."

**Home:** Fridley, Minn.; adult daughters, **Christine**, **Carol** and **Shea**; two grandchildren. □



Pudney

Salute to Seniority

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

## Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz

**Unit/position:** 934th Support Group, commander.

**Years as of this month:** 31 years, nine months.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1967-1974. Public affairs technician and historian, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; public affairs

technician, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam; and Grand Forks AFB, N.D. Joined



Groskreutz

934th in 1974 as a public affairs technician and was commissioned that year. Served in a number of positions: education/training officer, personnel officer, public affairs officer, security squadron commander, deputy commander of support group. Assumed current position in 1996.

**Best places traveled:** Germany; Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

**Favorite part of the job today AND in the past:** "Working with people; solving problems."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Think about what you do each day as an investment in your tomorrow."

**Comments about this milestone:** "Where did the time go?"  
**Home:** Minneapolis, Minn.; wife, **Anne**; adult children, **Sara** and **Mark**. □

## Chief Master Sgt. Marc Gilbertson

**Unit/position:** 96th Airlift Squadron, chief flight engineer.

**Years as of this month:** 30 years, seven months.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1968-1970, 1972-1976. Aircraft maintenance, Norton Air Force Base, Calif., 1968-1969; Kunsan Air Base, Korea, 1969-1970; crew chief, T-29 aircraft, Sheppard AFB, Texas, 1969-1970. Left active duty for two years then reenlisted in 1972. Crew chief

and flight mechanic, Peterson AFB, Colo, 1972-1975; flight engineer, Little Rock AFB, Ark., 1975-1976. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1976 with the 934th, becoming an air reserve technician in 1977. Held a number of jobs in the flying squadron then assumed current position in 1988.

**Best places traveled:** "Panama stands out the most because of the wonderful climate, and we always seemed to be there."

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Working with the new people in my section and seeing the enthusiasm they have for the travel and the exciting thing we do. It reminds me of how I was at that age."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "My favorite assignment on active duty was the time I spent in Colorado."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "A job in the Air Force Reserve is a great way to experience a different and exciting way of life."

**Comments about this milestone:** "Where did the time go? My military career has been extremely kind to me and given me the great opportunities I probably would have never had."

**Home:** Apple Valley, Minn.; wife, **Molly**; adult sons, **Derek** and **Seth**; daughter, **Katie** (14). □



Gilbertson

## Tech. Sgt. Eric Baumer

**Unit/position:** 934th Mission Support Flight; noncommissioned officer in charge, family readiness.

**Years as of this month:** 30 years, five months.

**Military career:** U.S. Army, 1967-1970. Communications center specialist and training NCO, stationed in Korea and North Carolina. U.S. Air Force, 1971-1985. Personal affairs and casualty assistance, stationed in New Hampshire; Germany; and Washington, D.C. Joined 934th in 1985. Assumed current position in 1998.

**Best places traveled:** New Hampshire; Washington, D.C.; and Germany — lived near Mosel and Rhine River Valleys for four years, traveling all over Europe.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Encouraging and assisting individuals and families as they work through life's inevitable crisis situations."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Fourteen years of active duty in personal affairs and casualty assistance."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Take advantage of each opportunity to learn a new skill by attending school or volunteering for a new job. Life is too interesting and fun to let yourself get bored."

**Comments about this milestone:** "When I get *really* old and *really* gray in about 30 more years, I will still remember fondly how wonderful it has been to work with and help the many fine people with whom I have crossed paths."

**Home:** Tonka Bay, Minn.; with children **Beth** (16), **Greta** (14) and **Ernie** (12); six adult children, **Abbie**, **Elliot**, **Maggie**, **Jacques**, **Annaliese** and **Susannah**; two grandsons. □



Baumer

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

## Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Emberland

**Unit/position:** 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, operations chief.

**Years as of this month:** 30 years, four months.

**Military career:** Army National Guard, 1964-1970. Assigned to "Select Reserve Force" for 27 months, with 72 drills per year, preparing for possible overseas deployment to Vietnam and other locations. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1974 with the 934th. Assumed current position in 1996.

