

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Waltz)

## *Harvest of honors*

*(Pages 5-9)*

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# VIKING FLYER

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Staff Sgt. Niklas Hammarberg - 934th SPS  
Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford - 934th ASTS  
Staff Sgt. Robert Walz - 934th CF,  
(UPAR of the Year 1996)  
Master Sgt. Timothy Tamlyn - 934th CES  
1st Lt. Scott Brady - 96th AS  
Staff Sgt. Michael Dvorak - 934th LSS  
Master Sgt. Ruth Duffy - 934th SVF  
Staff Sgt. Shannon Armitage - 934th AW

**On the cover**

Staff Sgt. Steven Williams, 934th Services Flight, can take pride in his unit's latest honor — the Hennessy Trophy. For more on this achievement, see Page 5, plus more "wins," Pages 6-9.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Walz)

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**Commentary**

**Winter harvest**

*Hard work of past year reaps rich bounty of wing honors*

by Col. Michael Gjede  
wing commander

**T**he hard work that all of you did last year continues to pay off.



Gjede

I have really been amazed at the number of awards being garnered by organizations within the 934th Airlift Wing. What this tells me is that in spite of our overall focus being on the Operational Readiness Exercise, Operational Readiness Inspection and Unit Self Assessment, time was still being given to recognizing individuals and organizations for achievement in their own specialized areas.

♦First of all, the 934th Airlift Wing as a whole earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. That in itself tells the world the kind

of wing we are — outstanding. (See Page 5.)

♦Our services flight won the Hennessy Award as the outstanding dining facility in the Air Force Reserve. (See Page 5.)

♦Our environmental folks were instrumental in the wing winning the Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award for the entire reserve component — Reserve and Guard — at the Air Force level. (See Page 9.)

♦Our *Viking Flyer* got second place in the Air Force Reserve media contest, along with some individual awards. (See Page 11.)

♦Our Combat Arms Training folks also picked up an individual award. (See next month's *Flyer*.)

Recognizing and being recognized for the work you do is extremely important, especially when the operations tempo is high and folks are going the extra mile to make things happen. Take time to praise or thank your folks for their efforts.

The payoff is ten-fold. □

**Salute to Chicago reservists**

by Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh  
chief, Air Force Reserve and  
AFRES commander

**A**s we take down the flag of the 928th Airlift Wing, it is important to focus on what their legacy means to the Air Force Reserve. For the past 50 years, reservists at Chicago-O'Hare served their country in war and peace. Their

lasting legacies include a professionalism inherent in their motto, "Deeds Not Words," and unparalleled safety record.

In nearly 50 years of service, they never suffered a Class A or B flying accident. Flying, maintaining and supporting airplanes is an inherently risky business.

To achieve this unmatched safety record is nothing short of remarkable. But I know their secret. They adopted safety as a value, to be ingrained into every activity and action, cultivating it carefully and never taking it for granted. The rest of us can follow their lead — always making safety a top priority. □

**UTA schedule**

April 5-6 Aug. 23-24  
May 3-4 Sept. 6-7  
June 7-8 (Family  
July 12-13 Day, Sept. 7)

♦March UTA pay should be deposited by: **March 12.**

**World**

**New defense secretary sworn in**

Former Maine Senator **William S. Cohen** was sworn in as the 20th secretary of defense in White House ceremonies by Vice President **Al Gore**, Jan. 24. He was confirmed by the Senate on Jan. 22 by a vote of 99-0.

Cohen played a leading role in crafting the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. He was the Senate sponsor of the GI Bill of 1984 and the subsequent enhancements to this landmark legislation.

His efforts led to the creation of the Rapid Deployment Force, which later developed into U.S. Central Command, and the maritime prepositioning program, both of which were key to the success of the Gulf War.

His wife, **Janet Langhart**, is president of Langhart Communications. Cohen has two adult sons, Kevin and Chris. (AFNS)

**Fiscal year 1998 budget released**

The following are highlights of President **William Clinton's** fiscal year 1998 budget released Feb. 6. The complete news release is available on the Internet at DefenseLINK:

<http://www/dtic.mil/defense/defenselink/>

- Requests \$250.7 billion in budget authority and \$247.5 billion in outlays for the Department of Defense.
- Budget authority is \$2.8 billion above the amount planned last year by the administration, but \$2.1 billion below the level Congress appropriated for fiscal year 1997.
- Adds projected inflation rates, adding \$7 billion to the DoD topline and allowing DoD to keep \$4 billion of savings.
- Operations and Maintenance, or O&M, is the only appropriation title given a dollar increase in the new budget, rising from \$92.9 billion to \$93.7 billion in fiscal year 1998.
- A 2.8 percent pay increase for fiscal year 1998, with 3.0 percent for 1999 and 2000.
- About \$19 billion of the budget is for the reserves, and it includes initiatives to increase peacetime use of reserves.
- Includes plans for substantial increases in procurement spending by fiscal year 2002 to modernize aging weapons and equipment. (OASD/PA)

**Some reservists eligible for "M" device**

Any reservist/guardsman called to active duty or volunteered to active duty for one day or more in support of one of the contingency operations listed below will be awarded the "M" device on the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

The member does not have to be in the operation's "area of eligibility." Members who do not have 10 years of service in a Reserve/Guard component will be eligible for this medal with the "M" device. Members must provide orders to customer service showing "support of" the applicable contingency operation, but local courtesy issue of the device will be at a later date.

