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VIKING FLYER

For members of the 934th AG, Air Force Reserve, Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP ARS, Minn.



VIKING FLYER

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934th MSF (934th UPAR of the Year 1993)

* Indicates this month's contributors.

On the cover



Capt. Jim Carlen, 96th AS, is one of several Air Force Academy graduates who are now members of the 96th. For their story, plus entrance information, see Pages 6-8.

(Photo by SSgt. Janet Byerly)



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Commentary

Super job!

QAFA results mirror great attitude

by Col. Michael Gjede
group commander

Congratulations! Once again, the 934th Airlift Group demonstrated that we're a world-class organization. After months of preparation, checking and cross-checking files and records, and self-inspections, we were able to withstand the scrutiny of approximately 70 inspectors from Headquarters Air Force Reserve.

So many good things were passed on to me as the inspectors went about their business -- things that don't show directly in the report. But the one thing I hear repeatedly was regarding the positive attitude of our people.

Even when the chips were down, we never wavered from the attitude that comes from confidence, knowing we know best how to do our jobs! Attitude always stands out, and I'm convinced it had a direct bearing on how your inspectors looked at you.

On top of it all, in the middle of the inspection, we had 12 hours notice that the



Gjede

president of the United States would arrive. We knew how to do that, too, and we never missed a beat.

We again demonstrated what a winning team we are. As I've said before, every, single person on this base -- no matter where you work or what you do -- owns a part of this superb rating. Each of you contributes to making us as successful as we are.

My hat's off to all of you. □

Reserve restructuring efforts continue

Stay tuned for changes

by Maj. Gen. John Closner
chief, Air Force Reserve

As part of a plan to streamline and strengthen the command structure of the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve continues its restructuring efforts.

Our blueprint for the future includes designating nearly all Reserve flying groups as wings which will report directly to our numbered air forces. Geographically separated units -- primarily aerial port, civil engineer and medical units -- will report to a regional support group at each NAF headquarters.

We'll see some other improvements as well, including the establishment of two new Reserve support squadrons and a recruiting squadron at Headquarters AFRES.

Manpower changes will be minimal, and we expect new career opportunities for some reservists.

The goals of the streamlining effort remain the same -- flatten the command structure and put operational responsibility at the lowest level. We'll be announcing details early this fall, so stay tuned. □

UTA schedule



Oct. 1-2
Nov. 5-6
Dec. 3-4
Jan. 7-8
Feb. 4-5
March 4-5

QAFA Superior Performers

TSgt. Gregory Ahlfs, AS
 TSgt. Connie Ammala, CF
 TSgt. Dean Andersen, CES
 SrA. Steven Anderson, SPS
 MSgt. Patricia Boettner, SUG
 1st Lt. Craig Bogan, APS
 TSgt. John Bruns, LSS
 Capt. Deborah Buonassisi, AG
 SSgt. Janet Byerly, AG
 TSgt. Russell Carnes, CES
 TSgt. John Chalich, SPS
 SSgt. Andrew Cveykus, CF
 TSgt. Linda Davidson, MSF
 SSgt. Franklin Davis, APS
 SSgt. Jeffrey Dentz, MXS
 TSgt. Peter Desanctis, MXS
 SSgt. Shelly Downey, LSS
 SSgt. Michael Dvorak, LSS
 TSgt. Rory Ernst, MXS
 TSgt. Sonja Fisher, MSF
 Capt. Robert Fleming, AS
 TSgt. Jeff Gorman, MXS
 SrA. Susette Gossett, SPS
 SSgt. Stefan Halushka, MSF
 SSgt. David Hanten, MSF
 A1C Barry Haukoos, SPS
 SSgt. Lisa Hedman, AG
 A1C Annette Honebrink, MSF
 SSgt. Jerry Immonen, MXS
 TSgt. Angela Johnson, AS
 TSgt. Clark Johnson, AG
 TSgt. Elizabeth Johnston, LSS
 TSgt. Dale Klein, MXS
 TSgt. Dale Klossner, CES
 SSgt. Conrad Kluck, MXS
 TSgt. Arthur Komomua, APS
 SSgt. Richard Kraus Jr., AS
 TSgt. Keith Krause, MXS
 SSgt. Phillip Kvamme, MXS
 SSgt. Mark Larsen, APS
 TSgt. Christopher Layland, AG
 TSgt. Margaret McGillzimny, APS
 SSgt. Michael Moldrem, CES
 SSgt. Michael Morth, SVF
 TSgt. Gordon Murphy, CES
 SSgt. Mark Nerison, MXS
 TSgt. Steven Nicolai, CES
 MSgt. Rebecca Ogden, AG
 TSgt. Mark Olson, AS
 Capt. Timothy Ostigaard, AS
 TSgt. Donald Pederson, SPS
 SSgt. Ronna Puck, SVF
 TSgt. Richard Reinhard, AG
 SSgt. Steven Ross, MXS
 SSgt. Pamela Russell, CF
 Capt. Todd Schneider, AS
 TSgt. Phillip Sells, SPS
 MSgt. Debra Smith, AS
 SSgt. Patrick Smith, CES
 TSgt. David Strande, AS
 TSgt. Scott Struss, AS
 TSgt. Samuel Swann, AG
 TSgt. Timothy Szvetez, LSS
 TSgt. Lee Traxler, SVF

QAFA

Critical inspection deems 934th a super unit

by Cherie Huntington
 public affairs

The 934th's Quality Air Force Assessment went without a hitch, Aug. 11-17 -- but not without a presidential visit thrown in for good measure.