**Best places traveled:** Japan, Panama, Germany, Spain, Alaska.  
**Favorite part of the job today:** "Working with the people, as they are normally pretty special people to make the extra commitment to be reservists. We ask a lot of time and technical commitment of the people."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "My most memorable job early in my career was being assigned as a 'fire team leader' in an infantry squad. The very best job that I've experienced is holding the rank of chief master sergeant in CES for five years as of April 1."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "I would advise them that the discipline and time commitment will be valuable to them in whatever they do in the civilian world. Also, serving our country is very important, and they will feel good about that as the years go by."

**Comments about this milestone:** "I never intended to do 30 years in the military. I guess it grew on me as the years went by because of the feeling of accomplishment in moving up the ranks and contributing to our country's defense."

**Home:** Willmar, Minn.; wife, **Lynette**; adult sons, **Mark** and **Jon**. □



Emberland

## Chief Master Sgt. Donald Hohn

**Unit/position:** 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, superintendent of training.

**Years as of this month:** 30 years, two months.

**Military career:** Army National Guard, 1966-1972. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1974 with the 47th AES, now the 934th AES. Assumed current position in January.

**Best places traveled:** Germany, England, Panama.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Training new people to carry on the job once I retire."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Traveling to new places around the country and the world."



Hohn

## Shives ...

(Continued from Page 9)

Now, nearly 34 years of service later, the career focus Shives had as a teen could be paying off in still a different way.

"One thing about this shop — you've got to stay

focused," he said. "Every day is different, and you're always on the move. It requires a lot of attention to detail ... There are always problems — personnel, parts, aircraft — that keep you busy." □

## Master Sgt. Rick Klick

**Unit/position:** 934th Maintenance Squadron, crew chief.

**Years as of this month:** 30 years.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1968-1972. C-130 crew chief, Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio; Forbes AFB, Kansas; and Southeast Asia. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1973 with the 934th as an air reserve technician, assuming his current position.

**Best places traveled:** Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Southeast Asia; Europe; South America; Southwest Asia; Africa; North America.

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Seeing positive results of training reservists, knowing I contributed to their specialty. Deployed mission accomplishments and being versatile. Also the engine shut down checklist/debrief."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Mission accomplishments in 1968-1972, and from 1973, my small contribution to the sign in front of base ops: 154,000 safe/accident free flying hours."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Good luck! Persevere in your job commitments and beliefs."

**Comments about this milestone:** "Whew!"

**Home:** Rush City, Minn.; wife, **Patti**. □



Klick

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Take your military service a year at a time and try to concentrate on what you can contribute to make your job and unit better."

**Comments about this milestone:** "It's hard to believe that I have put in 30 years of military service — it seems I just enlisted a short time ago."

**Home:** Lino Lakes, Minn.; wife, **Jean**, master sergeant in 934th AES; adult children, **Christine, Jennifer** and **Paul**; two grandchildren. □

Salute to Seniority

(Continued from previous page)

## Senior Master Sgt. James 'Gus' Gustafson

**Unit/position:** 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; manager, health services management.

**Years as of this month:** 30 years next month.

**Military career:** U.S. Air Force, 1968-1972, at

Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, as an instructor in medical service fundamentals. Joined Air Force Reserve in 1973 with the 934th as an aeromedical technician with the 47th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, becoming an air reserve technician in 1977. Moved to Kelly AFB, Texas, with the 433rd U.S. Air Force Clinic as an ART, 1987-1995, cross-training into medical administrative career field. Assumed current position in 1995.

**Best places traveled:** "Bermuda, Alaska and Hawaii when I was with the aeromedes."

**Favorite part of the job today:** "Dealing with multiple demands. Each day is unique with its own set of challenges. I'm never bored."

**Favorite part of the job/military service in the past:** "Service as a technical instructor at the U.S. Air Force School of Health Care Sciences."

**What he'd like to say to brand-new enlistees:** "Do your best. Keep your options open — don't close any doors."

**Comments about this milestone:** "Great. The years have gone by faster than I thought they would."

**Home:** Burnsville, Minn. □



Gustafson

## Future recognition

### Service milestone deserves kudos

**F**or recognition in the *Viking Flyer*, anyone achieving the 30-year milestone in their military career is invited to notify the public affairs office.

In putting together this issue, the staff came up with a working list of members nearing 30 good-for-retirement years of military service.

Surprisingly, it proved next to impossible to find a current, accurate-to-the-

month listing. Through a flurry of forms shotgunned around the base, we trust no one was overlooked.