**Operation Desert Storm** (Persian Gulf War): Aug. 2, 1990, to April 11, 1991.

**Operation Restore Hope** (Somalia): Dec. 5, 1992, to

March 31, 1995.

**Operation Uphold Democracy** (Haiti): Sept. 16, 1994, to March 31, 1995.

**Operation Joint Endeavor** (Bosnia): Starting Dec. 15, 1995.

This award is not for regular active-duty members – but only for the Reserve/Guard.

For more information, please contact personnel customer service, Ext. 5514, **Mary Lou Hudgens**, or on the UTA, **Master Sgt. Eric Baumer**.

**\* News flash \***  
**The digital switch for the base telephone system, originally set for mid-February, has been delayed until at least March 7, with training March 3.**

**Local**

**Wing 'brieflets'**

•The 12th Air Force Formal Standardization/Evaluation Visit, previously scheduled for April 1997, has been cancelled. This is a major evaluation given once every four years or so, primarily focused on flying operations, including the 96th Airlift Squadron and the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The cancellation will allow a smoother transition to Air Mobility Command, and a new date has not been announced.

•Two copies of a five-minute video, "The Air Force in Bosnia," is available in the public affairs office for use in unit/division commander's call or staff meeting. The tape documents the U.S. Air Force in Bosnia and highlights the air power contribution to bringing peace to Bosnia.

To reserve a tape, call Ext. 5337.

•The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund scholarships for 1997 are open to federal civilians, their spouses and dependent children. The applicant or sponsor must have at least three years of federal service, and the student must hold at least a 3.0 grade point average. Applications, available in the 934th Civilian Personnel Office, are due by May 30, and awards range from \$300-2,000.

**Family readiness plans activities**

•The 934th Family Readiness Program will host an Internal Revenue Service and Minnesota Tax representative on **tax information** on Sunday of March UTA and on Tuesday of the following week. On March 2, the free program is set for 3-4 p.m., and on March 4, from 10-11 a.m. Both sessions will be at the NCO Club.

•The **Spring Festival/Basket Auction** originally scheduled for March, has been rescheduled to June 7, which will include a volunteer recognition event.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Surfin' the VF**

- 5** Wing honors: another oak leaf cluster
- 6-7** Airmen of the Year
- 9-10** Environmental recognition

# Front and center

## Reserves "carry the brunt" of supporting many peacekeeping missions

**D**uring the past year, more than 10,000 members of the Guard and Reserve have been called to active duty to support the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, and Defense Department officials say that number is likely to increase in the months ahead. They point to Operation Joint Endeavor as a textbook example of the critical role the reserve components play in U.S. military operations.

"We do not conduct any significant mission anywhere in the world today without the reserve forces," former Secretary of Defense **William Perry** said as he wrapped up an around-the-world trip that included a visit with troops in Bosnia. "This particular mission draws heavily on the reserves because the concentration of our civil-military capability is in the reserve forces."

In Bosnia, reserve component members have carried out the brunt of the civil affairs mission and provided much of the medical, security, psychological operations, transportation, logistics, intelligence and public affairs support. Many Guard and Reserve members have served in Bosnia or the surrounding areas; others have carried out support roles and replaced deployed active-duty forces in Germany and the United States.

The Bosnia mission demonstrates "the reserves have really come of age. And they are more essential now, today, to the total force than they ever were

before," said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs **Deborah Lee**.

She said the total force policy has been talked about for years.

"But I think that now active-duty commanders have come to view it as ground truth," she said. "They are becoming more and more familiar with reserve capabilities than they ever have been before. They realize that the idea of a total force has moved beyond the theoretical and has become a reality — and a practicality in the defense business."

That was not always the case. Lee said she remembers the climate when she was first named the defense secretary's top reserve advisor.

"One of the big issues and concerns at the time was access to the reserve components. Meaning, could the president really call them up? Would we get enough volunteers if we needed volunteers for duty? Could we really ask people to go for three or four weeks of annual training, [instead of] two weeks, for joint exercises?"

Four years later, Lee said those questions have all been answered yes.

"I do not hear from our leaders anymore on access," she said. "The reason, I think, is that the president has called up the reserves when he has been advised to do so. And the reserves have in fact made themselves available for longer, short-duration exercises."

With high-profile missions during

the past four years in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia, the reserve components "have been there, and they've performed superbly," Lee said.

But while the Guard and Reserve have become a key factor in defense planning, Lee said every effort is being made to ensure no units or individuals are called on to carry out more than their fair share of missions.