In its last major inspection before gaining wing status effective Oct. 1, the 934th "established the proper groundwork for becoming a wing," according to Brig. Gen. Robert Winner, Inspector General for the Air Force Reserve.

"You really did it," said Col. Michael Gjede, 934th commander. "This was a lot of hard work, I know. It took a tremendous effort on everyone's part."

Adding to the challenge was President Bill Clinton's last-minute itinerary change following the defeat of his crime bill. He arrived here to address a peace officers' convention in Minneapolis on Aug. 12, the first full day of inspection.

96th AS: super squadron

As for specific units' performance, no one matched the 96th Airlift Squadron, which was described as "the best organized and managed flying squadron seen to date."

The unit earned one of the 934th's two laudatory practice citations with its unit vacancy promotion advisory board, developed by a Process Action Team. The life support section was also highly touted for implementation of Quality processes.

TSgt. Bryan Voigt, SPS
 SSgt. Joseph Wiatros, SPS
 SSgt. Mark Woodson, MXS
Civilians:
 Tamara Davis, MSF
 Diane Eckstein, LSS
 Kimberly Fontenot, SVF
 Jean Hogan, SVF
 Mary Jensen, MSF
 Irene Linc, AS
 Marilyn Olson, AS
 Ardith Peterson, MSF
 Gregory Ramirez, SVF
 Sharon Schwegel, MSF
 Nolyn Smith, CES
 Kaarn Spencer, SVF
 Clarence Super Jr., CES
 Geraldine Theisen, SUG
 Diane Welsh, MSF □

Earning highest marks in the 96th were administration, financial management, self-inspection/crossfeed, supervision resource management and training.

Other high points

The 934th Communications Flight earned the Group's second laudatory for its unit security program.

Several group commander's programs also earned kudos,

including the anti-smoking program. The team noted efforts of management and union officials in negotiating anti-smoking agreements satisfying all parties. The efforts of Richard Tucker, health promotion manager, was recognized as achieving more positive actions than any unit seen to date.

The self-inspection/crossfeed program, administered by Capt. Deborah Buonassisi, 934th executive officer, was recognized as another "best seen to date," with Buonassisi commended for the "hard work and diligence in establishing and maintaining a superior program."

Other areas achieving top recognition was command and control -- the 934th Command Post -- noted as "an operation that could serve as a model for the command," SORTS and pass and registration.

Within 934th units, specific programs received super reviews:

☛ 934th CF: Unit administration, command and leadership.

☛ 934th Operations Support Flight: Self-inspection/crossfeed program.

☛ 27th Aerial Port Squadron: Enlisted Speciality Training Program.

☛ 934th Maintenance Squadron: Communications/Navigation, Guidance and Control.

☛ 934th Base Supply: Record maintenance, equipment management, special asset elements management, management of the pallet and net program, safety record, and housekeeping. Interface between civilian and military was seen as "best seen to date."

☛ Individual honors: The team identified 82 people as Superior Performers (see list at left), including air reserve technicians, reservists and civilians.

Wrap up

This inspection represents the last of the compliance-oriented tests, which have been known in the past as Unit Effectiveness Inspections and Management Effectiveness Inspections.

"The next QAFA four years from now will assess the unit's progression on its Quality journey," explained Lt. Col. Doug Pederson, Quality officer for the 934th. "Some compliance-type items will still be included. However, the overall mood and focus of a true QAFA, based on our own Unit Self Assessment, will seem revolutionary to us." □

Heat, stress and long hours

Medical people train in the field for a taste of wartime mission

by SSgt. Janet Byerly
public affairs

They left a few of the creature comforts at home, but that's to be expected when you're going to war.

This recent "war" gave five reservists from the 934th Medical Squadron a chance to perform their new wartime mission for two weeks in a medical readiness training exercise at Sheppard AFB, Texas.

"We set up an aeromedical staging facility, had one practice run and then we began the scenario," said TSgt. Gail Gregor, an administrative specialist.

"They try to make it as life-like as possible," she said. "We used a static display C-130 and helicopter for loading and unloading patients, and we used field

phones to receive information on incoming patients and flight times. We had a total of 70 patients come through the ASF during the 24 hours of the exercise."

For MDS people, it was their first opportunity to practice a new role as an aeromedical patient staging squadron. "Most of us had to learn the aeromedical evacuation terminology, which is something we haven't dealt with," Gregor explained.

"It was good training," said Sgt. John Wulfing, medical technician. "It was my first ASF exercise. We worked for 18 hours straight – a stress like you would have in real life."

While most agreed the training was excellent, the facilities and weather were not as highly rated. The field site was a remote fenced compound at Sheppard, and temperatures stayed in the 90-100 degree range.

