

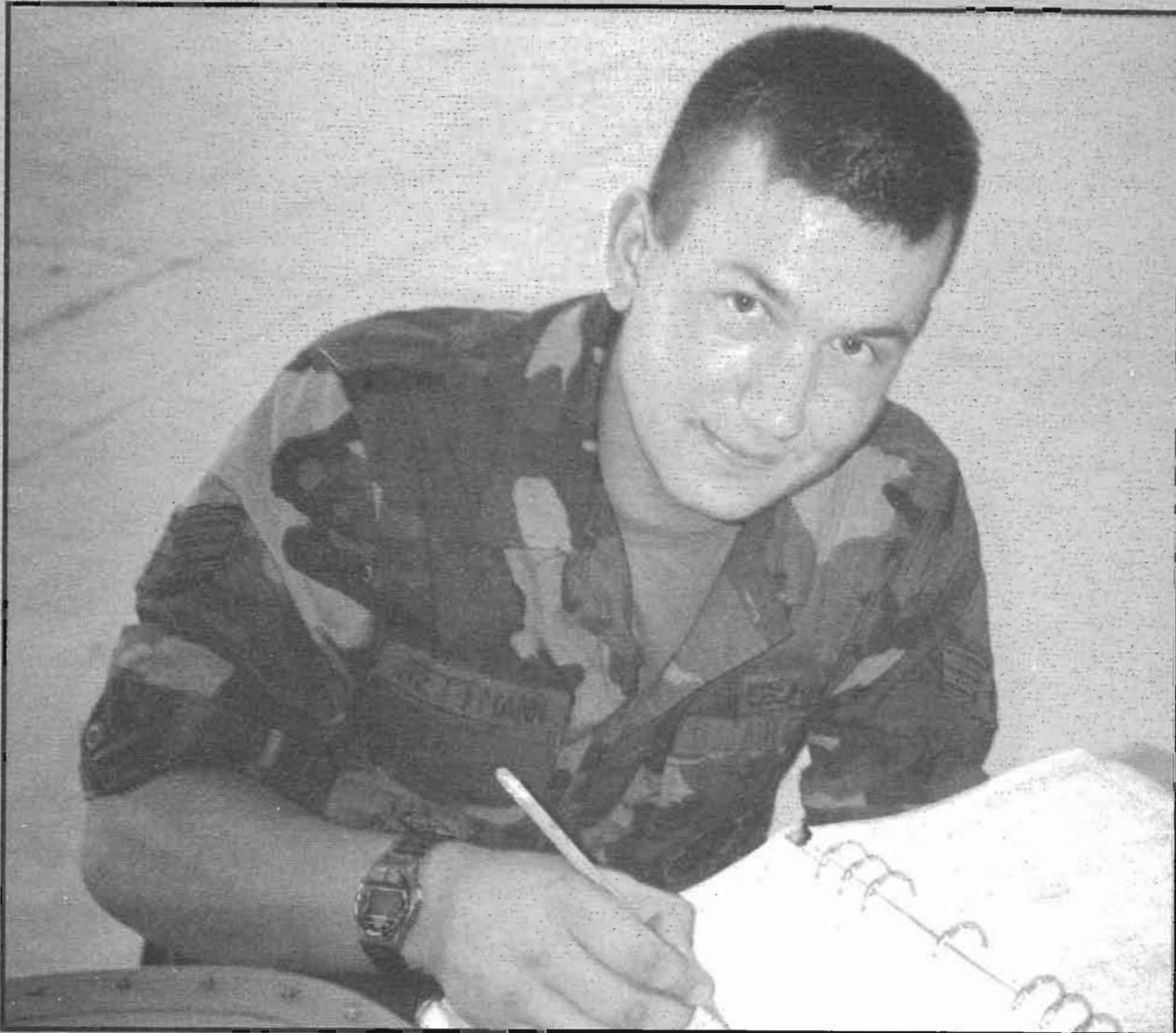
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U.S. AIR FORCE



# VIKING FLYER

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



Staff Sgt. Larry Dean

*Thinking ahead  
to retirement*

► See Pages 9-12

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wing commander  
Maj. Steven Hatcher,  
public affairs director  
Mark Davidson,  
chief of PA

Cherie Huntington,  
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Senior Master Sgt. Mark Davidson,  
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Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford - 934th ASTS

Staff Sgt. Robert Walz - 934th CF,  
(UPAR of the Year 1996)

Senior 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. Ben  
Rettmann, 934th  
Maintenance  
Squadron, may be  
years away from  
retirement, but if  
he's like the  
majority of 934th  
members in a  
recent survey,  
that's his favorite  
military benefit. For  
retirement features,  
see Pages 9-12.



Staff Sgt. Larry Dean

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## Commentary

# Family Day '97

## Great family get-together renews friendships

Col. Michael Gjede  
wing commander

**W**elcome to Family Day '97! I hope each and every one of you finds the day not just fun but a rewarding experience.

Last year, I made the hard decision to cancel Family Day. We had more pressing matters to deal with, but that Operational Readiness Inspection is behind us now.

Family Day is not just a day of fun in — hopefully! — the sun. It's a day when we take the opportunity to show our families what we really do in this organization that seems to take up a major portion of our lives.

Yes, fun in the sun will be part of the activities, but looking at equipment, facilities and demonstrations is also a very important part of the day. It's a chance for families to renew friendships

and share stories. It's a time to meet new families and show that the 934th is really one, big family.

To say we couldn't do our Reserve job without the support and understanding of our families would be an understatement. Your support of the Air Force Reserve Command mission is absolutely essential.

To all the families who have made time in their busy schedules to spend some time with us, I thank you. I hope you find Family Day not only fun but a educational experience as well. I hope you make some new friends and come away feeling your family really is part the bigger 934th family. □



Gjede

## Business as usual

### Quadrennial Defense Review is no show-stopper

Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh  
chief, Air Force Reserve Command,  
commander, Headquarters AFRC

**W**hen the secretary of defense released the Quadrennial Defense Review earlier this year, we fielded a number of questions about its effect on Air Force Reserve Command.

First, let me say that AFRC fared well. Changes in AFRC missions which may result from the QDR will be in

concert with Air Force requirements and will further enhance our important role in the total Air Force.

It's important to remember that the QDR is a strategic study in which we were active participants. The review is intended as a blueprint for further national defense strategies and programs. Congress required the QDR and will undoubtedly give it careful study and evaluation.