"My notion has always been that we must not call reserve units in back-to-back years, if we can help it," she said. "For example, we do not anticipate mobilizing units for Bosnia if they were already called to Haiti."

"Now there may be individuals who were in both Haiti and Bosnia — perhaps because they volunteered, or perhaps because they changed units. But there should be no units that are called to both missions."

Lee said now that a third rotation of reserve component members could be mobilized for the Bosnia mission, that's becoming more of a problem.

Most of the units that have been called to active duty so far to support Operation Joint Endeavor have come from the Army Reserve. An effort will now be made to use more Army National Guard units, when possible, Lee said.

"It's an effort to spread the work around to a larger number of units in order not to tax any single unit or units too much," she said. (AFNS/"Must Run") □

## Briefs in blue ...

(Continued from previous page)

♦Recipes are being accepted for the wing cookbook through April UTA.

☎For further details, call family readiness, Ext. 8057.

### Comedy night set for this UTA

"Comedy Night" at the NCO Club will be Saturday, March 1, from 8:30-10:30 p.m.

☎Call Ext. 5390 for dinner reservations.

### Chaplain invites participation

Chapel services are offered on the UTA weekends:

**Saturday:** Confessions, 3:30 p.m.; Catholic mass, 3:45 p.m.

**Sunday:** Confessions, 7:30 a.m.; Catholic mass, 8 a.m.; Protestant service, 9 a.m.

Other support offered includes confidential counseling for personal, spiritual and family concerns; mobility and disaster assistance; and visitation.

The chapel is located in Bldg. 865 on Earhart Avenue — look for the steeple. Chaplains are **Chaplain (Capt.) Charles Perry**, Protestant; and **Chaplain (1st Lt.) John Echert III**, Catholic. Chapel service support people are **Master Sgt. LaVonne Wier** and **Staff Sgt. Jan Johnson**.

☎Call Ext. 5232 for more information. □

# Outstanding!

## Wing earns recognition for two years of stellar performance

**T**he 934th Airlift Wing has captured its third Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for support of the Air Force mission, July 1, 1994, to June 30, 1996.

Other AFOUAs were awarded for the years Oct. 1, 1981-Sept. 30, 1983 and Oct. 1, 1988-Sept. 30, 1990. A reservist serving here since award of the first ribbon will now wear two oak leaves.

Accomplishments listed in the narrative include:

- ♦ Noteworthy achievements in the 1994 Quality Air Force Assessment,
- ♦ Accomplishments on key deployments, such as Operation Provide Promise, Bosnia; Operation Coronet Oak, Panama; Operation Safe Haven, Haiti;

and Operation Southern Watch, Saudi Arabia,

- ♦ Outstanding safety record of more than 143,000 hours of accident-free flying,

- ♦ Participation in major exercises such as Patriot Express, Arctic Saber II and Patriot Medstar,

- ♦ Significant achievements during annual tour deployments, such as the civil engineers in Alaska, South Dakota and Germany; and the communications flight to Colorado,

- ♦ Honors in the Rodeo '94 competition, "Best C-130 Airdrop,"

- ♦ Unique achievements, such as the PC-25 fuel cell power plant, a first in the Air Force Reserve,

- ♦ Awards such as the Air Force

Reserve Outstanding Military Personnel Flight, U.S. Air Force. Gerrit D. Foster Jr. Outstanding Military Personnel Flight, AFRES Energy Conservation Award, AFRES First-Place Magazine, Air Force Second-Place Special Achievement Magazine, and Federal Contracting Activity of the Year.

The military personnel customer service counter will order the ribbons and devices, issuing them directly to the units at a later date. Reservists may **not** pick up ribbons or devices at the counter. However, anyone wishing to purchase the items through military clothing sales may do so.

Eight other Reserve organizations also received the award. □

## Hennessy

by Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch  
public affairs

**K**eeping aircraft in the air involves the efforts of multitudes of people, each with his or her own unique specialty. But each individual sustains this team effort by way of a basic "fueling" — by putting fork or spoon to mouth.

This simple act influences a unit's efficiency, morale, preparedness and, to a large extent, its success or failure. As Napoleon said, "An army travels on its stomach."

The 934th's "stomach" travels in style if the 934th Services Flight's latest honor is any indication — the 1996 Hennessy Trophy for the best dining facility in the Air Force Reserve.

The award is based on comparisons of quality and

appearance of menu items, status of inventory control, attention to safety issues, accounting practices and — high on the list — customer satisfaction.

"It was business as usual during the inspection," said Senior Master Sgt. Dennis McLean, superintendent of services, referring to the December 1996 visit of the judging team. That meant providing meals for more than 600 people during the UTA.

"We didn't put on a special meal or show to impress the inspectors," McLean explained. Having just completed the Operational Readiness Inspection, the services flight decided to compete "business as usual."

"Our people were up to the task and the contract people were outstanding," said McLean. Contract

workers clear tables, prepare salads and serve meals.

The inspectors also were impressed with the "to go" window, according to McLean. Managed by Tech. Sgt. Pam Peck, more than 150 people are served each mealtime.