"The exercise was intense," said TSgt. Faye Inker-Witte, a lab technician. "We had people from eight or nine different units, and we really came together well. The people and the team building were just great. I thought the exercise was fun, but the site was horrible."

The first week of the exercise included lectures and demonstrations on everything from vital signs to treating a patient with shock to wound management.

"This was my first tour," said SSgt. Rafael Carrero-Sune, a psychology technician. "It served as a good refresher course to update my medical skills."

The rest of the squadron is scheduled to complete the initial training soon, with a Combat Medical Readiness Training exercise required once every four years thereafter, said Gregor. □

Patriot Express *Exercise involves three 934th units in realistic wartime medical training*

by SSgt. Larry Dean
public affairs

Riding space came at a premium. On a crisp, July morning in Minnesota, 43 people from three base units sat snugly in the C-130 bound for Patriot Express, a 4th Air Force medical readiness exercise.

The travelers were surrounded by cargo consisting of one vehicle and a wide array of supplies used to care for patients. The 934th cargo and passengers would be divided between two locations: Youngstown ARB and Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio. Handling the barrage of patients arriving for care or transport to other hospitals presented the mission challenge.

Of those deploying, 23 were from the 47th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; 15, from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron; and five, from the 934th Medical Squadron.

SSgts. Roxana Szymik and Barbara Baert, 47th AES, deployed to Rickenbacker and were among the first groups to arrive there. "We began by helping set up medical staging facilities at two sites," Szymik said. "With more than 100 others joining in the training, it gave us a chance to get a feel for what it would be like in wartime -- flying with new aircrews and working with people you've never worked with."

Baert agreed it was a great experience. "We were able to observe others at work, picking up some of their good ideas and

also learning from their mistakes," she said. "I think we learned a lot from this exercise and believe the training we receive at the 934th helped us feel confident in our own abilities."

SSgt. Kelly Bochniak, 47th AES, deployed to Youngstown, where she handled the huge flow of message traffic for the aeromedical missions being flown. "Although this was my first aeromedical exercise," she said, "I felt as though I left Youngstown understanding the 'big picture' of our wartime role. The people at Patriot Express had many different talents to share. The exercise and people were great, but without the teamwork, it just wouldn't have worked."

Patriot Express gave members of the 934th MDS their first chance to see their new mission as an aeromedical evacuation staging squadron in action. From Youngstown, squadron members coordinated movement of patients sent from Rickenbacker via the aeromedical evacuation communications network.

"The exercise went wonderfully well," said Lt. Col. James Wahl, 934th MDS. "Dealing with different co-workers than we're used to is a real challenge, but it's great to see how the reservists meld together. Patriot Express helped recharge our enthusiasm for the job and gave us the chance to come back home to infuse knowledge to others in the unit. There were plenty of things that went wrong, like lack of equipment and radio problems, but we learn from those things and correct the problems for the future." □

Fifty-two years and counting

Bldg. 852 beat a 'death rap,' surviving to become an attractive, productive facility once again

by TSgt. Tom Dyer
public affairs

No one can say the government doesn't get its money's worth.

Take Bldg. 852, for example. During the past year, the two-story building fronting Kittyhawk Avenue underwent a major remodeling project. The renovation included handicapped access, new siding, central air conditioning, asbestos removal and an interior facelift, for a total cost of more than \$1 million.

What's may seem ironic, however, is that the structure was originally intended for temporary use only. It was supposed to be torn down after World War II, according to **Bill Ellis**, former base historian now in information management. Fifty-two years later, the building still stands.

"Bldg. 852 was built in 1942 to house the headquarters for the naval air station in Minneapolis," he explained. "Later, during the war years, it housed Navy pilots going through ground school. In fact, one Navy pilot who called Bldg. 852 home for a while was former president George Bush."

After the war until the early 1970s, Bldg. 852 remained the headquarters for the naval air station. "But in 1971, it became headquarters for the 934th Troop Carrier Group and served in that capacity until construction of the new base headquarters building in 1982," Ellis said.

Now, Bldg. 852 is the home for finance, services, legal, contracting and disaster preparedness, as well as Omega Travel and the Civil Air Patrol.

Disaster preparedness is one of the offices happy to be moved back into the remodeled building. "Our people and

equipment had been scattered all over the base for about 10 months," said **MSgt. Timothy Donnay**, NCO in charge of air base operability. He said over the next few months, the office will round up all its furniture and equipment that has been stored in offices and trailers throughout the base.

Finance, who moved from Bldg. 760, is enjoying its new home, according to **SMSgt. Kent Erlandson**, chief of financial management.

"All the base's financial services, including budget, commercial services, cost accounting and Reserve pay and allowances, are in one location now," Erlandson said. "Since Bldg. 852 is centralized in relation to other units, we're also more convenient for our customers."