A few months prior to achieving this milestone, please e-mail or call the editor. Address information is listed near the bottom of Page 2. A staff member will be honored to meet with you and gather information regarding your achievement.

Similar issues on civilian service and civilians' military careers are in the works! □

## Historically speaking

### Khakis, pin-up girls, flying boxcars were order of day 30 years ago

**Master Sgt. David Hammer**  
Wing Historian

**W**hat was it like 30 years ago in the Air Force Reserve and around here? It seems like just yesterday.

For the big picture with the Air Force Reserve, in 1968, the Continental Air Command had been deactivated and the Air Force Reserve was activated. The year of 1968 and into 1969 was busy for some other Reserve units activated for the issues surrounding Vietnam and the seizure of the USS Pueblo.

On the local scene, were then known as the 934th Tactical Airlift Group and assigned to the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing, Milwaukee, Wis. The year brought a change in command for the 934th from **Col. William Johnson Jr.** to **Lt. Col. Donald Price**. Units assigned to the 934th were: 934th Tactical Dispensary, 934th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 96th Troop Carrier Squadron, 934th Civil Engineering Flight, 934th Communications Flight, 934th Combat Support Squadron, 934th Aerial Port Flight and the 47th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

The *Viking Flyer* was then known as the *Carrier Courier* and carried pin-up girl photos in each issue, provided by the Air Force. The March 1969 issue states: "The optional period for the Tan, Shade 1505, Service Uniform at this base is 15 April through 14 October 1969. The Light-Weight Blue Uniform may be worn year-round."

As unit members do now, back then we were helping out others in need. The same issue talks about two unit members taking a vehicle snow blower out to South Dakota to assist in removal of a record snowfall. The July issue reports a pay raise of 12.6 percent on base pay for military members.

The biggest news that year was the unit would transition to a new aircraft. On Oct. 29, the announcement was made that the 96th would receive the C-130A along with the 926th TAG in New Orleans. This would be a big change from flying the C-119 Boxcar for the last 13 years. It required flight crews and maintenance people to attend training to fly and maintain the new airframe.

During this year, the 934th was still stationed at Area C behind the old terminal building for the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. This is the area presently occupied by a U.S. Navy aviation unit.

Some functions for the 934th operated in the area presently used by the Air National Guard, the Henry Bishop Whipple Federal Guilding and the small arms range. It wouldn't be long, though, before the 934th would move to its present location. □

# Consider 'bennies' before you bail

## Reserve offers solid benefits hard to beat in civilian world

**W**ith such a healthy employment outlook in the nation today, young reservists might easily be tempted to shelve a military career to pursue other opportunities, both full-time and part-time.

Before taking that step, however, members should reconsider what they're passing up.

### Traditional opportunities

Shopping privileges, pay and incentive bonuses and the opportunity

flying wings in 28 states, and 20 of those units are collocated with active-duty units. This offers many of the perks of being in uniform without a full-time obligation. Reservists in the individual mobilization augmentee program usually serve with an active-

to earn a military retirement are among the benefits offered to traditional reservists.

Reservists enjoy these benefits without having to move away from home. Yet even if a reservist's civilian career calls for relocation to another city, Air Force Reserve Command has 35

duty units, but some live and train overseas.

Selected Reserve members and retirees under age 60 have had unlimited access to base exchanges and use of revenue-generating recreation services facilities since 1991. They can also shop at the commissary 24 times a year. These trips are in addition to the days reservists can shop if on active-duty orders, normally at least 15 days a year.

### Survivors' benefits

Since Oct. 1, 1985, dependent survivors have been eligible for medical, commissary and exchange

*(Continued on next page)*

## Low-cost life insurance

### Compare fine print to appreciate value of military vs. civilian policies

Senior Airman Jeffrey Williams

Public Affairs

**T**hough Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance may not be the only life insurance plan carried by local reservists, it's apparent they know a good deal when they see one.

For as little as 80 cents a month for \$10,000 in coverage and \$16 a month for \$200,000, this plan is as flexible as it is inexpensive. In fact, premiums have decreased twice since 1997.

"Right now, we have just about all of our reservists enrolled in SGLI," said **Mike Burns**, chief of personnel programs, "but it should be 100 percent."

"While the program is not mandatory, enrollment is encouraged," explained **Maj. Louis Hatten**, 934th Military Personnel Flight chief. "For the amount of money you spend, this is a bargain, and you know that your family is taken care of."