"We don't sit around," commented Tech. Sgt. Jim Umberger, adding that the day begins for services people before 4:30 a.m. "with a lot of preparation for the breakfast meal. We're pretty proud of that award, especially getting it just after the ORI."

Staff Sgt. DeWayne Schneider agreed. "Our track record isn't too bad, winning it two out of three times we competed since 1980," he said.

Winning appears to be the natural outcome for a crew who "gets along well," according to Tech. Sgt. Ken

Kruger, dining hall supervisor. "Our people know what they're doing, and we all pulled together," he said.

Balancing inventory accounts is just as important as serving a balanced meal, according to McLean.

"All of our safety items, inventory, menu selections and more were really poured over by the inspectors," he said. "Thankfully, the outstanding job performed by dining hall supervisor Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Engle in those areas really helped us shine."

Although all services members can claim bragging rights, not every member had a chance to contribute to the win.

"I had nothing to do with it," said Staff Sgt. Scott Chingo. "I just came off active duty, and I'm very glad I joined this unit!" □

**Airman of the Year**

Senior Airman

**Michael Allen**



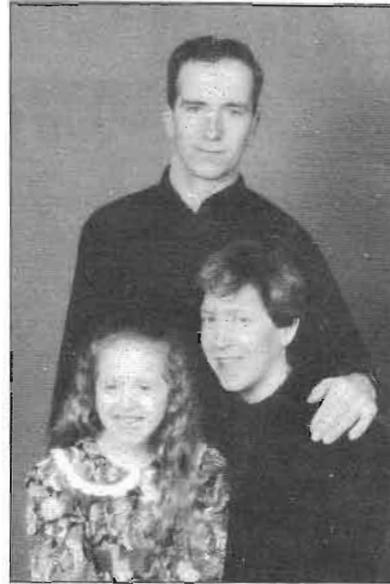
Allen

**Unit:** 934th Communications Flight.  
**Job responsibilities:** Work in the Base Network Control Center, handling message traffic, monitoring the help desk and handling trouble calls.  
**Education:** Attending University of Wisconsin, Barron County campus, pursuing a science degree.

**Hobbies:** "I love to play football, ride motorcycles and spend time enjoying nature."  
**Civilian occupation:** Student; night receiving clerk, Walmart, Rice Lake, Wis.  
**Goals:** "To earn an officer commission, get a job supporting the environment and spend more time with my family."  
**Comments:** "It's a real honor to have won this award, and I hope to do my communications flight proud – and all of the people who are in it."  
**Family:** Single, live in Birchwood, Wis.



Michael Allen (right) and his girlfriend, Sara Sirek



Janet Byerly (seated) with daughter, Elena, and husband, John (standing)

**NCO of the Year**

Tech. Sgt.

**Janet Byerly**



Byerly

**Unit:** 934th Airlift Wing, Office of Public Affairs.  
**Job responsibilities:** Write and edit articles, take photos and serve as primary proofreader for the *Viking Flyer*; conduct base tours and help out as needed on other public affairs projects.  
**Education:** Bachelor's in English, journalism minor, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn.  
**Hobbies:** "Reading as much as possible. Running and mountain biking are my two favorite sports, but I enjoy most sports and like to stay active."  
**Civilian occupation:** Sales representative, Sentry Insurance, St. Louis Park, Minn.  
**Goals:** "As a reservist, I want to continue improving my writing and photography skills. I'd like to see the *Viking Flyer* recognized as the top magazine-format paper in the Air Force Reserve as it was in 1994. As for my civilian job, I'm just getting started as a sales representative for Sentry Insurance, so I'm looking forward to a very successful career in sales."  
**Comments:** "I feel fortunate to have what I think is the best job on base. Thank you to everyone who has supported my Reserve career, especially the public affairs staff – I can always count on them for the same old jokes every UTA."  
**Family:** Husband, John, technical sergeant in the 934th Safety Office; daughter, Elena (5); live in Oakdale, Minn.

## Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt.

# Linda Davidson



Davidson

**Unit:** 934th Operations Support Flight.

**Job responsibilities:** Acting first sergeant, operations resource manager, unit deployment manager, assistant enlisted specialty training manager, assistant unit career advisor.

**Education:** Enrolled in associate degree program, Community College of the Air Force.

**Hobbies:** Cross-country skiing; teach religious education to junior high and youth group; volunteer for 934th

Family Readiness Program; and parent volunteer at Nativity of Mary School and Oak Grove Intermediate School, Bloomington, Minn.

**Civilian occupation:** Carrier for Minnesota News, Bloomington.

**Professional organizations:** Air Force Sergeants Association; leader, Boy Scouts of America.

**Goals:** Attain associate's in business; accomplish Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

**Comments:** "I would like to thank my commander for nominating me for this award and the members of the operations support flight for their continuing support to me and the Air Force Reserve."

