

Vol. 21, No. 8/August 1999

# VIKING FLYER



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

## Coronet Oak

Wing heads back to  
Puerto Rico as lead unit

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### On the cover

Tech. Sgt. Rob Arkulary, 96th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, deployed on the wing's first Coronet Oak rotation in Puerto Rico. For more on the recent trip and news on the next one, starting in August, see Page 5.



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

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### UTA schedule

Sept. 11-12\* • UTA entrees:  
Oct. 2-3 Saturday,  
Nov. 6-7 spaghetti/chicken;  
Dec. 4-5 Sunday, fish/meat  
loaf. Meals served  
at Air Guard facility.  
\*Family Day,  
Sept. 12 • UTA pay date:  
Aug. 18.

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

## Commentary

# Family support

## High operations tempo puts pressure on families

Col. Richard Moss  
Wing Commander

In last month's *Viking Flyer*, I highlighted the high operations tempo the wing has been performing over the past several months. We have recently learned there will be even more operations as we continue to support Coronet Oak and other missions in the months ahead (*story, Page 5*).

No one is more familiar with our operations tempo than our husbands, wives, parents and children. Unfortunately, family events – such as soccer games, school activities and anniversaries – are often forced to take a back seat to our Reserve commitments. Without fail, our family members continue to provide an unwavering level of support and understanding. For this support, I thank all of our family members.

Yet it would be naïve to suggest this level of tempo does not put pressure on each military member's family. Deployments can create a number of stresses on families, including financial hardships and emotional strain.

What sets the Air Force apart is the finest family support system in the world. The Air Force has created a worldwide system of support services and people to make our time away as easy as possible on our family members.

There are a variety of basic services including financial support, crisis intervention services, morale calls and videophones, and spouse support groups. These represent only a small portion of what our family support centers can provide. If your spouse or parent is deployed or preparing to deploy, please call our family readiness office, Ext. 1516, to learn more about these services.

Our military members who remain behind also have a family support responsibility. When a member of your unit deploys, step up and make

sure their families are looked after. Babysitting children for a few evenings or having the family over for dinner can go a long way in minimizing the stress associated with a deployment.



Moss

Another area of concern for deployed members is their civilian employer. Each unit should work to keep the civilian employers of their deployed members informed of their deployment status and family situation. Many civilian employers are willing to provide aid to family members, but they must be kept informed and know there is a need. This proactive posture can minimize bad feelings with civilian employers and can provide for a smoother transition when our members return.

The operations tempo will continue to be busy in the foreseeable future, so family readiness should continue to be a top priority for everyone in the wing. To honor our family members, the wing will have its annual Family Day on Sunday of our September unit training assembly (*story, Page 7*). I look forward to meeting the extended members of our wing family and encourage each of you to bring your family to the UTA. □

### Commander's Hot Line 713-HOTL

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



## Under secretary nominated

President Clinton has nominated **Carol DiBattiste** as the under secretary of the Air Force. DiBattiste, of Miami, Fla., retired from the Air Force in April 1991. She then served as assistant U.S. attorney, Southern District of Florida, where she has been deputy U.S. attorney since January 1998. From 1993 to 1994, she served as principal deputy general counsel of the Navy.

The under secretary of the Air Force is the second ranking civilian position in the Department of the Air Force. *(Air Force Print News)*

## Pilot, navigator age limit raised

The Air Force is raising flying training age limits in an effort to increase opportunities for otherwise qualified candidates. This is the first change of this type in 45 years.

The change raises the age limit for applicants for pilot

and navigator training from 27 and a half to 30 years of age and less than five commissioned years of service. This policy is effective with the fiscal 2000 flying training boards meeting Oct. 26-29. *(AFPN)*

## Personnel functions studied

Air Mobility Command has announced a multifunction cost comparison study of personnel support functions at its active-duty bases.

The study impacts a total of 208 military and 37 civilian members in education services, customer service, base training, personnel systems and readiness, personnel relocation and career enhancement.

The cost comparison is projected for completion within 36 months. It will be conducted in compliance with Air Force policies implementing the Office of Management and Budget A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities. This

*(Continued on next page)*

# Internet: modern weapon of war

2nd Lt. Kevin Lynch  
22nd Communications Squadron,  
McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

## Web surfers may find Net use scrutinized

**W**hy does the Air Force care where you go on the Internet?

It's not that we are "big brother," and it's definitely not because we don't have better things to do than monitor our computers. It all boils down to one simple fact: The network is a weapons system. The network is a force multiplier. In today's Air Force, computers and computer networks are an integral part of most of our jobs. They facilitate communications, increase productivity and leverage our limited manpower. Networked computers are involved in planning missions, tracking supplies, processing security clearances, even filing taxes on-line. There's very little we do that a computer doesn't help us with.