In fact, if a member is considering dropping coverage, Air Force officials stress the following information:

- Reinstatement of SGLI is not a guarantee. If a member becomes disabled or seriously ill, coverage is guaranteed at the current level. Upon separation or retirement, SGLI can be converted to Veterans' Group Life Insurance within the first year, and members are covered

automatically for 120 days after the end of service. Coverage will never be reduced or cancelled due to health.

- Beneficiary SGLI proceeds are exempt from taxation and not subject to creditors claims of the beneficiary except certain claims of the United States.

- If considering substitution of a civilian life insurance plan, review all conditions of the policy to ensure it does not have a suicide, flying or war clause that would preclude payment to the beneficiary. There are no such clauses with SGLI.

- SGLI and VGLI now allow terminally ill policy holders to receive as much as half of their coverage as an accelerated death benefit. Local Veterans Affairs offices have more information on this option.

Burns also recommends that those currently enrolled review their paperwork regularly. "You should check it annually in case something changes at home," he said. "Changes may include the death of the beneficiary, marriage, additional dependents or divorce."

If anyone other than a family member is selected as a beneficiary, counseling is required regarding possible complications to the immediate family, Burns added.

For additional information, call **Senior Airman Chris Daye** or **Master Sgt. Sandra Dudley** in customer service, Ext. 1507. □

## Benefits

### 'Bennies' ...

(Continued from previous page)

benefits if a reservist dies while on active-duty service, active duty for training or inactive duty for training, including travel to or from the duty station.

#### Pay

During the unit training assembly one weekend a month, reservists receive four days of active-duty pay for two days of duty. For every annual tour day, one day of active-duty pay is received. Reservists can also pick up pay for serving additional days in support of either their unit or another unit or to attend a training school.

In addition to duty pay, reservists receive lodging and meal allowances, depending on their status. Some are eligible for special pays, such as imminent danger, foreign language proficiency and flight pay. In fact, imminent danger pay was recently changed to pay reservists an entire month's allowance if they serve one day in an area where this allowance is authorized. Other incentives are reenlistment, prior-service enlistment and affiliation bonuses.

#### Retirement

Although it is not as lucrative as an active-duty retirement and cannot be drawn until age 60, a Reserve retirement offers a nice supplement to one's civilian pension. A non-prior service technical sergeant who works the minimum 12 drill weekends and two-week annual tour each year for 20 years will draw about \$225 per month before taxes. But if the same person had four years of active-duty time prior

to joining the Reserve, he or she will receive close to \$450 a month.

#### More benefits

Shopping privileges, pay and retirement benefits are just a smattering of what's available to reservists. Low-cost life insurance for as much as \$200,000 of coverage is offered via monthly allotments (*story, previous page*). Inexpensive dental insurance, free health care for the reservist when on duty and civilian job rights under the 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act are other benefits that could prove impossible to replace, particularly in a part-time job.

Finally, education opportunities abound, including earning college credits for taking Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support tests and College Level Examination tests. The Reserve covers most of the tuition to take the DANTES tests, and the CLEP tests are free.

Another educational "benny" is the Reserve Montgomery GI Bill, which offers up to \$9,036 in assistance. Unlike the benefit earned on active duty, the Reserve does not require contributions to receive aid. Reservists are eligible for up to \$251 per month as full-time students (*chart, below*).

New benefits are considered on an ongoing basis. Items under discussion currently include a state booster to educational benefits and unlimited commissary privileges.

So before a young reservist packs away that uniform, he or she should take a hard look at all these benefits unique to service in the reserve forces. (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*) □

## Careers galore

### Wing openings span specialties

The following specialties offer a variety of openings in various units on the base. Pass it on to a coworker, friend or family member who might be interested in joining the Air Force Reserve.

For information, call recruiting at Ext. 1456, (612) 713-1456 or (800) 257-1212.

- **General:** Chaplain service, combat arms training, electronic computer and switching systems, equal opportunity, family support, finance, information management, ground radio, personnel, public affairs, safety, services, visual information management.

- **Aircraft maintenance:** Aerospace ground equipment, aircraft fuels, electronic environmental, electronic warfare, guidance and control, hydraulics.

- **Civil engineering:** Electrician, environmental, firefighter, heating/ventilation/air conditioning, liquid fuels, readiness.