In the meantime, it's business as usual. □

### Two papers this UTA

The August *"Viking Flyer,"* civil engineering cover, is available this Unit Training Assembly along with the current issue (September). Shipments remained bogged down following the United Parcel Service strike, so the August issue did not arrive in time for last UTA. □

### UTA schedule

Oct. 4-5	Feb. 7-8	August 1-2
Nov. 1-2	March 7-8	Sept. 12-13
Dec. 6-7	April 4-5	▶ UTA pay
	May 2-3	should be
1998:	June 6-7	deposited by:
Jan. 10-11	July 11-12	Sept. 15.

## World

### C-130 accident report released

After completing their investigation, Air Force officials cited aircrew error as the primary cause of the C-130 Hercules aircraft accident April 1 at Toncontin International Airport, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Three of the 10 aircrew members died in the accident. All were assigned to the Reserve's 440th Airlift Wing, Gen. Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Wis.

The board stated that the aircrew failed to accurately assess and understand the landing requirements for the airfield. They also said the aircraft's approach was too fast and it landed too far down the runway to stop in time. *(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)*

### New military leaders nominated

**President Clinton** has nominated individuals for two key military positions.

He nominated the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and commander of Allied Forces Central Europe to be the next Air Force chief of staff. The president said **Gen. Michael Ryan** "brings to the job of chief of staff broad operational and joint experience as well as proven leadership ability and a deep concern for the men and women of the U.S. Air Force." If his nomination is confirmed by the Senate, Ryan will succeed **Gen. Ronald Fogleman**. Ryan would become the first son to follow in his father's footsteps as senior military leader of any U.S. military service. **Gen. John Ryan** served as Air Force chief of staff from 1969-1973.

Nominating Army **Gen. Henry "Hugh" Shelton** to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the president called him an "innovative thinker" and "a superb commander." The general is currently commander in chief of U.S. Special Operations Command. Upon Senate approval, he would succeed **Gen. John Shalikashvili**, who plans to retire in September. *(AFNS)*

### Military spouse scholarships offered

Thirty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in January to spouses of Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Guard members. Eligible spouses must be pursuing an associate/bachelor undergraduate or graduate/post graduate degree.

Undergraduate students must also be enrolled in the current semester with a minimum of six credit hours, and in January when the scholarship is awarded. Graduate/postgraduate students must carry a minimum of three credit hours. Spouses who themselves are military members are not eligible.

Applications must be postmarked to the Aerospace Education Foundation by Oct. 27. They are available at the base education office, family readiness office and an automatic faxing service by dialing 1-800-232-3563 and requesting document No. 856. Applicants may also write: Aerospace Education Foundation, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, or call commercial 703-247-5800, Ext. 4880. *(AFNS)*

### Command patch rules explained

The mandatory wear date for the Battle Dress Uniform with name and Air Force tapes is **Oct. 1**, so for the 934th, it is also the mandatory wear date for Air Mobility Command patches. All AMC-gained Reserve and Guard members will wear the AMC patch on BDUs, flight suits and leather jackets.

The subdued AMC patch is centered between right and left edges of the right chest pocket, also centered between the bottom and the bottom flap of the pocket. A wing or squadron patch is approved for the left chest pocket, as approved by the installation commander. If the member has an awarded duty badge, such as security forces or fire protection, then the wing or squadron patch is not worn. No patches are authorized to be worn above the name tape on BDUs, and no morale patches may be worn. Morale patches include PRIME BEEF, PRIME RIBS and Disaster Preparedness Response Force. Patches must be sewn on. For maternity BDUs, patches are placed in the same relative positions.

For the leather A-2 flying jacket, the AMC patch is 3 1/2 inches in size with the emblem embroidered on black simulated leather. The AMC emblem embroidered with blue lettering and gold border will be worn as soon as available through local supply channels, but no later than **Jan. 1, 1998**. *(934th Mission Support Flight Customer Assistance)*

### Brief briefs ...

Reservists performing temporary duty in Southwest Asia for more than 15 days excluding travel days will wear the **desert Battle Dress Uniform**. Three sets of the uniform will be needed. Also, any military people traveling to and from Southwest Asia via the Philadelphia International Airport must now travel in civilian clothes ... The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recently reaffirmed the **Community College of the Air Force's accreditation** through 2006 ... The **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery** is now being administered by computer rather than the pencil-and-test method. *(AFNS)*

## Local

### Editor's roundup . . .

▶ The base should see a big difference soon in ease of dialing **off-base phone numbers**, according to **Greg Beckwith**, contract manager for Rothe Development, Inc. Additional lines will be gained gradually beginning in late August, bringing 934th capacities from 37 off-base lines to 96.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Surfin' the VF

- 5** Widnall addresses recent turbulence
- 7** Lodging renovations start soon
- 13** A-76 uncertainty looms ahead for '98

# Rapid global mobility

## 'Arrive first with the most' theory continues in delivering worldwide power

(This is the sixth installment of a nine-part series on core values/competencies.)

**W**hen a crisis erupts without warning anywhere around the world, the United States will need to rapidly deploy forces thousands of miles from bases in the continental United States to deter a potential aggressor or defeat an adversary.

The need for this fast response led senior Air Force leaders to reemphasize rapid global mobility as one of the service's six core competencies in its new strategic vision: "Global Engagement: A Vision for the 21st Century Air Force."

The other core competencies are air and space superiority, global attack, precision engagement, information superiority and agile combat support.

"Rapid global mobility provides the nation its global reach and underpins its role as a global power," said

Secretary of the Air Force **Sheila Widnall**.

"The ability to move rapidly to any spot on the globe ensures that tomorrow, just as today, the nation can respond quickly and decisively to unexpected challenges to its interests," she said. "As the number of forward-deployed forces declines and the need for immediate response to overseas events rises, the Air Force global mobility forces will be in great demand by future joint force commanders."

When an operation must be carried out quickly, airlift and aerial refueling will be the key players, the secretary said. She added that rapid global mobility builds the air bridge for joint forces, enables multinational peace efforts or speeds tailored forces wherever they are needed.

"Rapid deployment will remain the future joint team's most important combat force multiplier," said **Gen. Ronald Fogleman**, now the former Air

Force chief of staff.

In the global engagement vision of the 21st century, rapid global mobility will be multifaceted. The speed with which forces are moved will increase, and airlift and air refueling capabilities must be able to deliver tailored forces operating in a smaller area.

"Rapid global mobility is driven by the nation's needs," Fogleman said. "Because we are going to have a continental United States-based contingency force, we've got to have the capability to get that force to the fight. That is what rapid global mobility does, not only for combat operations, but for peacekeeping or humanitarian efforts."