So back to the question: Why does the Air Force care about the use of the Internet? Like everything else, our connection to the Internet is a limited resource. There is only so much information-carrying capacity available. You may not be aware, but the connection we use for several of our command and control systems, e-mail, supply and payroll systems is the same one that we use to access the Internet. So, if I choose to go to a graphics-intensive site with streaming video and sound, I'm consuming a portion of that precious resource that our mission-essential software is using. When you have close to 3,000 users on a base, that is a significant impact on our systems.

Even simple acts like browsing sports pages or checking on the price of stocks impacts the mission. Many

of you have noted how slow the connection to the commercial side of the Internet can be at times. It is a mild

annoyance if you're trying to get the line-up for tonight's game, but it can be a work stoppage for contracting trying to get a quote on a new item, or for a system administrator who is trying to download an important security patch.

The Air Force is also concerned about our people visiting inappropriate sites. You may not be aware, but many Web sites record who visits them for marketing research. What impression does it give the public when a Web site for sports receives thousands of hits a day from \*.mil sites? If I worked for that Web company, I'd wonder why my hard-earned tax money is being spent so the military can check the sports scores online while at work.

Also, what is the impression to the public when a hate-crime or pornography site or an illicit drug or even a political campaign site receives hits from the military? We don't allow our members to go to political functions or to nightclubs in uniform, but when you travel to unofficial sites on the Internet, you are, in a sense, in uniform.

The Internet is a valuable resource. It provides a tremendous amount of information in an easy-to-find format. But, like all resources, it must be carefully managed. The Air Force blocks sites on the Internet that are inappropriate to ensure there is enough bandwidth available for mission systems. When it comes to blocking a site, it is exactly like cordoning off a firing range or designating a military operations area. It ensures clear skies to conduct our training and prepare for our missions. We are doing the same — clearing the Internet so the training and mission can go on. *(Air Force Print News)* □

(Continued from previous page)

circular reaffirms the government's policy to rely on the private sector for products and services. (AMC News Service)

## Uniform shopping made easy

Shopping for military uniforms can be as easy as browsing the Internet. Catalogs from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are available worldwide for authorized customers at:

<http://www.aafes.com>

Ⓞ Though identical in product selection, the electronic catalogs do not replace the paper versions, still available in clothing sales stores or by calling (888) 768-3204. (AFPN, "must run")

## Reserve

### Reserve pilot dies in crash

An Air Force Reserve Command pilot from Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla., was killed when his single-seat F-16 fighter aircraft crashed at 11:36 a.m. July 1 in a remote area near Avon Park Bombing Range.

**Maj. Samuel D'Angelo III** crashed while performing a low-level training mission near Sebring in central Florida. The aircraft was part of a four-ship formation.

A traditional reservist with 19 years of military service, D'Angelo was a pilot for American Airlines and a resident of Key Largo, Fla. (AFRC News Service)

### Reservist selected in 'top 12'

**Tech. Sgt. Darin Miley**, a reservist with the 6th Space Operations Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., has become the first full-time Active Guard and Reserve member selected as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Operations superintendent and additional duty first sergeant, Miley helped establish the 6th SOPS.

Forty-eight bluesuiters representing major commands, direct reporting units and Air Staff agencies competed for the honor. (AFRCNS)

## Local

### Chapel volunteers needed

The wing chapel staff needs pianists for unit training assembly services.

The Catholic service is at 8 a.m. on Sundays, followed by the Protestant service at 9 a.m. Also, anyone interested in playing another instrument or being a song leader is welcome.

Ⓞ For more information, call the chapel during UTA weekends, Ext. 1226 or 1227. □

## Membership campaign starts

The Air Force Sergeants Association 1999 membership campaign runs July 1-Dec. 31. Twin Cities Chapter 858 is close to reaching its 1,000 member goal, according to **Master Sgt. Lin Davidson**, 934th Operations Support Flight member and chapter president.

"AFSA provides many benefits, such as insurance and travel discounts," said Davidson, "and it's the only organization that represents the enlisted voice, present day and retired, on Capitol Hill. For example, AFSA was at the forefront in making sure military technicians, both Guard and Reserve, kept their 15 days of military leave annually."

Ⓞ For more information or applications, check in unit orderly rooms or call Davidson, (612) 884-6077.

## Split-disbursement option offered

Members with the NationsBank travel charge card now can elect a split disbursement when submitting travel vouchers. Travelers indicate on the voucher the dollar amount to go directly to NationsBank for payment.

Ⓞ For more information on this new payment option, call the travel section, Ext. 1408, 1416 or 1417.

## Photo lab moves to headquarters

The wing photo lab, 934th Communications Flight, relocated to Bldg. 760, Room 140, near the mail room. The phone number remained the same, Ext. 1620. Passport photos are taken 8-10:30 a.m. on drill Sundays; full-length photos are taken by appointment only. For other requirements, complete an Air Force Form 833, Visual Information Work Order, and call for an appointment.