- **Logistics:** Fuels, general purpose/special purpose vehicle maintenance, supply, traffic management, vehicle body, vehicle operations.

- **Medical:** Aeromedical technician, biomedical equipment, diet therapy, health services management, medical material, pharmacy.

- **Operations:** Airfield management, air transportation, flight engineer, flying medical technician, life support, loadmaster, radio communications systems. □

	<b>GI Bill benefits: can you go without the dough?</b>	<b>Full-time (12 or more semester hours) \$251*</b>	<b>Three- quarter time (nine to 11 semester hours) \$188*</b>	<b>Half-time (six to eight semester hours) \$125*</b>	<b>Less than half-time (under six semester hours) \$62.75*</b>
		*Monthly cash benefit			

# Wing roundup

## 27th Aerial Port Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Brady Kiel*

The squadron was selected as the National Defense Transportation Association Outstanding Unit of 1998 for 22nd Air Force. The unit will now compete at the command level.

## 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Shana Strozewski*

March unit training assembly brought the squadron's fiscal year 1999 block training to an end. Training included medical equipment reviews, infection control, chemical warfare, anti-hijacking procedures and a ground support tabletop exercise.

We now look forward to moving into our new facilities.

## 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford*

We continue to do physicals on the Guard side of the base. Unit members completed training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Uniformed Code of Military Justice, chemical warfare and hazardous material handling.

## 96th Airlift Squadron

*Airman 1st Class Jess Lind*

The squadron completed another rotation to Panama in support of Coronet Oak, Feb. 20-March 6.

## 934th Civil Engineer Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews*

Approximately 80 percent of squadron members audited and updated their mobility folders during the March

drill. The squadron commander and engineering section developed the design package, project manual and drawings for the dining hall/NCO Club roof replacement project. The squadron conducted spot repairs on the roof earlier to prolong its life until the replacement project could be accomplished. Structures section members contributed to the medical building remodeling project, removing cabinets in March and installing new cabinets this month.

## 934th Communications Flight

*Staff Sgt. Robert Walz*

Unit members deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for annual tour, March 13-27. **Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher** will assist Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command with information systems, March 7-13, at Robins AFB, Ga.

## 934th Logistics Support Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Alma De La Garza*

The squadron is preparing for mobility exercises set for May and October, developing a process for C-bag [bag containing chemical warfare equipment and spares] assembly. Unit training is preparing for a September staff assistance visit from 22nd Air Force.

## 934th Maintenance Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken*

The unit welcomed back 25 people and two aircraft from Panama. Also, we prepared aircraft 1825 for the autopilot and electrical upgrade modification.

## 934th Operations Support Flight

*Master Sgt. Cara Utecht*

Base operations is getting ready for its annual tour to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, in April. One person for the administration staff in the orderly room is also going. **Master Sgt. Rosemary O'Neal**, who has served in base operations since the base was owned by the U.S. Navy, has transferred into maintenance control in the command post.

## 934th Security Forces Squadron

*Staff Sgt.*

*Niklas Hammarberg*

Members participated in weapons training/qualification and cleaning/maintenance in the following weapons: M-16, M-249, M-60 and M-9. The unit has a number of full-time security forces technician positions open. For details, see the February issue of the *Viking Flyer* or call **Beverly Foster**, 934th Civilian Personnel Office, Ext. 1483.

## 934th Services Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Pamela Peck*

The grand opening for the new fitness center was held on March 7.

## Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

*Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez*

The headquarters section welcomes **Maj. Jim Carlen**, who will be responsible for overall management of the command post. The unit orderly room is in the process of updating all processes and establishing continuity books. □