**Family:** Husband, Mark, civilian chief of 934th Public Affairs and senior master sergeant in public affairs; children, Paul (11) and Maria (8); live in Bloomington. □

Linda Davidson (top left), her husband, Mark (top right), and their children, Maria (left) and Paul (right)



## Making the grade

*Each unit nominates their very best*

by Master Sgt. Tim Turner  
public affairs

**O**n February 11, Hollywood announced nominations for the 1996 Academy Awards, including candidates for best lead and supporting roles for actor and actress.

Earlier this year, 934th units submitted nominations for 1996's top Airman, Noncommissioned Officer and Senior NCO of the Year. Winners were selected in February by an committee of five senior enlisted members, according to **Chief Master Sgt. Dick Grewe**, wing senior enlisted adviser, who manages the program.

If you ask anyone ever nominated for an Oscar, chances are they'll say it's an honor even to be nominated. The same is true for three 934th members nominated for 1996 Airmen of the Year by their units.

"I was nominated in the NCO category in 1980," said **Senior Master Sgt. David Halverson**, pavement and equipment superintendent for the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, who this time competed for top senior NCO honors. "It was an honor to be nominated then and it is now."

For **Master Sgt. Bernadette Greene**, medical administrator and air reserve technician for the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, being considered in the NCO of the Year category was a lesson in humility. "As an ART, I had an advantage because most people in AES know who I am and what I do," she said. "Still, I'm very proud the unit thought enough of my accomplishments to put my name in."

"I was very surprised," admitted **Senior Amn. Michael Allen**, a computer operator with the 934th Communications Flight, who ended up with overall wing honors as Airman of the Year. "I've only been in the unit a year, so I didn't think I'd made enough contributions to the flight to be considered."

While Halverson, Greene and Allen appeared modest regarding their contributions, fellow unit members don't share that feeling.

According to **1st Lt. David Ordahl**, CES operations officer, helping in a pinch was one reason Halverson was chosen. "David did a lot to prepare our unit for last year's Operational Readiness Inspection," he said. "He also was the squadron's ancillary training monitor."

"Bernadette may think she had an advantage because she's an ART, but actually that's only one

(Continued, next page)

# ORI superior performers

## Two civil engineer teams excel under pressure

by Mark Davidson  
public affairs

**T**wo teams from the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron resemble offensive and defensive units on sports teams — they have different jobs and do not “play” at the same time. Both need to work together, however, to win.

The Airfield Damage Assessment Team and the Minimum Operating Strip team both earned superior performance awards during the Operational Readiness Inspection. Both teams help ensure aircraft have adequate runway space available as soon as possible after an enemy attack, said **Master Sgt. Tom Overman**.

The ADAT is the first to arrive at the runway after an attack. “ADAT members have surveyed and marked the runway in 100-foot increments on both sides of the runway before the attack, whether for an



Overman



Weisser

**Senior Airman Tom Daigle**.

“We had our equipment and supplies, such as black and white paint, prepositioned and ready to go,” he said. “The black paint would



Daigle

be used to cover the old center line location, which is in the bomb-damaged area, and the white paint is used to create the new center line.”

Following an attack, the first task at hand for the ADAT is checking for damage, said Overman.

“We call in the coordinates of the damaged runway area to the Survival Recovery Center, mark multiple craters by using cones with numbers, and measure the diameter of all craters,” said Daigle.

Then the team assists the crater repair team in their duties, added Overman.

Then it is time for MOS team members to take the field. But before doing that, they have to do their homework, according to **Senior Master Sgt. Prentiss Foster**.

“We have charts and books with information on the weights and required takeoff or landing data for transport aircraft, fighters, bombers and refueling aircraft,” he said.

“After an attack, we plot the location of the craters marked by the ADAT and measure the area to come up with possible runway landing zones,” said **Tech. Sgt. Dave Nelson**.

All actions of the ADAT and MOS team were timed by inspectors, said Nelson, with a 30-minute time limit on plotting damage and providing recommendations to the wing commander and unit battle staff.

“We did very well during the ORI because we’ve practiced this kind of scenario during Silver Flag, civil engineering exercises and the two ORI exercises,” added Foster. □



Foster



Nelson

## Making the grade ...

(Continued from previous page)

reason we submitted her name,” explained **Master Sgt. Joe Brinza**, AES first sergeant. “She does a lot of behind-the-scenes work during the week to get the unit ready for the UTAs, and more recently the ORI.”

Being the only airman in his unit didn’t stop the communications flight from submitting Allen’s name. “Some might think Mike was a shoe-in for our flight because he didn’t have any competition in the airman category, but that’s false,” pointed out **Capt. Doug Kveene**, commander. “Truth is, if he hadn’t met the program’s selection criteria, we wouldn’t have put his name in. He earned the right to be selected.”

Whether a unit has hundreds of members like CES or two dozen like CF, Grewe’s goal is to have an across-the-board representation. “The Airman of the Year program really belongs to the unit commanders,” he said. “For 1997’s submissions, I hope every commander submits one person in each of the three categories. We have 13 units, so that’s 39 packages. It’s ambitious, but I know we could do it.”