The chief noted, "Airlifters and tankers give the national command authorities the ability to reach out and influence events around the world. This trend will continue as far into the future as we can see." (*Air Force News Service, "Must Run"*) □

## Briefs in blue ...

(Continued from previous page)

▶ Wing units are being urged to budget carefully for future **printing services**, said **Joan Bolesworth**, chief of 934th Information Systems. The switch to Defense Automated Printing Service Oct. 1 could increase cost per copy from 1 cent to 3 cents. See next month's "Viking Flyer" for details on changes.

▶ The **Base Service Store** will be "going out of business" as of Jan. 1, 1998, as base customers begin purchasing their own supplies via the International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card, according to **Joe DeCapite**, chief of supply. Currently, the store is depleting its inventory in preparation for closure.

▶ Full-time base employees are invited to "**Octoberfest**," Wednesday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., across from the softball field. The lunch, hosted by the Civilian Welfare Fund Council, will feature grilled bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, corn-on-the-cob, pop and German chocolate cake. Entertainment will be provided by **Mark Sidla** of maintenance, concertina musician. Donations of \$1 and food shelf items will be accepted.

▶ The next issue of the "**Viking Flyer**," including a Family Day '97 wrap up, will be mailed to all reservists' homes.

## Three-mile walk details announced

For the three-mile fitness walk, units not scheduled may send a small number of walkers at the scheduled times of 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., as long as they have a monitor. Please call to schedule more than 20 walkers. Walkers are reminded to drink at least eight ounces of water 15-20 minutes prior to and following the walk, keep up the pace to meet age/gender standards, and running is not allowed.

☎Call **Tech. Sgt. Ronna Puck**, Ext. 1128, for scheduling or information.

## A-76 questions encouraged

Base employees with questions regarding the A-76 contracting out study are encouraged to contact the chairman of the Cost Comparison Management Steering Group, **Chuck Frans**, 934th Financial Management, Ext. 1403. Frans said to expect quick response to all questions, with no more than two days needed in most cases. Questions may be sent via e-mail or by base distribution to: 934AW/FMC, Attention: **Chuck Frans, To Be Opened by Addressee Only**. (For more information on the A-76, see story, Page 13.) □

# Air Force under siege

## Widnall addresses recent leadership changes, decisions

Sheila Widnall  
Secretary of the Air Force

Last week, July 28-Aug. 1, was one of the most challenging in recent Air Force history. In the midst of global deployments and continuing challenges as we downsize the force, you may perceive the sudden retirement of **Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman** and decisions by **Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen** with regards to last year's Khobar Towers bombing as setbacks for the Air Force. I'm sure many of you feel anxious or concerned for the future. I understand your concerns and want to share my insights with you.

General Fogleman has done a masterful job preparing the Air Force for the challenges we'll face over the next three decades. He has accomplished the agenda he set out for himself as chief. Last week, I nominated **Gen. Michael E. Ryan** to succeed General Fogleman, and the president accepted the nomination. General Ryan has a superb record in the most demanding Air Force and joint positions, and I know he will provide outstanding leadership as we move into the 21st century. You should expect no changes in direction, commitment to readiness, quality of life or modernization.

The Air Force — your Air Force — is still very much intact and pressing on with its vital missions. While we are busier than ever before, it is for good and important reasons. Fact is, many nations and millions of people around



Widnall

the globe are depending on us. Today, our missions are more complex than those of the Cold War but just as vital to world peace. This is a time of great opportunity for our nation. As military professionals, our stock in trade is very much in demand, and this is something of which we can be very proud.

Dramatic changes and challenges are nothing new to our profession. Think back to your history lessons, to the stories of B-17 crews being shot out of the skies over Europe during World War II. Airmen went on to help win the war, but in the process the price paid was enormous. Our challenges today are nowhere near the challenges of that period, but they point out a fact that cannot be disputed: The people of the U.S. Air Force will weather any storm.

In addition, the lessons learned from the Khobar towers will not be lost. In fact, we have already acted on these lessons and continue to place the highest priority on force protection. I'm confident our troops deployed around the globe operate in the most secure environment we can provide.

As we emerge from these difficult times, I'm sure we will be a better Air Force. Our opportunity to show the world what we're made of has everything to do with your actions in the field. Your professional demeanor in the execution of the Air Force's mission will be the true measure of Air Force resilience, not the decisions or actions in Washington.

I know I can count on you and, to be very clear, I have come to expect nothing less. So as we deal with our recent challenges, we must continue to carry out the business of the Air Force in the outstanding manner that has become our hallmark. Every one of us is responsible for a portion of our mission, and the nation expects all of us to do our duty in our standard excellent manner.

For my part, I pledge my efforts will always have your best interests at heart and I will do everything I can to maintain our standing as the world's most powerful air and space force. (Air Force News Service) □

## Khobar Towers

### Last year's tragedy results in force protection changes, end of general's career

Secretary of Defense William Cohen ended months of speculation July 31 when he released his findings on command accountability for last year's terrorist bombing at the Khobar Towers military apartments in Saudi Arabia.

He agreed with a previous Air Force report that concluded no one in the chain of command should be held criminally liable for the June 25, 1996, attack that killed 19 airmen and wounded scores of others. However, he disagreed with a second Air Force report that proposed no action be taken against any officer.

"I found that **Brig. Gen. Terryl Schwalier**, the wing commander at the time, did not adequately assess the implications of a possible attack on the perimeter of the Khobar Complex," Cohen said. "As a result, he did not develop an effective plan for responding to a perimeter attack."

The secretary said this led him to conclude "it would not be appropriate" to promote Schwalier to the rank of major general. Shortly after the secretary's remarks, Schwalier issued a statement saying he had decided to retire from the Air Force.

Schwalier, former commander of the 4404th Wing Provisional, said, "In spite of my disappointment with [Cohen's] decision, I know the 4404th Wing leadership and its people acted aggressively and responsibly in reaction to the known threat during the months before the bombing. Our actions clearly saved lives.

"In the long run," he continued, "it's not important who on this earth judges you or how you are judged. It is important to do what's right, to listen to your heart and conscience and to keep the high ground. I have and will walk away with my head high." (AFNS) □

# Software training

## Base instructor helps employees, reservists learn new programs

Staff Sgt. Larry Dean

public affairs

**A**s the base prepares for conversion from Banyan Vines Network to Windows NT, Rothe Development's **Vern Holmberg** has organized classes to familiarize base people with basic use of the new network and e-mail system.