The first floor of Bldg. 852 houses the 934th Services Flight, contracting and finance. The second floor has the legal office, social actions, disaster preparedness, Omega Travel and Civil Air Patrol. □



(Photo by Cherie Huntington)

'To Honor with Dignity'

The U.S. Air Force Presidential Honor Guard Drill Team from Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C., performed on the 934th flightline, July 20. The 17-member team demonstrated their talents for taping by KSTP-TV in support of mid-west recruiting activities. Sponsored by the 342nd U.S. Air Force Recruiting Squadron, Minneapolis, the team aids active-duty recruiters in their efforts throughout the country. Previous performances have resulted in recruiters fulfilling six-month quotas in one day. "To Honor with Dignity" is the team's motto.

Air Force Academy grads aren't just famous four-star generals, decorated pilots who bombed Baghdad or maybe a chief of staff of the Air Force -- they're also 934th reservists, flying the line

ZOOMIES



Since military pilots can't wear jewelry while performing flying duty, the Air Force Academy class ring probably sees more than its share of "drawer time."

story and photos by MSgt. Tim Turner
public affairs

Ask the average 934th member what "zoomies" are, and you might get one of these responses: "It's a new sugar-coated cereal," "It's a snack cake," or "It's the new animated crime-fighting team who's on television every Saturday morning right after Mighty Morphin Power Rangers."

Anyone connected with the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., however, knows exactly what a zoomie is.

"A zoomie is an Academy graduate," explained Maj. John Floersch, pilot with the 96th Airlift Squadron, who is one of a dozen or so zoomies assigned to the base.

At least five of those, all C-130 pilots with the 96th, attended the Academy in the 1970s, a decade that saw two major adjustments: the start of de-emphasis on pilot training and the entrance of women into the institution.

No longer a ticket to "pilot-dom"

"When I entered the Academy in 1972," said Floersch, "it was just assumed you applied to the school because you wanted to be a pilot -- but not in today's Academy."

Capt. Jim Carlen, a 1983 Academy graduate, agreed. "Nowadays, primarily because of military downsizing, only about 30 percent of Academy graduates go on to become pilots," he said.

"The other 70 percent go on to military careers in business, science or mechanics," Floersch added. "That's radically different from Academy life in the early to mid-70s, when virtually 100 percent of graduates went on to pilot training school."

In fact, the word zoomie may be a misnomer when applied to today's graduate, pointed out Maj. Jim Alexander, who spent 1973 to 1977 at the school. "'Zoomie' probably originated during the days when most Academy grads eventually became pilots and 'zoomed' around in their planes," he explained. "Today, that's unrealistic."

Opening the doors to women

The '70s also saw another major adjustment for the traditional military school resting at the foot of the Rocky Mountains -- its first women cadets were admitted. Maj. Tom Robinson enrolled in 1976, the first year women entered the school.

"That year was really a time of trial," he recalled. "After all, for many years, you had this traditional, all-male military institution that suddenly goes coed."

Capt. Steve Merriam attended the Academy from 1975 to 1979, a member of the last all-male class. "I recall a lot of students, both male and female, walking on eggshells the first few years that women were admitted," he said. "Back then, the whole idea was so radical that many of the women were put under a microscope. For every person who wanted the coed

(See Academy entrance information, next page)

program to succeed, there was probably at least one who wanted it to fail.”

Values for a lifetime

All five 934th zoomies generally agreed that Academy life was tough, regardless of gender. In addition, many of the values they learned at the Academy remain with them today.

“I’d have to say the most important value I learned was the school honor code, which says, ‘I will not lie, steal or cheat, or tolerate any amongst us who does,’” Floersch said. “I still do my best to live up to that principle every day of my life.”

For Carlen and Alexander, the most important value was in the way they manage their lives. “During your four years at the Academy, so much is expected of you, from academics and military training to athletics,” Carlen said. “You quickly learn to prioritize to survive.”

“I still try to apply the time management skills I learned at the Academy to my Reserve and civilian job, and in the quality of the time I spend with my family,” Alexander noted.

“I learned the true meaning of friendship while I was at the school,” Robinson said. “Academy life was so isolated that I might as well have been on the moon during my four years there. Given that kind of environment, you quickly learn to form some close friendships.”

Merriam said that a sense of self-confidence was the most important value for him. “My years there were by far the most challenging of my life,” he said. “My attitude throughout my four years was, ‘If I can make it through this school, then I can do anything.’”

Words of wisdom for the young

Having survived the rigorous life of the Academy, the five 934th zoomies had some words of wisdom for any young person aspiring to attend the academy -- including their own children.

“I have a 10-year-old son,” Alexander said. “If he expressed an interest in joining the Academy, I’d support him but also be frank about how tough the school is and the emphasis on good grades. I wouldn’t discourage him, but I’d want him to make sure he’s prepared for a hard, challenging four years.”

Floersch’s 16-year-old daughter is already exploring several post-high school options. “So far, she isn’t considering the Academy,” Floersch said. “If she does, I’ll support her decision. But if she wanted to enroll in the Academy just to become a pilot, I’d point out there are other options to pursuing that career field, especially considering the dramatic reduction of pilot slots at the Academy.”