Ⓞ For photo lab and audio visual support or scheduling during the week, call **Joan Bolesworth**, Ext. 1030.

## Readiness position available

The 934th Civil Engineer Squadron has an opening in the disaster preparedness/readiness career field. Qualified applicants must attend an 11-week technical school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., within one year of assignment.

Ⓞ Interested individuals should call **Senior Master Sgt. Clark Johnson**, Ext. 1951, to set up an interview.

## Retiree program planned

An annual Retiree Appreciation Days event is set for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 24-25, at the Fort Snelling Historical Site auditorium, Minneapolis, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The program is open to all military retirees, including spouses and widows, from all service branches.

Ⓞ For details or reservations, call **Chief Warrant Officer Gerald Blume**, (651) 738-7672; **Col. Wayne Farnberg**, (320) 846-8725; **Command Sgt. Maj. Owen Hefner**, (507) 263-2096, or **Lt. Col. John Nowicki**, (612) 894-1857. □



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

Senior Airman Scott Fitzgerald, 934th Maintenance Squadron, spent 15 days deployed to Puerto Rico. His specialty is C-130 electrical environmental systems.

## Coronet Oak

### Mission saga continues as Puerto Rico becomes 'new Panama'

Tech. Sgt. Larry Dean  
Public Affairs

The 934th Airlift Wing will serve as the lead unit for Coronet Oak rotations to Puerto Rico, August through September, a little more than a month after completing two rotations there.

C-130E units were tasked to handle Coronet Oak while C-130H units continue taking care of Operation Shining Hope requirements, according to Lt. Col. Rob Spence, deputy commander of the 934th Operations Group. Spence will serve as mission commander for the additional rotations. The 934th will be working with the 913th Airlift Wing, Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa., and the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

"Our increased involvement relieves the H-model units and is just as important, even though it doesn't involve combat pay or medals," said Spence.

A total of 115 wing members served on two rotations, June 5-19 and June 19-July 3. Coronet Oak host operations relocated from Howard Air Force Base, Panama, to Puerto Rico in May, and the first 934th air and ground crews noted many changes.

"We are really on our own with the new location," said Maj. Mike Huttner, mission commander for one of the rotations. "Many things we've

grown accustomed to in rotations to Panama are not available there."

Huttner said there's no hospital, aerial port, in-flight kitchen, maintenance support or supplies that were available in Panama. "In fact, the rotations are new enough from there that many boxes of equipment are yet to be unpacked," he said.

He added it was a pleasant change in environment to be hosted out of San Juan International Airport, with crews' efforts fulfilling a great need for Southern Command in supporting their mission.

"Aircrews flew shuttle missions to deliver supplies and people to various locations in Central and South America, including the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Honduras, Columbia and El Salvador," Huttner said. "Among the more exciting missions, we were called upon to fly ambassadors and families from Ecuador and Peru to a peace conference and signing of an agreement to end their border disputes. We saw a lot of international presence for that event."

He said wing members also served as alert crews, prepared for short-notice calls to handle possible emergencies such as search and rescue or shuttle assistance should an embassy staff need to relocate due to hostile threat.

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Schmidt, noncommissioned officer in

charge of loadmasters, noted that the new Puerto Rico location is much smaller than the previous home, with limited ramp space prompting the need to tow aircraft before they could taxi for flight.

"The Puerto Rico Air National Guard members were great to work with while we were there," said Schmidt. "Besides handling the loads for our missions, we helped provide them some training using the k-loaders and forklifts, and we taught them how to efficiently load the aircraft so it can be quickly unloaded."

Schmidt said the unit is in the process of converting from fighter aircraft to C-130s. "We also taught them how to build up a pallet and secure the netting," he said.

Schmidt pointed out that although the new location offers more opportunities to enjoy off-duty time, both Puerto Rico and Panama are comparable in terms of work. "Both locations are good to work from," he said. "There's a lot going on there, and I think the new Coronet Oak home will be a real good place."

Huttner agreed, adding, "It's a different way of doing business while we are working through the initial logistics, but it will continue to be a great training opportunity for our people while meeting the needs of Southern Command." □



**Wing around the world:**

## August

**27th APS:** Germany, Oklahoma

**934th AES:** Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Texas

**96th AS:** Florida, Mississippi, New Mexico, Washington

**934th ASTS:** Colorado, Texas

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

**934th CES:** Mississippi, Texas, Wisconsin

**934th CF:** Maryland, Mississippi

**934th LSS:** No report

**934th MXS:** Colorado, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Texas

**934th OSP:** Puerto Rico

**934th SFS:** Georgia, New Jersey, Texas

**934th SVS:** England, Germany, New York

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

# Wing roundup

## 27th Aerial Port Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson*

Four unit members continue to support the redeployment phase of the Kosovo relief effort while on an extended active-duty tour in Germany. Two C-130s from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., flew two missions each to deliver 100,000 pounds of wheat to the squadron for palletizing prior to airlift to Bosnia. A C-5 from Dover AFB, Del., will be here for the Military Expo '99, July 31-Aug. 1, also providing valuable training. The squadron will prepare six aerial delivery loads and load them on the aircraft, which will airdrop them at Camp Ripley, Minn. The loads will then be recovered by unit members.