"Most computer users won't notice a dramatic change in the steps they take to send e-mail or use the network, but this platform will smooth out some of the bumps experienced with Banyan," Holmberg said. "For example, mail sent to and from locations outside of the base required extra steps to get through the system and to the recipient; however, these steps are all automatically handled behind the scenes with Microsoft Exchange."

He added, "I'll be offering Windows NT classes all day from Sept. 2-5, and from noon-3 p.m., Sept. 22-26. It will be formatted so participants can come and go as if they were on an all-day pass at a movie theater. I'll keep repeating the same class, and people can come in and leave as their training needs are met. We'll have our six computers ready for the training sessions so people can get hands-on experience with the new system, and I've put together a handy quick reference guide to simplify use for our customers."

Holmberg pointed out that the switch is expected to be a smooth, no-stress transition, and training materials will be available on the G-drive of the network for people to access following his classroom sessions. "The e-mail system is graphically oriented so those sending attachments will click

buttons to attach a file and will be able to simply double-click the mouse with the cursor pointing to the file icon when receiving an attachment they would like to read."

The Exchange overview class is just one of the computer classes available. Holmberg also developed 90-minute classes for commonly-used software on base such as Microsoft Powerpoint, Excel and Word, Windows 95, and MS DOS.

"Our goal is customer satisfaction and I'll be happy to assist any customer who has questions regarding these and other software packages," he said. "The 90-minute classes are formatted for basic and intermediate levels, and have received great reviews from those who have used them."

A minimum of two software classes are offered each month, ranging from two to four hours in length. Holmberg said the information is distilled down to essentials to help customers become familiar with the features and immediately make the most effective use of their software

To build these sessions, Holmberg waded through user manuals and training materials that often were an inch thick. He developed concise operating instructions and hands-on exercises to learn of the software's capabilities.

"I've also built a Wordperfect class for Navy personnel who use that software for word processing," he said, "and I'd be happy to develop further training sessions for those using other specialized software. Just let me know what you need!" Holmberg is also available to answer questions on a variety of other commercial software packages. "If you're having software problems, call and I'll come over to help," he said.

To set up additional software classes or discuss software training needs, call Holmberg, Ext. 1260. □



### *Viking Victors:*

## Staff Sgt. Mark Kosht

**New position:** 934th Airlift Wing recruiter.

**Previous position:** 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., in avionics. Served 10 years on active duty in fields of security police, forward air control and stinger missile gunner; served seven years in Korea.

**Education:** University of Maryland, College Park, Md., and Community College of the Air Force; 150 semester hours.

**Hobbies:** Bowling, travel.

**Professional organizations:** Law

Enforcement Alliance of America, Veterans of Foreign War.

**Goals:** "To retire from the Reserve in nine years, complete a master's degree in education/teaching and serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Southeast Asia."

**Family:** Born in Michigan and raised as a U.S. Air Force "brat"; currently live in Burnsville, Minn.

**Comments:** "I want to be the best recruiter in the Air Force Reserve today!" □

# Lodging facelift

## *Big-buck fix-up will beautify facility for guests*

Staff Sgt. Larry Dean  
public affairs

**G**ood things are coming to those who have waited. That's the word from Base Lodging as it announced renovations of Bldg. 711. The contract was expected to be up for bid in August, with tentative dates for work from December through March.

According to **Tammy Davis**, lodging manager, "This is a \$350,000 project to give the building a facelift and make it an even better place for guests to stay. The project includes adding new carpeting and wall coverings, draperies and mini blinds, and other interior improvements to rooms, hallways and office areas."

Davis added that funding for the project comes from both appropriated and nonappropriated sources. Future interior room improvements will include microwave ovens, table lamps, desks, chairs, and the addition of VCRs to some

of the rooms. About \$250,000 of the total price tag will be paid with nonappropriated funds.

When the first phase of the renovation begins, 58 of the 106 rooms used for officers, senior enlisted, females and members on permanent change of station with families, will be closed.

"We ask our guests to be patient during the 60 days of work to make lodging a place they will find even more comfortable to stay in," Davis said. "This project also means there will be more people using contract lodging until the rooms are available again; however, the process for reserving rooms remains unchanged. We'll continue to do our best to make sure our guests have a place to stay, whether it is space on base or contracted quarters."

Those normally staying in Bldg. 711 may waive their right to lodging based upon rank, which would allow them to stay in junior enlisted lodging when space is available. □

## UTA lodging to see cuts in eligibility

**B**udgetary constraints and the scheduled remodeling of on-base lodging has resulted in establishment of newly-defined boundaries for the local area during regularly-scheduled Unit Training Assemblies.

An estimated 100 reservists now eligible for lodging during UTA will be affected when the policy takes effect in October or November.

"The 'local area' will be between 70-80 miles instead of 50, depending on the location," said **Chuck Frans**, management analyst for 934th Financial Management. "We have to follow highway routes to determine the local area — we're not allowed to draw a circle or set a specific distance."

Frans estimated the change will save around \$60,000 annually. Other local military units, including the Air National Guard and Army Reserve, do not fund members' UTA lodging. □

# Medical inspection: 'All's well'

## Checkup of mission capabilities proves wing clinic in top shape

Staff Sgt. Larry Dean  
public affairs

**A**s silence filled the base dining hall, members of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron awaited their "report card" from inspectors who put all aspects of the program beneath their microscope in a formal Health Services Inspection, Aug. 21-24.

**Col. Gerald Raybeck**, Headquarters Air Force Inspection Agency, reported good news to the group.

"I usually inspect active duty hospitals to make sure they are meeting their mission requirements, and I was very impressed with this unit," said **Col.**

**Gerald Raybeck**, Headquarters Air Force Inspection Agency. "[You] are doing a great job and are doing it with people who are working part-time as reservists. The role of the Air Force Reserve is so critical to our nation's defense, and I was pleased with what I saw here."

The colonel said **Lt. Col. Mary Hanson**, squadron commander, is a great leader with a great staff at the base clinic, "and that is what makes the base program one that is successful and has a successful future as well."

"This inspection was just a snapshot in time," said **Col. Michael Gjede**, wing commander. "This unit has experienced a lot of change and has put in a lot of hard work over the past year. You all are

doing a great job, but there is still more work to do. I know we will continue to move forward as we have been and believe by next year we will have a unit that people look to as the example."