“I’d advise any young person considering the Academy to get good grades while in high school and to get involved in school, athletic and community activities,” advised Carlen, who has no children yet. “Those are the kind of things the

admissions people at the Academy look at in a potential recruit.”

Along with two young daughters, Merriam has two teenage nephews who may be interested in attending the Academy someday. “In fact, I’m taking both of them out to the school this fall to watch the Air Force-Navy football game,” he said. “I want to show them around the school and explain the challenges they’ll face if they decide to attend.”

“To tell you the truth, I’d probably be in shock if my 10-year-old daughter wanted to join the Academy,” Robinson admitted. “But like Alexander, I’d caution my daughter to really think hard about why she’d want to go. It’s a challenging four years, and it’s far from easy.”

As a final salute to the Academy, the five men agreed that the entire experience is vastly different from a normal college life.

“Some zoomies will tell you they loved the Academy, and others will tell you they hated it,” Floersch said. “But I don’t know of any zoomie who totally regretted the experience.” □



Three Academy graduates in the 96th Airlift Squadron are, from left, Capt. Mark Vijuans, James Carlen and Robert Schaefer.

Guidance for the Academy-bound

by Maj. Steve Hatcher
public affairs

Every year, a new group of Air Force Academy cadets receive their degrees and are commissioned second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force.

These new lieutenants just completed four grueling years. They've overcome the mental stress of a service academy, completed the requirements for their college degrees and prepared themselves to serve as military officers.

Actually, thousands of high school students every year make that same decision to apply to the Academy. The standards continue to be high and the competition intense to receive one of the limited number of appointments to attend.

"A quality education can be the key to an individual's future, and today, one of the most sought-after sources of a quality education is the Air Force Academy," explained Maj. Ron Schlank, Academy liaison officer commander for Minnesota.

The application process begins with the student requesting an application kit from the Academy in the spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year, according to Schlank.

"As with any college application, students will be required to supply academic records, like grade point average and class ranking, SAT or ACT test scores, special achievement details and letters of recommendations," Schlank said. "The applicant will also be required to take a physical and complete a candidate fitness test and interview with an Air Force officer."

The minimum requirements for entrance to the Academy are:
♥ Be at least 17 years old by July 1 of the year you'll enter the Academy,

♥ Not have passed your 22nd birthday on July 1 of the year you'll enter,

♥ Be a U.S. citizen,

♥ Be of high moral character,

♥ Meet high leadership, academic, physical and medical standards, and

♥ Be unmarried with no children.

The number of applications varies from year to year, but the number of cadets entering the Academy is set at around 1,400 each year. The applicant must have a nomination from a source such as a U.S. senator or representative to move forward to the selection board.

The selection boards typically begin meeting in January to choose the next year's freshman class. If the applicant is selected for an appointment, he or she can look forward to four years of challenges similar to those just completed by the class of 94's new lieutenants.

"The Air Force Academy provides a unique environment for students who want an excellent education and want to serve their country as Air Force officers," Schlank said. "There's no better place to get a quality education than the Air Force Academy.

To request an application to the Academy, write:

Admissions Office, HQ USAFA/RRS

2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200

USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025. □

Bye-bye, beret

'Mushroom head' look bites the dust this month



Lehmeyer

by Mark Davidson
public affairs

Bye-bye, beret! On Sept. 30, the women's beret joins various other pieces of the Air Force uniform that have been phased out over the years.

Though losing popularity since the advent of the flight cap, the beret evokes memories in some unit women.

"I'll miss the beret, because I thought it dressed up the uniform," said SSgt. Sharon Lehmeyer, 934th Communications Flight. "The only problem is that I had to wear my hair a certain way to fit the hat. We used to put hairspray inside the beret to make it stiffer and to keep its shape. My favorite hat now is the flight hat, because it's easier to take care of and to put in my purse."

"I won't miss it, because it didn't stay on my head — and I thought it was ugly," said TSgt. Leann Clarke, 934th Mission Support Flight. "I like to wear the flight hat, because it's the same hat that men wear, and it's easier to store."

MSgt. Pat Olson, 934th Logistics Support Squadron, is another woman who won't mourn the beret's passing. "I never liked it," she said. "It didn't fit right, and I thought it looked like the Girl Scout hat. I used to stuff paper in the beret so it would hold its shape. I like to wear the women's service hat [bucket hat], because it stays on my head and is comfortable to wear."

So it's the end of an era for another uniform item. But old hats, like old airmen, never die — they just phase away. □

Deserving airmen

Pursuing a commission can be tough, but victory's only a board away

Jarnot

by SSgt. Janet Byerly
public affairs

When SSgt. Scott Jarnot's Air Force Officer Qualifying Test results were mistakenly sent overseas instead of to the 934th, he had a three-month wait before he knew he passed the test.



That left him little more than a week to prepare for his July interview with the board -- scheduled for the

same day as his sister's wedding.

"I was to meet with the board from 12:40 to 1 p.m., and my sister's wedding started at 3 p.m. in St. Cloud, Minn.," said Jarnot, NCO in charge of demand processing for the 934th Logistics Support Squadron.

"I had been planning for this for so long, and I thought everything was a go, and then this," he said. "I think I averaged four or five hours of sleep each night that week before the interview."