## 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

*Senior Airman*

*Elizabeth Quaidoo*

Squadron members returned from annual tour in Japan, receiving certificates of appreciation from Yokota Air Base. The annual fitness walk was completed. Plans remain under continuous refinement for the October joint medical exercise in conjunction with the Readiness Exercise. The unit is also preparing for "Steadfast VI," an exercise set for Oct. 21-24 at Fort Lewis, Wash.

## 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford*

Members completed physicals, drug testing, chemical warfare training, infection control/blood-borne

pathogen training and specialty training in July.

## 96th Airlift Squadron

*Senior Airman Jess Lind*

The wing will be the lead unit for the August and September rotations to Puerto Rico for Coronet Oak, sending nine crews in three rotations. The squadron performed tactical training at the Jordan, Minn., drop zone during the July drill. Also, a number of members completed ability to survive and operate training.

## 934th Civil Engineer Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews*

Pavement and grounds members were deployed to River Falls, Wis., to continue excavation training and work on the community park project. The electrical and power production shops began repair and restoration work on airfield light fixtures and transformers for the Camp Ripley, Minn., airfield extension project. The power production shop also conducted phase rotation checks on all base building transformers in preparation of Y2K backup power hookups. The heating/ventilation/air conditioning shop serviced and repaired the air conditioning system in the parachute shop.

## 934th Communications Flight

*Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz*

Many unit members have been involved in community activities in recent months. Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wilson participated in several parades with the

wing float. She and Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher served as ushers for an Air Force Band of the Heartland performance in July. Tech. Sgt. Allen Williams and Staff Sgt. Heidi Schmidt worked at the family readiness booth at the Military Expo '99. Tech. Sgts. Richard Loesch and Karl Thorner, and Senior Airman Cory Demuth will also participate in the expo.

## 934th Logistics Support Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Alma De La Garza*  
No report.

## 934th Maintenance Squadron

*Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken*

Squadron members received a plaque and thanks from Lt. Col. Rob Spence, deputy commander of the 934th Operations Group, for the fine condition in which the aircraft are maintained. A total of 122 members attended ability to survive and operate training during the July drill.

## 934th Operations Support Flight

*Master Sgt. Cara Utecht*

Members from intelligence will continue deploying with wing members to Puerto Rico for Coronet Oak. Their primary job is keeping aircrews informed of possible threats at their travel destinations. They also remain focused on force protection for everyone deployed. We said farewell to Maj. Thomas Hueg, who accepted a four-year Air Guard Reserve assignment with the Joint Chiefs of Staff J-3 operations staff at the Pentagon.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Viking Flyer**

# Family Readiness Update

Summer Issue 1999

## Joint Services Family Readiness Services and Programs

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Dear Member Spouse

I want to take a moment to thank you for the sacrifices you have made to support the reservists of the 934th Airlift Wing. You are an important member of the Reserve team, and we could not attain our goals and missions without your support and understanding.

As we move into the 21st century, it is essential the partnership between you, the reservist and the Reserve continues to grow. We will face many challenges as a family, as a wing and as a nation in the years to come. There is no doubt in my mind that, together, we can successfully meet those challenges.

The Air Mobility Command has designated 1999 as the "Year of the Family" to emphasize the importance of spouse and family. We in the reserves are a family. As such, we have access to the many resources available to us. My goal is to make you aware of all your benefits and have you take full advantage of them.

In closing, I want you to know how important you are to me. You are the unsung hero of the Reserve, and we will never take for granted the sacrifices you and your family make every time I ask your husband/wife to give up a weekend or deploy in support of our nation. I also want you to know that we are here for you! Together we can help make this journey, a rich, rewarding experience while providing a valuable service to our country.