The HSI, held approximately every four years, is equivalent to the formal certification and accreditation process civilian hospitals go through.

Inspectors rated four main areas, with a range of subcategories to each of those. They included leadership and executive management, human resource utilization and development, health and support services, and medical readiness. The inspection team consisted of four inspectors as well as observers from other medical units. □

# Paint-A-Thon

**Master Sgt. Tim Turner**  
public affairs

It embodies community spirit like few things here.

It's also a great way to both brush up on your home improvement skills while helping someone in need.

It's the Metro Paint-A-Thon. Each summer for the past eight years, base members and their spouses, children and friends have scraped, sanded and painted the homes of elderly, low-income or disabled folks in the local community.

And the blotches of paint in the hair, and on arms and clothes – not to mention sore forearms from thousands of repeated brush strokes – haven't dampened the spirits of volunteers.

"It's fun," said **Master Sgt. David Hammer**, wing historian and longtime co-chair of the 934<sup>th</sup> Paint-A-Thon team. "You'd think painting a house would be a real pill, but it's not. There's a good feeling knowing you're helping someone who either can't afford to get their house painted or has a physical problem that stops them from doing it.

"Most of the houses we paint are for elderly folks, where one bad step would probably spell disaster," Hammer continued. "And when we're done, the house is a shining example in the neighborhood – at least for one day, it's the nicest-looking house on the block."

Since 1983, Paint-A-Thon volunteers from hundreds of local companies and organizations have

## ***Eight years of 'helping paintbrushes' continue for wing community***

**Dave Cormier**, co-chair of the wing team, scrapes paint from this year's project home prior to painting.



Painted the homes of needy people in the Twin Cities. The thousands of gallons of paint used to cover those homes is donated by The Valspar Corporation. The annual tradition is administered by the Minneapolis Council of Churches.

The base tradition in the Paint-A-Thon began in 1989, under the drive of **Doug Wold**, flight chief of the avionics sec-

tion. Hammer and **Senior Master Sgt. Dave Cormier**, avionics superintendent, now co-chair the effort here.

"Those first few years, a lot of volunteers came from avionics," Wold explained. "We still get a lot of folks from our section, but we also get people from other maintenance shops, the airlift squadron, aerial port, wing, civil engineers and other units."

The 934<sup>th</sup> team has averaged 30 volunteers in each year of participation. "The high was 39 last year, but this year was a little low – less than a dozen. It just took us a little longer, that's all," said Hammer.

Hammer and Cormier request that the 934<sup>th</sup> team be assigned a home near the base. "We try to shoot for south Minneapolis, Richfield or Bloomington because that's where we have the strongest community presence," Hammer explained.

"We also ask for houses that only need the trim and garage painted," Wold added. "We don't paint a whole house, because our team usually isn't as large as a big company like 3M or Norwest. We usually ask for a story and-a-half house, too."

Still, there's more to painting the trim and garage of a single-family home than meets the eye, Wold indicated. "There's been times where we've worked well into the night to get a house finished," he said.

And it's more than just painting. "We'll often make minor repairs, too – everything from replacing shingles, to fixing fences and putting windows," Hammer said. "We also do yard work – raking, mowing the lawn, trimming bushes or trees, and cleaning gutters. There's also a 'prep' day to scrape, clear bushes and trees away from the house and determine how many ladders and what tools to bring."

Many ladders and tools were used to paint last year's house, owned by a 90-year-old man who lives in south Minneapolis. "He was out there helping us to beat the band," recalled **Tech. Sgt. Curt Nelson**, avionics communications and navigation technician. "He brought a chair out and supervised us. Then he'd get up to help paint for awhile and sit down again. He sure had a lot of energy."

In fact, this year's home was only a few doors down from last year's, so the group was treated by a visit from their elderly friend while they worked.

**Staff Sgt. Laura Taylor**, weapons and munitions technician in avionics, remembers the neighbors' reaction to the owner's new paint job last year. "Their response was, 'Wow, what a difference!' You just knew it gave him a good feeling."

The Paint-A-Thon gives every 934<sup>th</sup> volunteer a good feeling, too, Taylor said. "It's that sense of doing a good deed for the community and achieving a worthwhile goal with your fellow reservist that extends beyond the UTA." □

# Thinking ahead to retirement

*Don't let retirement process mystify you — here's what to expect*

**Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly and Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch**  
public affairs

**R**etirement. When it comes to hitting the 20-year mark in a military career, some people know exactly — practically to the minute — when they will reach the 20-year milestone.

But if you do not know what to expect in the retirement process, you could serve well past your retirement eligibility date before the postal service delivers your certified letter of retirement eligibility.

**Point summary holds the key**

The key to determining retirement eligibility is the Air Force Form 526, Point Credit Summary, listing points earned and "good" years of service for retirement. Each year, reservists receive this summary approximately three months after their anniversary date of joining the Reserve, according to **Master Sgt. Eric Baumer**, assistant chief of customer service, 934th Military Personnel Flight.

The first point credit showing 20 years of service triggers an official audit by the Air Reserve Personnel Center. "Then

the coveted '20-year letter' is issued by Denver about two months later," Baumer said. The letter certifies that the reservist has met all requirements for retirement, even though he/she may continue serving and earning additional points.

**Check in with wing experts**

"Everyone nearing retirement should check with customer assistance to review their anniversary date, number of good years, points earned and the date they can expect to receive their 20-year letter," Baumer stressed.

Some reservists with prior active-duty service that was shortened, such as serving three years, 11 months and 28 days of a four-year enlistment, will not receive their 20-year letter until they have 21 good years. "But they can still retire at 20 years of service, providing they visit customer assistance to check their eligibility date," Baumer said. "This will ensure the process goes smoothly."

To qualify for assignment to the retired Reserve, eligible for pay at age 60, a reservist must meet three basic criteria:

- ▶ Complete 20 years of satisfactory federal service,
- ▶ Perform the last eight years of qualifying service in a

*(Continued on next page)*

## Good year

**Completing a satisfactory year for retirement can be a snap**

**Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly**  
public affairs

**I**f you think a retirement check is a sure thing as long as you faithfully attend Unit Training Assemblies and annual tours for 20 years, think again.

Chances are, somewhere along the course of your military career, points from a previous base were lost, or you weren't given credit for a few days of annual tour. All of a sudden that retirement check is an extra year or two away or hopelessly tied up in red tape.