(Editor’s note: Thanks to two base organizations, the wing’s three Airmen of the Year received generous gifts in honor of their accomplishments. These included a gift certificate of \$25 from the Base Exchange and a coupon for a free dinner for two from the NCO Club. Also, thanks to this year’s review board: **Chief Master Sgts. Dave Chapman**, 934th Logistics Group; **Kent Erlandson**, 934th Logistics Support Squadron; and **Mike Zurn**, 934th Maintenance Squadron; and **Senior Master Sgts. Gerald Yasgar** and **Brad Kimble**, 934th Mission Support Flight.) □

# Restoring Earth's 'pristine state'

*It's not enough to clean up — we want to leave it better than we found it*

by Joanne Bentley  
environmental engineer

**M**ost everyone wants to leave this planet to our children in the same or better condition than when we arrived. Therefore, when we pollute the ground, water or air, our basic desire is to restore it to its original condition — as soon as possible.

## The problem

Once polluted, restoration of the environment can be either very expensive, take a very long time, or both. Scientists are continually evaluating the threat of various forms of pollution and attempting to determine, "How clean is clean?"

First of all, it must be determined whether a particular chemical poses a threat to the environment or human health. If so, then it must be determined at what concentration it becomes a concern.

Based on these considerations, a certain risk factor is associated with every pollutant. In Minnesota, health risk limits have been established to help quantify the toxicity of various chemicals. Once the toxicity of a particular chemical is understood, its transport through the environment needs to be evaluated.

If a toxic pollutant is being discharged to drinking water of a large population, the answer is easy: the process causing the pollution should be fixed or stopped immediately, at any cost.

On the other hand, if pollutants are discovered in a remote desert area, immobilized in the soil where there are no human inhabitants or drinking-water wells, it may not warrant the same costs.

A tremendous amount of money has been spent over the past 15 years attempting to restore our polluted sites across the United States. Unfortunately, some cleanup technologies work well in theory but not as well in practice.

Furthermore, scientists have not yet developed cost-effective ways to clean up all types of pollution, such as radioactive waste or chlorinated compounds. Now in the 90s, we are facing the reality that today's technology is limited and cannot clean up some pollutants at any price.

## The Options

When deciding to clean up a site, two basic choices of active restoration include:

- Excavation of contaminated soil. Once excavated, the soil can be treated or placed in a lined landfill where it is no longer a threat to the environment. Although very effective, this can be very expensive.

- In-situ treatment. The contaminant is allowed to remain in place while it is cleaned up through pumping groundwater, vacuum extraction or other technologies.

A form of passive restoration is called, "natural attenuation." Scientists noticed contaminant concentrations actually stabilized or diminished over a period of time where no active restoration was occurring. This is now attributed, in part, to natural bacteria living in the soil which consume the contaminants. This is a slower process, but it is effective and costs much less than active restoration.

Natural attenuation was used in cleaning up the base's only Superfund site, recently removed from the National Priorities List (see story, right).

## The rub

Because of tremendous costs associated with cleaning up the environment, there is a growing trend toward a "risk-based approach" evaluation of contaminated sites. This relies on careful investigation of a site to ensure the exact magnitude of contamination.

Once this comprehensive investigation is completed, the scientist assesses the contaminant type, its extent

## One-two punch

**Base earns double kudos for engineers' proactive work**

**T**he 934th's environmental program started the year with a bang by winning the Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award and seeing its only Superfund site removed from the National Priorities List.

The quality award, reserve component category, recognizes the best or most improved environmental quality program. The award covered base activities from Jan. 1, 1995, to Dec. 31, 1996, with 12 evaluated areas.

"We had notable achievements in the areas of pollution prevention and minimizing hazardous waste," said Joanne Bentley, base environmental engineer. "That included cleaning up contaminated sites plus delisting of the installation from the National Priorities List."

The delisted site was the two-acre small arms range landfill, located near the base. It was used as a solid waste disposal area from 1963 to 1972. Closed in 1972, it was covered with approximately six inches to one foot of native soil. It was placed on the NPL in 1987.

"This award is a credit to the entire installation," said Col. Michael Gjede, wing commander. "The awareness of all our employees has led to a proactive environmental program. That approach helps us to maintain our strong relationship with the regulators and ensures protection of the environment." □

and concentration, and determines the potential risk to drinking water wells or bodies of water. The results determine the plan of action — aggressive and costly, or passive, less expensive and slow. □

# Tracking hazardous chemicals

## Super stats prove base employees' vigilance in keeping environment safe

by Cherie Huntington  
public affairs

For years, Kayla Slovick must have felt like the Lone Ranger in her primary duty of tracking hazardous chemicals for the base.



Slovick

Considering today's strict mandates for environmental protection, however, one person seldom can make a difference without the knowledge, cooperation and assistance of many people "on the chemical trail."

In fact, Slovick credited a growing team of fellow "trackers" with the wing's outstanding 1996 statistics.