Sincerely



RICHARD R. MOSS, COLONEL, USAFR  
Commander

### Family Readiness Staff Members

**Ms. Patricia Botkins**  
Director

**TSgt Eric Baumer**  
NCOIC Family Readiness

**SSgt Randy Kline**  
**SSgt Steve Johnson**  
**SSgt Tom Theis**  
Family Readiness Technicians

**MSgt Darryl Graves (Ret)**  
Volunteer Assistant

**Ms. Cindy Stover**  
Joint Service Volunteer Coordinator

**Ms. Deb Helseth**  
934 AW Volunteer Coordinator

**Capt and Mrs. Jim John (Ret)**  
FRC Officer Manager

**Lt Col and Mrs. John Nowicki**  
Retiree Coordinator

**Mrs. Virginia Roth**  
Volunteer Fundraising Coordinator

### Family Readiness

760 Military Highway  
MPLS MN 55450-2100

**612-713-1516**

Fax: 612-713-1033

**1-800-231-3517**

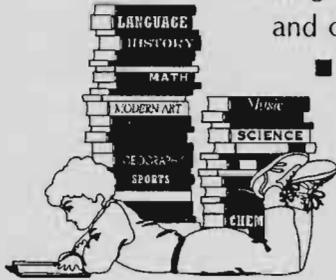
patricia.botkins@msp.afres.af.mil  
w3.afrc.af.mil/units/934aw/fsc/

## TEENAGER IN THE HOUSE?

### Here's some help

It's natural for teens to seek more freedom. They're transitioning from childhood to adulthood, and they want to be understood. Here are a few tips from *Smart Families* ...

- Save your big guns for the major skirmishes. Teenagers are notorious for picking battles on every front. Be emotionally prepared by deciding ahead of time which areas are worth taking a stand over, such as grades and curfew.
- Give them their space. If your home is a fun place to be, the kids will view it as a refuge. If possible, set up their own game room just for them. They'll invite friends over, and you will know where they and who their peers are.
- Loosen the reins a little ... Review their privileges and responsibility with each birthday.
- Share yourself. Tell stories of your own adolescence when your kids are in the mood to listen.
- Respect their opinion, even if you don't agree with them. Don't be too quick to criticize. Learn to ask questions in a calm tone that helps them logically think through their ideas. If a discussion hits a brick wall, suggest that you both think about it overnight and continue the discussion the next day. This shows that you are trying to be reasonable.
- Be flexible. Say yes whenever you can. "No's" will have more validity against a backdrop of frequent "yesses." When you have to say no, explain why.
- Be unswayed by outside opinion. Never give as a reason: "This looks bad," "What will friends think?" or "You can't do it, because other parents are not letting their kids do it."



- Remember that you're the parent and not their best friend. In the early teen years, kids already have a best friend - sometimes three or four best friends. They want you to be a parent who will provide freedom within limits.

## WHAT WE ARE REALLY ABOUT

The Family Readiness Programs/Centers offers military families assistance in many areas. The Air Force and other military branches of service realize there is a direct relationship between a member's ability to successfully accomplish a mission and the quality of life his or her family experiences. Because of this relationship, many programs and policies are available to promote a positive family environment.

Core services include:

- ◆ Information, referral and follow-up
- ◆ Leadership consultation
- ◆ Readiness
- ◆ Crisis assistance

Baseline services include:

- ◆ Family life education
- ◆ Volunteer resource program
- ◆ Career focus
- ◆ Personal financial management program
- ◆ Relocation and transition assistance

As you can see from the above list, our Family Readiness Center provides many services. Our staff is well trained and eager to assist you with your needs.

## CARPOOLING

Call the Family Readiness Center at 1-800-231-3517 or stop by to checkout the carpooling list of other reservists who may be interested in carpooling in your area.



## HOME-BUYING SEMINARS

Real estate professionals have been providing free home-buying workshops at the Family Readiness Center for almost a year, every Saturday drill from 4:45 to 5:45.

**DeeAnn "Dee Dee"**

**Edlund**, a Greater Minneapolis Real Estate Company Realtor, and **Rich Larson**, a Senior Mortgage Consultant with Home Mortgage, provide the monthly seminars to anyone interested in purchasing a new home.



## BIG ISLAND VETERANS' CAMPGROUND

Did you know there is a 58 acre campground located at Lake Monnetonka, near Excelsior, specifically open to all Minnesota resident veterans and their families and guests?

The Big Island Veterans' Camp offers 30 campsites and picnic tables, outdoor grills and fire rings, central restroom and shower facilities, picnic shelters, playground, hiking trails and beautiful beaches. The campground is open weekends from May 15 through Sept. 18. One-day passes are just \$4 per person; dockage or mooring fees are \$5; and campsite rates are \$10 per site.

The campground is accessible only by boat. A scheduled shuttle operates on weekends, in season, from the municipal dock near Pizza Hut, Port of Excelsior.



For more information, stop by the Family Readiness Center or call the camp ground direct: 612-474-1958.

## COMMEMORATIVE COIN FOLDER

Join the fun by collecting the US Mint's NEW 50 state quarters! Collect one from every state in the 50 United States Commemorative Quarter Collection Book as two new quarters are introduced every year over the next ten years. High quality, embossed coin folders are available for just \$19.99. A portion of each sale will be donated to the Family Readiness Center. The fundraiser is a coordinated effort by **Mrs. Virginia Roth**, FRC volunteer fundraising coordinator, and **Mr. John Slavec** of Services 4-U in Golden Valley, MN.