## Wing around the world:

# April

**27th APS:** Georgia, Hawaii, Texas, Virginia

**934th AES:** Bosnia, Hawaii, Illinois, Nebraska, Saudi Arabia, Texas

**934th ASTS:** Massachusetts, Texas

**96th AS:** California, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Texas

**934th AW HQ/MSF:** California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts

**934th CES:** Florida, Texas

**934th CF:** Florida, Georgia

**934th LSS:** Maryland

**934th MXS:** California, Colorado, Florida, Portugal, Texas

**934th OSF:** Nevada

**934th SFS:** No travel

**934th SVS:** England, Florida, Louisiana

*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. □*

# People

## Medals

### Meritorious Service Medal

Tech. Sgt. Wayne Roehrick, MXS, retired

### Air Force Achievement Medal

Tech. Sgt. Dean Andersen, CES, first oak leaf cluster  
 Senior Master Sgt. David Angerman, CES  
 Capt. Leslie Canarr, CES  
 Staff Sgt. Michael Cleveland, CES, second OLC  
 Master Sgt. Linda Davidson, OSF, first OLC  
 Staff Sgt. Robert Ennis, CES, first OLC  
 Master Sgt. Dennis Geyen, CES, second OLC  
 Lt. Col. Randall Hoschied, CES, first OLC  
 Master Sgt. Randy Knish, CES  
 Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kruger, SVS, first OLC  
 Master Sgt. Robert Linder, CES, first OLC  
 Tech. Sgt. James Lockwood, CES  
 Tech. Sgt. John McEliece Jr., CES  
 Tech. Sgt. Michael McNally, CES

Master Sgt. Steven Nicolai, CES, first OLC  
 Master Sgt. Thomas Overman, CES, first OLC  
 Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Philippi, CES  
 Master Sgt. Troy Ranum, CES  
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Rumreich, CES  
 Master Sgt. Robert Schabacker, CES, first OLC  
 Tech. Sgt. Thomas Schutz, CES  
 Master Sgt. Robert Senst, CES, first OLC  
 Tech. Sgt. Lee Traxler-Siehndel, SVS  
 Tech. Sgt. Patrick Smith, CES, first OLC  
 Master Sgt. David Sowers, CES, second OLC  
 Tech. Sgt. Wayne Stierlen, CES, first OLC  
 Master Sgt. Clarence Super Jr., CES  
 Staff Sgt. Tara Venem, CES  
 Tech. Sgt. Steven Williams, SVS  
 Tech. Sgt. Tonal Woolery, CES, second OLC

## Promotions

Senior Airman Dustin Ator, SFS  
 Staff Sgt. Bryan Back, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Ruth Beecher, OG  
 Staff Sgt. David Cadry Jr., MXS  
 Master Sgt. Elizabeth Johnston, LSS  
 Tech. Sgt. Philip Kinnunen, SFS  
 Senior Airman Sonny McKinney, ASTS  
 Tech. Sgt. Vincent Mikulski, APS  
 Senior Airman Melissa Myers, LSS  
 Senior Airman Cory Preusse, AS  
 Master Sgt. Terry Preusse, AS  
 Staff Sgt. Jill Shepard, AES  
 Staff Sgt. Shana Strozewski, AES  
 Staff Sgt. Nicole Swett, OSF  
 Tech. Sgt. Dennis Thole, CES  
 Master Sgt. Cara Utecht, OSF  
 Tech. Sgt. Joseph Wiatros, SFS  
 Staff Sgt. Robert Zak, CF

## Newcomers

- Senior Airman Cory Demuth, CF, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.
- Senior Airman Troy Pousardien, CF, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.
- Senior Airman Charles Reinard, MXS, Beale AFB, Calif.

- Senior Airman Guillermo Simkins, MXS, prior service Air Force
- Airman 1st Class Ryan Wallin, SVS, prior service Marine Corps

## Achievements

- **Senior Master Sgt. Dan Bohnen**, AES, was selected as Unit Member of the Month.
- A number of awards were presented at the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 858 honors banquet, Feb. 26:  
  
*Outstanding Airmen of the Year: Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch*, AW; *Tech. Sgt. Vicki Kuntz*, AW; and *Senior Airman Aidan Anderson*, AES.

*Unit and Command Support Award: Col. Richard Moss*, AW.

*Outstanding Support: Col. Ron Weight*, AW; *Patricia Botkins*, DPF.

(Continued on next page)

## Viking Victors:

# Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hanley

**Achievement:** Promoted to chief master sergeant, 934th Security Forces Squadron, the unit's first chief.

**Education:** Minnesota Police Academy, 1969; pilot training, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 1974; Noncommissioned Officers Academy, 1990; Senior NCO Academy, 1994.

**Hobbies:** Hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, motorcycling, wine making, swimming, photography.

**Civilian career:** Retired police officer as of Jan. 31.

**Professional organizations:** Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, Minnesota Firearms Instructors Association.