Then came an idea. "I checked into chartering a helicopter to St. Cloud," Jarnot continued. "It cost \$250, but I thought it was worth it. Once I booked my flight the night before my interview, and I knew everything had been arranged, I slept eight hours that night."

Confident meeting the board, he then raced off for his chopper bound for St. Cloud. "We landed in the church parking lot less than 30 minutes later," he said. "I got there in time to be in the photos prior to the wedding."

Jarnot will be the finance officer in the 934th Financial Management Division. □

by Mark Davidson
public affairs

For enlisted members of the 934th, the Deserving Airman Commissioning board is a critical step toward earning a commission.

"I brought the DAC board idea with me in '92 from the 302nd Airlift Wing, Colo.," said 1st Lt. Troy Vonada, 934th Military Personnel Flight chief. "It's for line officers only, mostly in the support officer positions on base."

The board's purpose is providing equal opportunity for all who want to be considered for officer positions, according to Vonada. There is an age limit of 35, however, with no waiver allowed.

A forecasted vacancy is advertised throughout the 934th for approximately 90-120 days. "The career enhancement section maintains a list of interested candidates who are also contacted to see if they are interested in the position," Vonada said.

A score of at least 100 points on the Air Force Officer Qualification Test, a bachelor's degree and an outstanding record are required.

"Aside from the package presented to the board along with the records printout and personnel record, the board looks at areas such as leadership, confidence and ability under pressure," said Vonada. He said each candidate reports to the board in a military manner, with interviews lasting about 15-20 minutes each.

The board consists of a colonel or lieutenant colonel chairperson, two officers in the grade of major or above, and the commander of the unit with the vacancy. Vonada serves as non-voting recorder.

"The board uses the Quality process and selects the candidate through weighted voting and arrives at its final decision by consensus," said Vonada. All participants receive letters of notification from the group commander on their status.

Selectees then attend the Academy of Military Science at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Knoxville, Tenn., for six weeks, followed by commissioning. □

Hanten

by SSgt. Janet Byerly
public affairs

The Deserving Airman Commissioning program offered just what SSgt. David Hanten wanted: the chance to become an officer.

"I came here from the Army, and when I found out it was possible to be promoted to the officer ranks, I worked toward that goal," said Hanten, a custo-



mer service specialist with the 934th Mobility Support Flight. "To get commissioned from the enlisted ranks in the Army wasn't very common."

Modestly, he attributed his high scores on the Air Force Officer Qualification Test to luck. "It's fairly similar to an SAT test, except there are a lot of pilot-specific questions," he said. "I'm an instructor pilot in my civilian job, so that helped me." He added that barring any unforeseen problems, he should get his commission in the next five or six months.

"Talk about a stressful two weeks!" he said. "The board met on July 30, the results were announced on July 31, and on Aug. 4, I got engaged -- I'll be getting married in September '95."

He knows that it's not all roses ahead, however. "They say this is the easy part of the process, and now I realize that's true," Hanten noted. "Not to take anything away from what I've done so far, but the real work starts once you're selected."

Hanten will be the supply operations officer for the 934th Logistics Support Squadron. □

Family support

*Keeping families 'combat ready'
is just as important as keeping reservists prepared*

by Maj. Steve Hatcher
public affairs

Reserve forces are being called upon to support more activities on a global basis these days. The new family readiness section has been busily preparing to support the many reservists, civilians and retirees assigned to the base or that are going to be moving to the Twin Cities.

"It's our intent to get our customers prepared for mobilization or any type of situation requiring family readiness support," said **Patricia Botkins**, director of family readiness. "It's important that everyone return the survey on the services they would like help on."

The survey's purpose is to find out what the 934th community wants and needs, according to Botkins. A survey was mailed to the family of each reservist, plus each reservist received a survey at the unit. Until the survey results are finalized, however, the family readiness section will press on with programs and assistance.

"We've selected Sept. 15 for what we hope will be the first in a line of many seminar presentations," said Botkins. "The session

will provide information on wills, proper procedures of the planning process and answer any question you may have about your personal affairs of your family after your death."

The focus for the section will be to help with numerous family matters ranging from personal financial management to career transition support. Personal financial services include everything from selling or buying a home to retirement and elderly care information. "Relocation because of a career can be a difficult time for some people," said Botkins. "We're here to help and provide the support structure needed to ensure the transition is as painless as possible."

The section seeks volunteers in the area who can provide a support structure when reservists are mobilized or activated. "With the many opportunities available to reservists to augment the active-duty force, we need volunteers in the community who can supplement our efforts," said Botkins.

As the program begins to take shape, further activities such as a quarterly newsletter, building a "kids' corner" at the facility and special briefings at commanders' calls are planned.

Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer for the family readiness section, call Botkins at Ext. 8057. □

*More than just a coat of paint,
this project helps those who
need it most*



(Photo by MSgt. David Hammer)

SSgt. Darrel Knox participated in his first *Paint-A-Thon*.