"Each year, I report to Headquarters Air Force Reserve how many pounds of Ozone Depleting Chemicals and EPA-17 [Environmental Protection Agency] chemicals our base used," she said. "I've been tracking this since 1992, our baseline year. The 1996 report shows some astounding numbers. We've reduced the use of ODC's by 97 percent and EPA-17 listed chemicals by 93 percent!"

Slovick said 1995 also was a good year for the base. "I'd like to thank all the users of hazardous materials for working with us to reduce use of those materials," she said. "These reductions are due, in large part, to substitution of less-hazardous materials."

Chemical tracking represents the greatest responsibility and challenge in her work as an industrial hygienist for the 934th Bioenvironmental/Public Health Office, a four-person unit under the wing's support group. Working in the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron's facility, she focuses on products used on the base, determining their effect on health and the environment.

"People have exposure limits, but the environment's limits can be even lower," she said.

Slovick said it can be hard to

understand why a simple cleaning product anyone can buy at a grocery store can present a threat at the base.

"There's a cumulative effect when using certain products in an industrial situation compared to home use," she explained. "At home, you might use one bottle of general purpose cleaner per month, but at work, you might use one a week. If 15 workplaces use a bottle of this cleaner each week, the cumulative quantities could affect the environment."

Slovick said that at first, she had to become a self-made expert in the world of hazardous chemicals. She did a lot of research, networking and going to conferences. "Today, many people on the base are doing this, too," she said. "Half the battle was getting people simply to try a safer substitute. Now, they come to me and say, 'Can I use this? It's safer than what we use.' They're doing their own research — it's phenomenal!"

Though protecting health and the environment remain priority one, Slovick

also handles mountains of paperwork and spreadsheets — a detailed paper trail of what is used, how much, where, when and by whom. There are constant updates, surveys, tests and case files.

Also, base supply is deeply involved in the tracking of hazardous chemicals in the base pharmacy, which works hand-in-hand with both Slovick and shop-level workers.

The hazardous material pharmacy represents "one-stop shopping" for base shops. The customer submits paperwork to the pharmacy and then waits for the research trail to complete its circuit from the pharmacy, to Slovick, to civil engineering's environmental scientists, and back to supply for procurement of the item once approved.

All chemicals used on base are tracked, but the number of reportable items are becoming rarer on base, however.

"We've gone from 4,500 EPA-17 items in 1992 to 300 in 1996," she said. "And ODC items are down from 800 to just 21. We've come so far and exceeded Air Force goals, too — people at the shop level really deserve a pat on the back." □

### Recycling bin 'spot check'

The latest spot check revealed open dumpsters in several locations. This adds weight and cost to disposal because of precipitation into the dumpsters. Lids should be closed. — Doug Yocum

Building	Area	Items Found
395	Officers Club	Cardboard, paper, scrap metal
710	Aerial port	Cardboard, paper
711, 716	Lodging	Cardboard, paper, cans, glass/plastic bottles
744	Civil engineers	Cardboard, cans
750	Security police	Cans, paper, glass/plastic bottles
755	Base Exchange	Cardboard, paper
805, 812	Avionics, boiler plant	Cardboard
807	NCO/Dining hall	Cardboard, paper, cans
821	Hangar	Cardboard
822	Aircraft maintenance	Paper
830	Life support	Paper
840	Aeromeds	Cardboard, paper, glass bottles

(No recycling problems noted in transportation, headquarters/communications, and base supply. Good work!) □

## Family readiness selects volunteer of the month

by Patricia Botkins  
family readiness program director

**C**andi Meinders is a local citizen living in St. Paul, Minn., and she made her first visit to the 934th Airlift Wing in March 1996.

She wasn't familiar with the military community of the 934th nor the military acronyms that can be quite confusing if you're a civilian. Candi started working at the family readiness office on a part-time basis through a training program created by the Minnesota Employment Center for People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This program helps individuals obtain work experience and job skills in a professional work environment.



Meinders

She was matched to the family readiness office by Ann Cordes, chief, 934th Civilian Personnel Office.

Candi completed her training program and decided to volunteer until she found employment, which was about six weeks later. Although Candi is hearing impaired with 85 percent loss of hearing and wasn't able to answer phones in family readiness, she was extremely helpful in organizing the office information — about 60 binders of information.

She has been involved in several volunteer fundraising events, attended volunteer meetings and helped during the Operational Readiness Exercise, Readiness Assistance Visit and Operational Readiness Inspection.

"The people are really nice, and I like volunteering," Candi said. She has contributed nearly 300 volunteer hours to our community. Also, she is attending St. Paul Technical College, pursuing her degree in accounting.

Candi said she likes getting involved in community and church organizations, and she enjoys writing letters to pen pals in 10 different countries. Now she has decided to write to soldiers and airmen in Bosnia.

The family readiness staff and volunteers enjoy having Candi on our team — and she is part of our 934th Airlift Wing family. □

(Editor's note: Anyone interested in volunteering any amount of time to family readiness should call Ext. 8057.)