"The single most important thing you can do to insure your retirement check is to take your Air Force Form 526 Point Credit Summary seriously," said **Master Sgt. Scott Semler**, chief of personnel/relocations. "Too many people throw it away or toss it aside. That yearly summary has everything you need to know about your retirement."

**Annual point guide**

Event	Points	Yearly Total
Unit Training Assembly*	4	48
Annual tour	15	15
Membership	15	15
Courses**	50	50
Active duty day***	1	Varies

\*Each UTA period accrues one point.

\*\*Extension Course Institute, maximum points, optional

\*\*\*Each day of active duty accrues one point

The report lists the points earned, breaks them down by type, and gives a total number of "good" years earned toward retirement. To earn a "good" year a reservist must earn a minimum of 50 points annually.

A reservist earns one point per training period or a total of four points per UTA. With 15 points earned for

annual tour, plus 15 membership points, an average year would total 78 points and contribute a good year toward retirement. Only 75 of those points, however, count toward retirement pay. That limit was raised last year from 60.

"If you find discrepancies on your 526, you can get them corrected —if you have proof," said Semler. "Keep copies of your orders. A

person who doesn't keep orders is taking a big chance. Orders are really critical for those who cross services."

Don't chance it when it comes to retirement. Keep track of your points (see chart), thoroughly review your AF 526 each year and keep copies of orders. For more information contact Semler, Ext. 1503. □

# Retiree health care

## TRICARE offers new generation of cost-sharing medical program

**R**apidly rising health care costs and the closure of military bases, along with their hospitals, have required the military to find new ways to provide health care. TRICARE is the Department of Defense's response to this challenge.

TRICARE is the medical program for retired reservists who have reached age 60, along with active-duty members, eligible family members and survivors. It is designed to expand access to care, assure high-quality care and control health care costs.

For many reservists, the term CHAMPUS – Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services – may have more meaning. Actually, CHAMPUS is now what is called TRICARE Standard.

TRICARE began in March 1995 in Oregon and Washington and is now being implemented by region. It is expected to be available throughout the United States by the end of 1997.

Minnesota is in Region 8, which includes Colorado, southern Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. To date, Region 8 has not become operational, though it was supposed to be active by April 1997. Wisconsin is included in

Region 5, which is expected to be operational early next year.

TRICARE offers three choices:

- ▶ TRICARE Standard, a fee-for-service option the same as CHAMPUS;
- ▶ TRICARE Extra, a preferred provider option that saves money over Standard; and
- ▶ TRICARE Prime, where military treatment facilities are the principal source of health care.

The main challenge for most is deciding which TRICARE option – Standard, Extra or Prime – is best for them. Enrollment is required only for Prime. Both Extra and Standard provide a wider choice of health benefit options at higher cost.

Though active-duty families in Prime pay no enrollment fees, retiree families have to consider expected savings from Prime against the annual fees: \$230 for a single retiree and \$460 for a family. For a retiree with other primary health care insurance, Prime may not be the best option.

Enrollment in Prime is exceeding

expectations, according to Air Force officials, and is being well received. This option is similar to most civilian health maintenance organizations.

Members needing care from the civilian provider network pay a flat per visit rate of \$6 for E-4 and below, \$12 for E-5 and above. There are no fees associated with treatment in a military medical treatment facility. By comparison, the cost of a visit under Extra is 15 percent of the negotiated fee; for Standard, 20 percent.

Retiree annual deductible rates for both Extra and Standard are \$150 for an individual and \$300 for a family for E-5s and above; \$50 for an individual and \$100 for a family, E-4s and below. There is no deductible for Prime.

Once a retiree reaches age 65, however, Medicare serves as the primary source of coverage, though military facilities see retirees on a space-available basis. If approved by Congress, beneficiaries 65 and older could enroll in Prime, and this source of money would expand availability of care for them.

For more information, visit this web site: [www.ha.osd.mil/tricare/mrkt/whattric.html](http://www.ha.osd.mil/tricare/mrkt/whattric.html). (Compiled from web source and Air Force News Service) □

## Thinking ahead to retirement ...

(Continued from previous page)

Reserve component and

▶ Must not be entitled to military retired pay under any other law.

### Time to 'file'

In most cases, according to Baumer, six months prior to the retirement date would be the earliest a reservist could apply officially for retirement.

At the squadron level, however, a reservist also may provide a letter of intent to retire to the unit commander up to a year prior to retirement. This enables the unit to work on double-slotting the position in anticipation of the projected vacancy.

### Retired benefits

Reservists retiring before age 60 retain the red ID card, are eligible to continue Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, use the base exchange and travel within the United States on

a space available status. A commissary privilege card to shop up to 12 times each year is mailed to the retiree annually.

When the retired reservist reaches age 60, he or she applies for retirement pay. The Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver recommends the required paperwork be completed and forwarded to them 90 days before a reservist turns 60. The first retirement check should be received 60-90 days after the 60th birthday.

Once an "official" retiree, a blue identification card is issued, and SGLI coverage ceases. Other benefits, such as the base exchange and space available travel are retained, and you are also eligible for limitless commissary usage and medical benefits. (See TRICARE story, above.)

◻ More retirement information is available from customer service, Ext. 1507. □

# Counting on retirement



## Formula determines monthly pay you can expect after age 60

**R**eservists contemplating retirement in the next century may be surprised to learn two different formulas apply for computing retirement pay. The difference, in dollars and cents, depends on when they entered military service.

If they joined before Sept. 8, 1980, one formula is used; but if they joined on or after that date, another applies. Both methods are based on federal law and affect all active-duty and reserve component members, according to **Rosie Westbrook**, chief of the retirements branch at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

If you break out in hives upon facing manual math, however, see the end of this article for the easiest ways to compute your future retirement pay.

### Two formulas

Federal legislation directs that retirement pay for people who first entered the military before Sept. 8, 1980, and who subsequently qualify for retirement, be calculated based on the highest pay grade in which they satisfactorily served and the pay scale in effect when they retire. People who entered the military on or after Sept. 8, 1980, have their monthly retirement pay computed using the average of the base monthly pay in effect for the three years just before they receive retirement pay.

In both cases, retirement points are part of the overall equation for members of the Reserve and Guard.

The whole process of figuring retirement pay may sound daunting, but if reservists use the following formulas, they can get a very good idea of their monthly retirement pay:

- ▶ Total retirement points divided by 360 equals years of service;
- ▶ Years of service multiplied by 2.5 equals percentage of base monthly pay that can be drawn for retirement; and
- ▶ Percentage of base monthly pay multiplied by monthly base pay in effect upon retirement equals final pre-tax retirement pay.