Paint-A-Thon

On Saturday, Aug. 6, a team from the 934th Airlift Group participated in the 10th annual Metro Paint-A-Thon for the sixth consecutive year.

The project matches volunteers with low income senior citizens or handicapped people to paint the exterior of their home. As with years past, the project was under the direction of co-team leaders, **MSgt. David Cormier**, 934th Maintenance Squadron; and **MSgt. David Hammer**, 934th historian.

"The team's assigned house in Minneapolis needed its trim and entire garage scraped and painted," said Hammer. "The garage paint was peeling severely, and there were rotten boards on both the house and garage. When we talked with the homeowner, she said she would also like the bushes around the garage trimmed back."

After reviewing the work, the team decided to have a "prep day" on the preceding Thursday to scrape paint and

clean up the yard. The entire job took the team approximately three hours.

This year's team had 39 participants:

934th AG: **TSgt. Lisa Goetsch** and **MSgt. Dave Hammer** with wife **Denise** and children **Natalie**, **Nicolas** and **Stephanie**.

96th Airlift Squadron: **MSgt. James Keup**, **SSgt. Darrel Knox**, **SSgt. Richard Krause Jr.**, **MSgt. David Olson**, **SSgt. John Warner II** and **Lt. Col. Ron Weight**.

934th Mission Support Flight: **TSgt. Leann Clarke**.

934th MXS: **MSgt. David Cormier**; **MSgt. Chuck Cunningham**; **SSgt. Mike Duffy**; **TSgt. Jeff Gorman**; **SSgt. Connie Henke** and son, **Adam**; **TSgt. Betsy Johnston** and mother, **Kay Gilligan**; **SSgt. Steve Lerbakken**; **TSgt. Don MacElroy**; **SSgt. Al McCann (Ret.)**; **TSgt. Curt Nelson** and daughter, **Kali**; **MSgt. Tim Payton** and daughter, **Caitlin**; **TSgt. Gordon Stransky**; **MSgt. Ron Welp** with wife, **Connie**, and children, **Eric** and **Andrea**; and **Doug Wold**.

934th Civilian Personnel: **Ann Cordes**.
133rd MXS friends: **Mike Jacobs** and wife, **Maureen**.

934th friend: **Tom Nordman**. □

ROA dining in date set

The Reserve Officers Association asks members to plan ahead for their dining in, set for the November UTA on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Fort Snelling Officers Club.

The menu and price will be announced at a later date. For more information, contact Capt. Deborah Buonassisi, 934th executive officer, Ext. 5335.

'Family first' newspaper hits street

A special, additional issue of the *Viking Flyer* is available this UTA in unit orderly rooms. Called "Family first," the 28-page edition features information of interest to family members and

reservists alike. If you don't have a personal copy to take home, let your orderly room know.

FoodShare project succeeds

The 934th Airlift Group chapel staff extendstthanks to all who contributed this year to Minnesota FoodShare, an ecumenical charity organization in the Twin Cities. With the help of the Officers' Wives' Club, which donated \$150 on behalf of the 934th, the total contribution was \$585.

The FoodShare director wrote in a letter of thanks, "This donation will help the emergency foodshelves of Minnesota respond to the needs of hungry families."

The chapel staff supports this 934th fundraiser annually. □

Kudos

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Capt. Craig Scott AG

Air Medal

Maj. Paul Beasley AS

TSgt. Scott Brady AS

Capt. James Carlen

(Medal and 1 OLC) AS

Capt. Michael Dargen AS

SSgt. Bradley Lalim

(1 and 2 OLC) AS

SSgt. Brian McCullagh AS

SSgt. William Rudgers AS

SSgt. Tom Thomas AS

1st Lt. Timothy Wollmuth AS

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSGt. Jerome O'Meara (Ret.) CES

Promotions

SrA. Mark Serstock AS

Newcomers

TSgt. Patti Amos CES

Sgt. Wayne Beers AS

SrA. Bradley Bell AS

SrA. Bradley Bergmann SPS

SrA. Paul Clark AS

SrA. Thomas Daigle CES

TSgt. Robert Dittel SVF

SrA. Daniel Du Ross CES

A1C Jill Fernandes AG

SSgt. Michael Finstrom AG

SrA. Joseph Foster CES

A1C Samuel Garbow MSF

A1C Cindy Gauthier AES

SSgt. Kevin Grendzinski OSF

SrA. Chris Joerg CF

SrA. Chay Klinger SPS

SrA. Charles Klinkner

SrA. Laura Kruse

A1C Shawn Legreid

SrA. Calvin Lehna

Sgt. Michael Lien

SrA. Brent Lucas

TSgt. David Moore

SSgt. Cleyson Plank

SSgt. James Risler

A1C Teresa Salau

A1C Richard Salsbury

SSgt. Donald Schlinsog

Sgt. Orrin Schmidtbauer

Sgt. Kelly Schultz

2nd Lt. Jane Shallenberger

SrA. Jill Shepard

A1C Tracy Tate

TSgt. Ronald Woolery

Reenlistments

SSgt. David Butler

SSgt. Paul Carpenter

MSGt. James Canniff

SrA. Sean Conway

MSGt. James Dalton III

SSgt. Michael Duffy

SrA. James Endres

SrA. Sean Gillam

TSgt. Donald Gould

SrA. Jeffrey Guest

SSgt. Michael Gullickson

MSGt. Robert Hanley

SrA. James Heath

SSgt. Jeffrey Heinl

SrA. Chay Klinger

SSgt. Christopher Knowles

SrA. Laura Kruse

TSgt. Melanie Kuzma

LSS

APS

AS

AES

CES

MDS

LSS

MXS

MXS

LSS

LSS

AES

LSS

SPS

MDS

AES

SVF

CES

A1C Shawn Legried

SSgt. Michael Lein

SSgt. Bradley McLain

SSgt. Thomas Niedzielski Jr.