### Medals

**Meritorious Service Medal**  
Tech. Sgt. Robert Abele (Retired), MXS  
Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Anderson (Retired), MXS  
Master Sgt. Carl Moyer (Retired), MXS

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Tech. Sgt. Richard Kullmann, MXS  
Master Sgt. Karen Patnaude (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), MSF

### Air Force Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Annette Sandberg, MSF  
Staff Sgt. Shirley Smith (1 OLC), MSF

### Promotions

Tech. Sgt. Jean Corrow, LG  
Senior Master Sgt. Michael Hart, MXS

Three wing leaders have been selected for promotion to colonel:

Lt. Col. Curt Breeding, commander, AS  
Lt. Col. Shumei Hwang, commander, CES  
Lt. Col. Harvey Smith, ASTS

### Honors

The 934th Public Affairs Office won three Air Force Reserve-level awards in the 1996 Air Force newspaper competition. The *Viking Flyer*, edited by Cherie Huntington for five years, won second place in its category for the second year in a row and proceeds to Air Force-level competition this month. Staff Sgt. Larry Dean won second place in the infographics category, and Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly won third place in sportswriting.



Dean



Byerly

### Retirements

Tech. Sgt. Robert Abele, MXS  
Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Anderson, MXS  
Master Sgt. Carl Moyer, MXS □

## Services Briefs

meets Thursday, March 20, 6 p.m., same place.

- ♦The annual bowling competition will be Saturday, March 1, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 at the Stardust Lanes, Minneapolis.
- ♦The UTA softball league will be discussed at the sports rep meeting, Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m., in the fitness center. The Tuesday night league

- ♦Free movies on the UTA are cancelled until the disaster preparedness classroom becomes available again.
- ♦Recreation services has discount ski tickets for a local lodge plus free coupons for other areas. □

934th Recreation Services  
Ext. 5316



**Money, money, money — how can something we enjoy so much turn on us with such sharp teeth?**

## *Learning to tame the 'buck beast'*

by Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly  
public affairs

**A** good way to judge your financial well-being is to look at the bottom line. How much did you make last year? How much do you have to show for it? How much long-term debt do you have?

Whether your financial health needs a few band-aids or major surgery, **Tech. Sgt. Debra Pockat**, financial examiner for the Wisconsin Office of Credit Unions and 934th Family Readiness Program noncommissioned officer in charge, has some advice we can all apply in our day-to-day money management.

### ♦How do you avoid living paycheck to paycheck?

A budget is the best way, it really is. Of course you need to stick to it too. Keep track of your expenses. Set money aside by paying yourself first. That way you have an emergency fund you can draw on for unexpected expenses.

### ♦What's the best way to handle day-to-day cash flow?

Write down everything you spend: 50 cents on a soda, \$3 on lunch, and so on. You don't realize how many times a day you fork over money and don't even think about it. For those who have a pretty good handle on their spending, you may just write down expenses for a week to get an idea of where you might cut down on spending.

Some people can carry cash in their wallet and it doesn't call to them saying, "I'm here, spend me." For those who find money burns a hole in their pocket, they would be better off carrying a small amount of cash and writing checks, since checks are more trouble. Checks also provide a record of your spending.

### ♦What are danger signs that your debt load is too high?

Taking a cash advance on your credit card. Only paying

minimum payments on your credit cards. Trying to cash a check the day before payday — floating a check when you know the money isn't in your account.

Any debt ratio over 30 percent of your income and you're starting to overload. The 30 percent would include your mortgage or rent payment, car payments and any other debt you have. In addition, you can count on at least 10 percent for groceries and basic living expenses. That's a total of 40 percent of your income. I've seen loans written at 40-50 percent and you're at great risk — there's a high chance of failure.

### ♦What steps should be taken if you're in financial trouble?

First, I would seek advice, and not necessarily the type you have to pay for. There are nonprofit agencies available to help (see box).

These agencies can intervene, on your behalf, with your creditors. They set up a payment schedule with your creditors, and can often negotiate a lower interest rate, or even arrange it so you just pay off the principal balance.

They'll help you write a budget and stick to it. They watch what you do; they're kind of like your mom and dad standing at your shoulder saying, "Don't do that." They won't allow you to take out new credit and they close your credit card accounts.

### ♦Why isn't bankruptcy a good option?

Bankruptcy is not a good choice because it's short term and doesn't address the real problem, which is the thought processes that go into why you spend as you do. A lawyer may tell you it's a good choice and it won't ruin your credit. That's not true. It will ruin your credit rating and you won't be able to get loans for at least three years afterward. □

*Next month: Why do we get in trouble with credit?*

### **Non-profit financial agencies in the Twin Cities**

♦Urban Communities Association of Minneapolis  
☎ (612) 872-6788  
Self-motivation and money management training

♦Minnesota Extension Service, Hennepin County  
☎ (612) 374-8400  
Financial management consultants, short courses/seminars on money management, family business development

♦Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Minnesota  
☎ (612) 349-6953  
Financial management and counseling assistance

♦934th Family Readiness Program  
☎ (612) 725-8057, 1-800-231-3517. □