## FAMILY DAY

Mark your calendars for Sept. 12, Sunday of the September unit training assembly. Family Day means planned activities for the entire family, a barbeque, static aircraft displays and more! Family readiness traditionally provides a panel of experts to answer questions regarding wills, power of attorneys, military I.D. cards and benefits. General wellness information is also available to assist with stress management, communications, marriage and parenting. We are also planning to have a book fair, with prices marked down, up to 50 percent off retail prices; homemade crafts and a rummage sale. Volunteers



are needed! Anyone interested in giving us a hand, please contact us at 612-713-1516.

All funds received are donated to the Friends of Family Readiness fund which helps Department of Defense individuals in need and programs in support of family readiness. Items left over from the rummage sale will be donated to the Trinity Mission.

A contribution of 10% of your craft or rummage sales is requested. Tables and space to sell your items will be provided.

**CHAPEL CORNER**  
by Chaplain John Echert

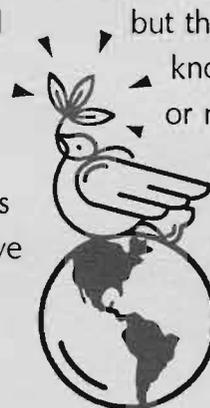
Although many Americans may not be aware of it, every September, families, comrades and friends of POWs and MIAs gather together to remember and pray for their missing loved ones. This year I was invited to the state capital to share some reflections and prayer with these families and friends in a memorial service. Those who gathered were relatively few in number but their devotion to their loved ones runs deep -- deeper than most of us can imagine. Many of them are still uncertain as to the fate of their loved one, and so there is no closure to their grief.

One of the speakers at the service noted that with each passing year, there is less and less national attention given to our POWs and MIAs. How true. Later on that same day, I was telling a civilian friend that I had been to the memorial service, and his comment was, "Are there still people out there holding out hope?" Yes, there are! How can a spouse ever forget a spouse, or children their mom or dad, or parents a son or daughter? Death is itself hard enough to accept, but uncertainly adds a whole other dimension to the grieving process.

When I was in high school, it was common to see students wearing a wristband inscribed with the name of a POW or MIA; when was the last time you saw such a band? Sure, there comes a point when we as individuals, families and a nation have to move on with life. But not at the cost of letting go of any hope, while hope may remain in some cases, or casting from memory the names and sacrifices made by our POWs and MIAs.

While the country at large may forget its sons and daughters who make the sacrifice of life and freedom, I know that their families never will. I trust that we who are military members and families will continue to remember them and honor them. At our 1998 Military Ball, our guest speaker was a survivor of POW camps. I know we were all deeply touched by his story, grateful for his sacrifice and inspired by his personal integrity.

One thing we can do for our POWs, MIAs, and their families: **KEEP THEM IN OUR PRAYERS.** As remote as the possibility may seem, pray that if there be any still imprisoned or lost to us but still alive, let them be speedily brought home to their own. As regards those who have died but their ultimate fate is still unknown, pray that any remains or news be delivered to their families back home.. And as for the loved ones who grieve their loss, let us offer prayers for their consolation and the closure that they so richly deserve.



**MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**

Check out the Military Family Resource Center Web site at <http://mfrc.calib.com>. The Web site features a searchable, bibliographic database of more than 10,000 documents related to military quality-of-life issues. users can order research materials online from the clearinghouse, as well as download or order publications such as *Military Community Life* and *Military Families: Staying in Step in the 1990s*. Visit often for new features and products, and updated information. Visits to the site have quadrupled in the six months the site has been available.

# Family Day: 'Come out and have fun'

## September celebration offers activities for Reserve families

**W**ing reservists bid farewell to summer with the celebration of Family Day, Sunday, Sept. 12, starting at 11 a.m.

The goal of this year's event, according to **David Lilja**, chief of services, is for reservists and their families to have a good time. "We want people to come out and have fun and relax," he said.

In line with that goal, military units won't be obligated to sponsor booths as in the past. Also, the goal is to offer a low- or no-cost event.

"We're slowly trying to get away from selling things at Family Day," Lilja said, "so if cost is involved, it will be nominal. We want to offer a picnic-type environment with little cost."

Many details were not confirmed at press time, but most activities will take place near the ballfields and Base Exchange. A tentative list of activities include:

- A picnic lunch hosted by the civilian component of the 934th Services Squadron. The menu will include such items as hamburgers, bratwursts, hot dogs, potato salad and beans;

- A wing C-130 on static display;
- Children's games and activities, all free of charge;
- Recreational activities such as softball and volleyball, and the fitness center will be open;
- The Base Exchange will host an outdoor "tent sale," 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and
- The Minnesota State Patrol may bring their police dogs for demonstrations.