Those entering service on or after Sept. 8, 1980, have to make one additional calculation:

- ▶ The sum of the monthly base pay for the 36 months before they receive retirement pay divided by 36 equals the average base pay for the member's previous three years. Plug his number into the above equation where it states "monthly base pay in effect upon retirement."

### Dollars and cents

The following examples, using the 1997 pay chart, illustrate how the formulas work:

**Example 1:** Tech. Sgt. John Smith entered the military Sept. 7, 1980. His 3,395 retirement points divided by 360 equals 9.43 total years of service. The 9.43 years of service multiplied by 2.5 equals 23.575, the percentage of base monthly pay that can be drawn. Multiplying 23.575 percent by \$2,040, the base pay for a technical sergeant at 20 years taken from the 1997 pay chart, equals \$480.93. This amount represents pre-tax monthly retirement pay.

**Example 2:** Tech. Sgt. Jane Jones entered the service Sept. 9, 1980. Her 3,395 retirement points divided by 360 also equals 9.43 total years of service. That multiplied by 2.5 equals 23.575, the percentage of base monthly pay that can be drawn. Adding together the base pays for 1995 (\$22,260), 1996 (\$23,767) and 1997 (\$24,480) equals \$70,507. Dividing this sum by 36 equals \$1,958.53, the average base pay for the past three years of service. Multiplying the percentage of base monthly pay that can be drawn (23.575) by the average monthly base pay for the past three years of service (\$1,958.53) equals \$461.72. This amount represents pre-tax monthly retirement pay.

One thing reservists will notice right away is the \$19.21 difference between Smith's monthly pay and what Jones receives. This extra amount is the result of using different calculation methods.

### Vigilance pays

"The retirement pay computation formulas can be confusing — no doubt about it," Westbrook said. "However, it's important members know exactly how many retirement points they have and, with that, exactly how their retirement pay will be computed."

Even though people who entered the military on or after Sept. 8, 1980, may get less retirement pay than those who entered before that date, **Fred Ratliff**, chief of ARPC's Personnel Programs Division, said they should keep in mind the periodic cost-of-living adjustments granted by Congress.

Westbrook advised people not to hesitate to seek help when trying to figure out their potential retirement pay.

"The pay computation information presented in our examples is very general in nature," she said. "Even though it may apply to many people, it does not cover every situation. There are numerous other factors that may have an impact on retirement pay."

For people who prefer an easier way of calculating retirement, two easy methods are available from 934th Military Personnel Flight Customer Service. A fact sheet lists "pay per point" the retiree can expect.

Also, a computer program is available that calculates retirement pay in less than five minutes. Just go to the Air Force Reserve Command home page: [www.afres.af.mil/news/](http://www.afres.af.mil/news/) and select "Compute your retirement." (AFRC News Service) □

# Survivor Benefit Plan

### Loved ones can benefit from your military career after your death

**Master Sgt. Tim Turner**

public affairs

**P**reparation is everything to being a 934<sup>th</sup> reservist. We prepare for deployment. We prepare for a chemical or biological attack.

If we're wise, we prepare for a financially prosperous Reserve retirement. But if you don't make the proper plans once you complete your "20 good years," your family won't be able to share in your investment if you die.

"Your Air Force Reserve retired pay automatically will stop on the day you die unless you elect to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan," explained **Steve Maytan**, 934<sup>th</sup> Casualty Assistance representative. "SBP provides families of military retirees long-term financial security after the retiree's death."

He explained the program. "When a reservist attains 20 satisfactory years of service, the Air Force Personnel Center sends him/her a packet explaining SBP, along with an election form," he said. "The reservist has 90 days to make a decision."

The election form gives you the opportunity to ensure your spouse and/or dependents receive part of your retirement check if you die.

"Under SBP, a surviving spouse receives 55 percent of the member's retired pay until they reach age 62," Maytan said. "At age 62, this is reduced to 35 percent. If child coverage is elected, children can receive SBP only until age 18, or age 22 for full-time students. If the reservist does not elect to participate in SBP, a surviving spouse won't see a red cent of the retirement."

**Eric Baumer**, assistant casualty assistance representative, explained that the premiums for SBP are 6.5-11 percent of your retirement pay, depending on your age at the time you complete 20 satisfactory years of service for retirement. You do not start paying SBP premiums until retirement pay starts at age 60. Also, the SBP premium

## Basic benefits

*Here's what your survivors could expect upon your loss*

**E**ach reservist's circumstances would differ, depending on military status at the time of death.

**The following would likely be due the family of a drilling reservist, passing away in civilian status from injuries not related to military duties:**

- ▶ Your elected amount of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, varying from no coverage to \$200,000.
- ▶ Social Security for children.
- ▶ Survivor Benefit Plan, if elected, if over 20 years of service.
- ▶ Any outstanding pay for military duty already performed.
- ▶ A burial flag, headstone and burial in a national cemetery.
- ▶ A funeral flyover is possible for career aviators.

**The following additional benefits may be payable if the death occurred while on Unit Training Assembly status, while traveling to or from base or while on an active-duty order:**

- ▶ \$6,000 death gratuity payment.
- ▶ \$833 monthly from the Veterans Administration.
- ▶ Transportation of remains and payment for most burial expenses.
- ▶ ID card authorizing medical care, commissary and exchange privileges.
- ▶ \$404 monthly while attending college or vocational school full-time. Maximum benefit is 45 months.

Survivors should find out also if the reservist carried insurance policies with any professional military organizations. □

is not deducted if you die before age 60.

"Reservists can participate in the SBP even if they decide to stay in the Reserve program for more than their 20-year point," said Baumer. "In other words, you don't have to leave your Reserve unit after 20 good years to take advantage of SBP."

"There's no true civilian alternative to SBP because the plan is subsidized by the government," Maytan said. "Plus, a built-in cost of living formula ensures the benefits keep pace with future inflation, and the premiums paid are deducted before taxes are computed. In addition, surviving spouses can never outlive the benefits."

The Air Force Reserve is making an

effort to educate future retirees about the Survivor Benefit Plan by providing videos and a web site on the Internet. The videos, one for officers and one for enlisted, are available through the casualty assistance office. The SBP's web site is:

<http://www.afpc.af.mil/dppry/sbp/>

Also, 934<sup>th</sup> Military Support Flight's customer service section has a software program capable of quickly calculating your retirement pay and SBP benefits, according to Baumer.