TSgt. Mark Olson

SSgt. Joshua Pangier

TSgt. Kenneth Plummer

SSgt. William Rudgers

SSgt. Melody Schalesky

SSgt. Timothy Snipes

SSgt. Mark Stodola

SSgt. Michelle Szydel

SrA. Michael Thimm

SSgt. John West

SrA. Tyron Warren

SSgt. Caprice Williams

TSgt. Paulette Wilson

TSgt. Ronald Woolery

AS

CES

APS

SVF

AS

MXS

AES

AS

CES

MXS

SPS

LSS

AES

MDS

APS

SVF

CES

CES

Retirements

Lt. Col. Eileen Kalow, a clinical nurse with the 934th Medical Squadron, has retired after 20 years of military service. She served 13 years as a flight nurse, becoming tri-qualified on C-130, C-141 and C-9 aircraft. As a civilian, she is a pediatric nurse practitioner with Aspen Medical Group, St. Paul, Minn. She earned her bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and her certificate in pediatric nursing from the university's School of Public Health. She and her husband, Dick, live in Shoreview, Minn., and have two children, Denise and Kevin.

Certificates of service

Karen Hoppe, LGS 30 years □

Smoking up a storm

Could this little station become the world's first smoke-free Air Force base? That's one man's dream here

by SSgt. Janet Byerly
public affairs

Most smokers are probably ready to come out with their hands up. With all the anti-smoking coverage in the media lately, from the perils of second-hand smoke to the elimination of smoking in most public places, smokers may feel overwhelmed and a bit tired of the constant barrage their habit has faced.

Since most smokers are aware of the hazards yet continue to smoke, health officials are shifting their approach to one of touting the benefits of quitting, according to Col. (Dr.) Brian Younge, flight surgeon for the 96th Airlift Squadron.

"Smoking is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States," said Younge. "Cessation has major and immediate health benefits at all ages."

Continuing to smoke, however, offers a gloomy forecast. "Smoking accounts for over 390,000 deaths per year in the United States," he said. "It has been shown that former smokers live longer than continuing smokers, and have decreased risks of lung cancer, heart attack, stroke and chronic lung disease."

Younge believes something could be about smoking at the 934th by making this the first smoke-free military installation in the world.

"Industry is going smoke-free, and so are health care institutions," said Younge, an ophthalmologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. "The Air Force has banned smoking in all facilities other than designated recreation areas and government housing, which is a start."

Local efforts in the Air Force's anti-smoking campaign were commended in the recent Quality Air Force Assessment (see Page 3). Richard Tucker, employee relations specialist with the 934th Civilian Personnel Office, serves as the wellness program manager here.

"We've had one smoking cessation class, attended by 10 people," Tucker said. "We scheduled another but didn't receive enough interest to hold the class. These classes are available to anybody who wants to take the time to attend."

He added that he maintains reference material on this and many health issues, and these items are available for anyone's use. Call Tucker at Ext. 5528 for more details. □



SERVICES BRIEFS

September UTA activities

Saturday, Sept. 10: The 1994 Hangar Dance will feature music by the Air Force band, "Night Wings." There is no admission charge, and the food line costs "\$1 a pass" for those who want to eat. Social hour starts at 6 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m.; and dancing, 8 p.m. to midnight, all in the fuel cell hangar.

Sunday, Sept. 11: Family Day will offer games, displays, music, collector car display, a living history program at the Air Guard Museum and a special warbird display from the Confederate Air Force, sponsored by the Department of Minnesota Reserve Officers Association.

For more information, call 934th Recreation Services, Ext. 5316.

Golf tournament

Winners of the 934th Airlift Group Golf Tournament were members of the 934th Logistics Support Squadron: SSgt. Kurt Aubart, TSgt. Sherri Kennedy, SSgt. Scott Sippel and TSgt. Terry Sturlaugson, winning with a score of 2-under par.

Softball championship

Softball championship games will be held Saturday, Sept. 10. The Coed-Recreational League defending champions, 934th Services Flight, plays the 934th Maintenance Squadron at 4:45 p.m. on Field #1. The Men's League defending champions, 934th MXS, plays the undefeated 934th Civil Engineer Squadron at 5:45 p.m., same field.

November activities

Sign-up deadline for the following is Sunday, Oct. 2: dart league and 8-ball billiards tournament. Call Ext. 5316 for information. □