The 934th Family Readiness Program plans to sponsor a number of activities:

- Health fair,
- Book and art fair, and
- Rummage and craft sale. For the sale, only military

## Wing roundup ...

(Continued from previous page)

### 934th Security Forces Squadron

*Staff Sgt. Barry Haukoos*  
The squadron prepared for deployment to Phoenix Readiness at Fort Dix, N.J., building pallets and conducting a mobility processing line. Individual squads discussed operating procedures for field

operations. Two members participated in a robbery exercise with the finance office.

### 934th Services Squadron

*Airmen 1st Class Kristen Maloney*  
Meals were served successfully at the NCO Club during the July drill. The August meals will be



*Tech. Sgt. John Byerly*

*Maj. Donald Fleischmann, 96th Airlift Squadron pilot, and his son, John Reid, checked out the C-130 static display in last year's Family Day.*

members, Department of Defense employees and family members may bring items for an individual/family table, with a 10 percent donation suggested to the Friends of Family Readiness. For more details call **Patricia Botkins**, Ext. 1516. □

served by wing services members at the Air Guard dining facility. The golf tournament was changed to the August drill in hopes the weather would be better.

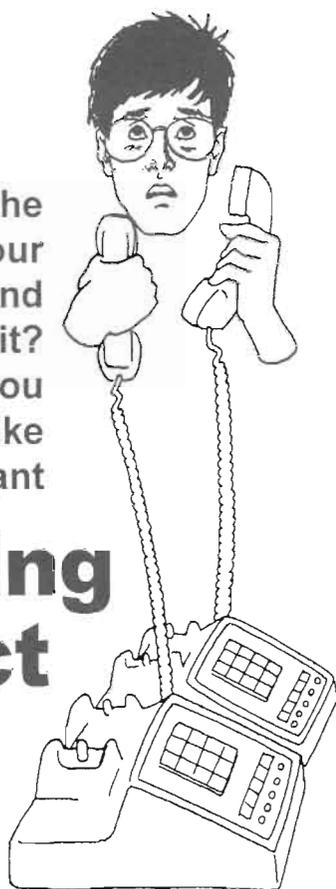
### Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

*Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez*  
Family readiness members recently attended a two-day

workshop sponsored by the Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region, covering topics such as suicide prevention, family violence prevention and public affairs. Financial management members held an exercise on deployed locations in July to evaluate their ability to handle a variety of situations possible during deployed operations. □

Can you juggle the needs of both your civilian boss and your Reserve unit? Or do you sometimes feel like it's all a giant

# Balancing act



**Capt. Robert Clark**  
Public Affairs

*"I didn't know you were in the Reserve."  
"You're going to be gone for how long?"  
"Well, then, I guess you're fired."  
"Can you work for us remotely from Macedonia?"*

**I**f David Letterman were ranking the top things you wouldn't want to hear from your employer before a deployment, these statements would rank pretty high.

But with the increasing role of the Air Force Reserve in worldwide contingencies, employer relations is no laughing matter. Wing members should take a close look at their employer relationships to ensure both sides are aware of their rights and potential duty requirements.

Communication is the key, said **Terrence Quigley**, Minnesota State Chair for the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"Constant communication between the military member and the employer is very critical," said Quigley. "Give the employer any information that will take you away from your civilian job as early as possible. Also stress the flexibility of the employer being flexible to any training deployments above the requirement for annual tour and drill weekends."

To aid in the communications process, the 934th publishes unit training assembly and annual tour schedules a year in advance. This allows reservists ample time to educate their employer on their duty schedule and requirements. The wing also sponsors an annual Employer's Day to acquaint employers of wing members on the role and mission of the Air Force Reserve and the wing.

If problems do arise, ESGR offers an ombudsman program, which is an informal mediation service available to employers or uniformed service members who are experiencing conflict because of military duties.

"Before complaints reach the ombudsman, military members and their employers must try to work out their problems with their military supervisors and commanders first," said Quigley. "The state ESGR committee members would get involved next to try to explain and work out the conflict with the employer and military member. The ombudsman is your last chance before it goes to the U.S. Department of Labor."

Once deployed, the Reserve member is afforded a number of rights under The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act of 1994.

Among the rights provided under the act are:

- **Health insurance during service.** If you ask for it, your employer must continue to carry you and your family on the company health plan for up to 30 days of service.
- **Prompt reinstatement.** You get your job back immediately if you were gone 30 days or less and within days if you served longer.
- **Status and seniority.** For purposes of status, seniority, and most pension rights — including pay rate — you are treated as if you never left for military service. If your peers got promotions or raises while you were gone, you do, too.
- **Special protection against discharge other than for cause.** If you are fired within a protected period, your employer must prove the firing wasn't because of military service. Your protected period varies with how long you were gone.

To learn about additional rights under USSERRA, members can contact the wing legal office, Ext. 1230.

Many employers have progressive Reserve policies and go the extra mile to support their Reserve employees. Members should consider nominating these employers for ESGR awards.