**Goals:** "To ensure the 934th Security Forces Squadron maintains the highest level of quality possible in all aspects of its operations."

**Family:** Wife, **Bonnie**, school teacher in Burnsville, Minn., daughter, **Elizabeth**, engineer in Washington; son, **Stephen**, sophomore at Iowa State, Cedar Falls, Iowa. □



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

*(Continued from previous page)*

*Commendation Award:*

**Col. Curt Breeding, AS; Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz, SPTG; and Maj. Cam LeBlanc, LG.**

*Exceptional Contributions, First Sergeants:*

**Senior Master Sgt. Bob McGonigal, LSS; Senior Master Sgt. Tom Anderson, MXS; and Master Sgt. Becky Bean, CF.**

*Commendation/ Appreciation Award:*

**Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Grewe, AW; Lt. Col. Larry Snider, AS; Master Sgt. Dave Hammer, AW; Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch, AW; Senior Master Sgt. Kay Martin, S; Tech. Sgt. Al McCann, MXS; Senior Master Sgt. Tom Anderson, MXS; Senior Master Sgt. Dave Cormier, MXS; Doug Wold, LGS; and Roger Hanson, LGT.**

• Volunteers who participated in "I Love to Read Month" reading circle activities at Wenonah School, Minneapolis, Feb. 10 and 17 received letters of appreciation from the wing commander:

Master Sgt. Becky Bean, CF  
Ann Cordes, CPO  
Diane Eckstein, SCB  
Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher, SCB  
Beverly Foster, CPO  
Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz, SPTG  
Roger Hanson, LGT  
Leb Helseth, OG  
Maj. Doug Kveene, AW  
Maj. Cam LeBlanc, LG  
Staff Sgt. Bernardette

Lunde, MSF  
Senior Master Sgt. Kay Martin, RS  
Janie Medina, LGT  
Master Sgt. Sally Poindexter, QI  
Master Sgt. Colleen Raskob, AS  
Staff Sgt. Patty Sajr, APS  
Staff Sgt. Shirley Smith, AS  
Capt. Bonnie Tremblett, QI  
Bill Trossen, LGS

**Education**

• **Senior Airman Martina Delp, LSS**, was a distinguished graduate of the vehicle maintenance technical school, Port Hueneme, Calif., with a 96 percent score.

• **Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Donnay, AW**, received a score of 93 on his seven-skill level career development course.

• **Staff Sgt. Mark Small, LSS**, achieved a score of 92 at the vehicle operator technical school, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

• **Staff Sgt. Diane Smith, AS**, received a score of 94 on her five-skill level career development course.

**Engagements/ marriages**

**Kevin Ley, MXS, and Kathy Stromberg** are engaged and have set a wedding date of June 19.

**Holly Thiede, LSS, and Rick Hand** were married March 19.

**Births**

**Eric Sund, APS**, and his wife, **Laurie**, have a new baby son, **Eliot Michael**, born Dec. 4, weighing 5 pounds, 10 ounces. □

**Winning team**

**Wing couple represent Air Force**

**Master Sgt. Tim Turner**  
Public Affairs

**S**ports represent a family affair for **Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly**, wing public affairs, and her husband, **Tech. Sgt. John Byerly**, wing safety. In recent military competitions for both, sports — as usual — was the name of the game.

In fact, at the instant Janet Byerly received notice she had won first place in sports writing in Air Force competition, her husband was skiing the giant slalom event in U.S. military ski finals in Vermont (*story, next page*).

Byerly, an 11-year member of the public affairs staff, earlier had won first place in Air Force Reserve Command competition in sports writing, her second first-place win in that category since 1995. Last year, she was the command's top news writer.

For her latest honor, she is awarded the Air Force Special Recognition ribbon, and her work will be judged at the Department of Defense level in May. Her Air Force win represents the highest media award achieved to date by a wing member.

"I'm surprised I received the award," she said. "I also feel fortunate with my public affairs job — the best job on base."

Part of Byerly's sports writing talent is rooted in her firsthand knowledge of sports.

"I'm kind of a sports nut," she admitted.

Growing up with five brothers and one sister in South St. Paul, Minn., Byerly was active in sports. In high school, she lettered basketball, soccer and track. At the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, where she earned her degree in English with a minor in journalism, she lettered in cross-country and track.

The Byerlys, who have two children, **Elena** (7) and **Eric** (6 months), share a love of sports and outdoor life they enjoy with their children as well.

"When it comes to sports, whatever John and I are doing, the kids are along for the ride," Janet said, listing their favorite sports as skiing, running and mountain biking. Elena was happy to pass on her bike trailer to her baby brother, as she now plays a more involved role in sports, including family favorites plus T-ball, soccer, snowshoeing, rock climbing and ski racing.

As for the winning sports story, published last November, the subject was karate, a hobby of **Tech. Sgt. Vicky Kuntz**, wing and mission support flight training manager.

"I had to learn about the sport, as it was all new to me," Janet said. □

**Services Briefs**

**NCO Club**

- **The DC Drifters** play on Saturday, April 10, at 8:30 p.m.
  - **Tax relief day** is April 15 with beverage specials offered.
- ☉Call Ext. 1655 for details on NCO Club activities.

**Officers Club**

- **The Ivory Keys** play on Friday, April 9. As a special, bring a guest to hear the band and receive a \$10 coupon to be used anywhere in the club on your next visit.

• **Secretary's Day** is Wednesday, April 21. If both supervisor and assistant are club members — supervisor at the Officers Club and assistant at either club — we will pick up the tab for your lunch. Otherwise, this is still a great deal at \$6.95 per person.

• **The annual membership meeting** is set for Wednesday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. **Maj. Doug Kveene**, advisory committee president and wing executive officer, will present the current and future state of the Officers Club.

☉For reservations or information, call Ext. 3678.

**Mother's Day contest**

Club members and their children are invited to submit letters telling why mom is such a special person in your life. If your letter is chosen, you will win a free dinner for you and your mom at the Officers Club. Send letters by Friday, April 30 to: 934th SVMM, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2000.

**Fitness center**

Call the 934th Fitness Center for a schedule of court times available, Ext. 1GYM. □

# Skiing for the blue

## Wing reservist represents Air Force in competition

**Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly**  
Public Affairs

**“W**hat am I doing here?” he thought as he entered the starting gate for the giant

slalom finals.

The last time he skied in a race like this, most of these guys had been taking naps in kindergarten. The last time he had raced at this level as a nationally-ranked ski racer, he'd had sponsors and 40-hour weeks of training.

Now, here he was, a 35-year-old, married father of two, with 15 hours of preparation, trying to focus on this race course and do his best to represent the Air Force in the military ski finals in Stowe, Vt.

“I wasn't nervous,” said **John Byerly**, wing ground safety technician and the first 934th reservist ever selected to ski at the finals. “I was focused and ready to go. I had a five-to 10-minute wait on the starting ramp. Finally, it was time; I dug in and pushed off hard.”

The ramp off the start was quite steep and icy, he said, and the gusting wind bent the gates sideways. On a straight course, a skier's speed would approach 50 mph. This course, with an abundance of turns, kept speeds down around 40 mph.

“Out of all the courses I've skied — and I've probably skied 700 courses or more between my training and racing — this had the most turns out of the fall line,” he said. “It was a very winding course. I was from edge to edge on my skis. Most courses you can let your skis run a little between gates. Not on this course.

“Toward the middle section of the course, the wind was so strong I had to stay in a tuck for five gates or the wind would push me back,” continued Byerly.

Holding a tuck, or a low aerodynamic profile, can cause leg fatigue and burning quadriceps.



Byerly

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

“At home, the longest run would last 20-24 seconds,” he said. “These runs were 69-71 seconds long.”

That might not sound like much, but it can seem an eternity when a skier's legs feel like they're on fire and half the run lies ahead.

Byerly's first run was his best, 71:79. His next two runs were slower, hurting his chances in the best two-of-three competition.

“I wasn't consistent on my second two runs,” he said. “A few mistakes here and there can add tenths of seconds to your time.”

Byerly thought he skied too conservatively. “It's a fine line between skiing to finish the course,” he said, “and risking skiing out of the course. I should have let the skis run more.”

Byerly finished eighth in the men's competition, the second Air Force finisher.

“All the training you do and it all comes down to a little over two minutes of skiing time,” he said.

Still, he says he's glad he had the chance to compete.

“I was glad to be selected to represent the Air Force,” he said. “I love to compete. It would be great to have another chance. Next time, with more advance notice I could train with a coach, lift weights and do some of the things I didn't have time to do this year.” □