"Annual recognition of their civilian employers is a must for all Reserve and Guard members," said Quigley. "Point out the policies and practices that your civilian employer is doing if they go beyond the legal requirement. It will turn into a win-win situation for the military member and their civilian employer."

To learn more about ESGR, call (800) 336-4590, or in Minnesota, call (651) 296-4223. Also, visit the Web site at:

[www.ncesgr.osd.mil](http://www.ncesgr.osd.mil)

# 'Survival training' Wing takes lead in teaching members new chemical warfare procedures

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

**F**ollowing major changes in what is now called "nuclear biological chemical defense training," the 934th Airlift Wing stepped up to lead-wing responsibilities in 22nd Air Force.

Air Force-level changes in May included new training requirements, switching from dry to wet decontamination procedures. Also, information in the regulation covering the contamination control line blossomed from a mere nine pages to 85 pages.

**Senior Master Sgt. Clark Johnson**, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness superintendent, said the wing's readiness council — consisting of the wing and group commanders — immediately took a proactive stance amidst the changes.

"They said we needed more hands-on ability to survive and operate training to meet the new requirements," said Johnson, "so instead of creating another class and require more time from our reservists, they brainstormed to create one class to fulfill both old and new needs."

The result was a two-and-a-half hour course packed with hands-on activity. The new course started last month, with approximately 300 wing members receiving training.

Johnson said this course will be attended annually by each member filling a mobility position, receiving credit for refresher chemical warfare training.

"Our goal is to train around 1,000 wing members between now and October," Johnson said. "In the October exercise, the readiness council will evaluate the success of the training."

The course starts with a 45-minute classroom review, followed by less than two hours in the proficiency training area located in



Tech. Sgt. Sherrill Beecher

*A buddy team practices the new liquid decontamination method, using a water and bleach mixture to neutralize chemicals and kill biological agents.*

the field across from the wing headquarters, Bldg. 760. Members work in teams of 10 to practice a number of actions, including identifying/marketing unexploded ordnance, don the chemical ensemble, check for contamination with M-8/M-9 paper, receive antidote training and go through the 12-station decontamination process.

"We're trying to make it realistic," Johnson said. "There's only so much we can do with the limited training time allotted. We're trying to get the most training in the least time."

The change from dry to wet contamination control means no more kitty litter in the shuffle box. The liquid decontaminant is water and 5 percent bleach, and now there is a way to test effectiveness.

"We spray a light mist of whitening detergent to the chemical overgarment prior to starting the process," said Johnson. Once the member goes through the contamination control area, an instructor uses an ultraviolet light to check for detergent traces, which glow. □

## Class prep suggested

**T**rainers in the new class reminded students to report ready for action:

- **Inventory your gear.**

Students sometimes show up with missing items, suits that don't fit or brand-new suits laden with charcoal. Some units send new suits out for laundering; others leave it to individuals to wash suits at home, as many as four to six times, to render them wearable for training.

- **Bring all your field gear** — helmet, web belt and canteen — and your complete chemical ensemble: hood, mask, coat, pants, boots and gloves with cotton inserts.

- **Wash out your canteen and fill it with water.** Though the first classes did not practice use of the drinking tube in the mask, future classes will.

- **Bring your ability to survive and operate guide,** Air Force Handbook 32-4014, Vol. 4. □

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## News

### Fun & leisure

#### **NCO Club**

• A hog roast will be held on Saturday, Aug. 28. Other items on the menu include corn on the cob, roasted potatoes and salad bar. Everyone will receive something free!

• **NCO Club members** can enjoy dinner by reservation at the Officers Club any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening.

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

#### **Officers Club**

• The annual classic car show is set for Saturday, Aug. 7. Members are invited to show their cars or just take a look. Lunch of barbecue beef and beverages will be available.

• A hog roast is planned for Monday, Aug. 16. Tickets are \$13 each and must be purchased in advance from the bartender. Tickets are limited to the first 250 people.

☎For dinner reservations at the club or information on other activities, call Ext. 3678.

#### **Fitness center**

Cardio fitness activities will be offered all month, including hiking, biking or climbing at your favorite state park.

☎Call for information or a schedule of fitness center court times, Ext. 1GYM.

#### **Charity golf tournament**

Federal employees and retirees are invited to play in the Fourth

Annual Combined Federal Campaign Golf Tournament, Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Southern Hills Golf Course, Farmington, Minn.

The 18-hole tournament, four-person/best ball scramble offers a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m. The \$46 fee includes green fee, prizes for low team score, flag prizes and a burger-and-brat dinner with a potato and fresh fruit salad. Carts are \$12 per player. Entries must be submitted by Friday, Aug. 20.

☎Call the Federal Executive Board for an entry form, (612) 713-7200, or call **Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Blalock**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Ext. 3570. □