To obtain the video or for more information about the SBP, call 934<sup>th</sup> Casualty Assistance, Ext. 1164/1165. (Reference information from Air Force News Service.) □

## Entire base impacted by crucial bid for survival

Cherie Huntington  
public affairs

**O**ut the gate in '98" represents grim humor from some base employees resigned to believe the worst of the A-76 action faced by the 934th Airlift Wing in the year ahead.

Targeted last summer along with 12 other Air Force Reserve Command bases, many base employees could be losing their present jobs should the base's bid for survival fail, according to **Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz**, 934th Support Group commander. He presented a "state of the A-76" briefing at a recent support group civilian commander's call.

"Life is going to be different," Groskreutz said. "How much different, I can't tell you. There's going to be fewer of us. How many fewer, I don't know. But if you think this thing doesn't touch you, think again."

Civilian positions under study here include supply, transportation, information systems, reprographics, small computers, services and civil engineering. More positions fall under contracted or subcontracted areas in Rothe Communications and civil engineering operations. Finally, a number of nonappropriated fund positions could be affected. Exact numbers are not being published, since that information is considered sensitive as contract bidding procedures near.

Federal civilians in positions under study face a Reduction In Force, or RIF, with notices issued as early as June 1998, and a contractor start date as early as December 1998, according to **Chuck Frans**, chairman of the Cost Comparison Management Steering Group for A-76 and management analyst with 934th Financial Management. Modest estimates of the Civilian Personnel Office show a sizeable percentage of people would be left in need of a job in a RIF.

"A RIF [of this size] would be a lot of very exacting work," said Groskreutz. "A lot of dominoes have to be set up exactly to fall in the right way — like trying to push a train backward."

He explained that some employees may be able to displace other employees under RIF situations. Such RIF actions bring many factors into play, such as tenure group, veteran's preference, seniority or Service Computation Date, performance appraisal ratings adjustments to SCDs, and qualifications requirements of specific positions.

"For every one person RIF'd, an average of seven others are impacted," said Groskreutz.

Though RIF actions, in general, appear to be reasonably predictable, the A-76 process itself remains almost totally beyond local control.

"We don't own this process," said Groskreutz. "We're not in control of the interim steps. But it's imperative we do the best job we can do on each step."

The step at hand is preparation of the Performance Work Statement, a document explaining what is required in each

work area. Frans said all affected divisions have completed this item as nearly as possible. For base officials, this step still plays like a game of pin the tail on the donkey. No "sample" PWS exists, and even Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command can offer little comfort or advice. Though Minneapolis stands first on the second list or "tier" of bases affected, none of the four bases in the first tier have seen a sample PWS, either. Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., whose contract is now out for solicitation, will be the first to know if their work stays in-house or goes contract.

Though the A-76 timetable seems set in shifting sand, with constant changes and late or accelerated deadlines, the next challenge will be completion of a document called the MEO, or Most Efficient Organization. "This details the numbers of people and dollars we need to do the job," Frans explained. He believes this package will probably be due by the end of October.

All that local officials are sure of, however, is that the base needs to pull together and fight the rumor mill.

"Rumors are very counterproductive and hurtful," said Groskreutz. "I'm offering you the opportunity to find out what the commander, his staff and the labor [union] know. If you have questions, contact Chuck Frans, our focal point." (See "A-76 questions encouraged," Page 4.)

He added that some people could be nearly paralyzed with fear that they will lose their jobs, particularly where they know they are prime candidates for being bumped or replaced.

"If you're feeling that way because of where you're working, why not pick the time to leave?" he suggested. "We'll help you find another job. Don't be caught like a deer in the headlights."

Groskreutz pleaded with base members to work through the A-76 process "together, as a partnership." The end result is that the base succeeds or fails in its bid as a whole — the entire package studied is either contracted out or kept in house, he said. And even if the base wins, it will likely be with fewer employees. That is why, according to Groskreutz, the time to become an MEO is now.

He suggested the following areas for study. "Everybody here has two critical eyes," he said. "Everybody needs to be engaged. This is no time to sit on the sidelines."

▶ Reduce layers of supervision. The Air Force goal is 12 to one.

▶ Become multi-skilled.

▶ Consolidate organizations to reduce overhead.

▶ Wherever possible, consider use of service contracts.

▶ Be sure qualifications are not overstated.

"Losing the contract could be a matter of one or two people," said Groskreutz. "That's the bottom line. In the last base A-76, in base supply, our bid beat the contractor's by only one or two people ... We lost some positions, but only one person went out the gate without a job." □

# Avionics reliability

*This superior performance team earned gold right from the start*

**Mark Davidson**  
public affairs

**T**he avionics reliability team cinched kudos as a superior performance team in the last Operational Readiness Inspection before the C-130s ever took off for Volk Field, Wis.

Avionics members, assigned to the 934th Maintenance Squadron, started looking at technical order checklists many drills prior to the ORI so they would be ready from day one to "go to war."

"We ran the checklists and brainstormed ideas," said **Staff Sgt. Earl Dodge Jr.** "We combined items into one checklist step, weeded out duplicated steps and made the checklists more manageable."

The shop then performed comprehensive checks at the start of the inspection on some key aircraft equipment such as the self-contained navigation system; the "identify friend or foe" system, or IFF; and the search radar.

"Initially, it took us — in teams of three people — about 90 minutes to check these three, key components on each

aircraft," said **Tech. Sgt. Rory Ernst.** "We got this down to 45 minutes as we gained more proficiency."

The avionics members who check aircraft defensive measures also earned the opportunity to shine during the generation period. "We uploaded simulated chaff and flares on each aircraft," said **Tech. Sgt. Steve Hendrickson.** "Each aircraft was missing some flares and chaff charges, so we made sure each aircraft had its full load and each one worked."

The section earned a 100 percent reliability rate for their work on the chaff and flares on each aircraft, according to Hendrickson.

"The key to our great rating, I think, was the fact that the inspectors saw how prepared the reservists were," said **Master Sgt. Gerald Schuster,** "and how much responsibility the ARTs gave reservists during the inspection."

Other members of the avionics superior performance team were: **Doug Wold,** chief; **Senior Master Sgt. David Cormier;** **Tech. Sgts. Tim Jackson, Richard Kullman, Steve Lerbakken and Curt Nelson;** and **Staff Sgts. John Dinning, Laura Taylor, Al McCann and Steve Pittman.** □

# Taking care of people resources

**Mark Davidson**  
public affairs

**T**he 934th Airlift Wing Human Resources Development Council is not "just another meeting," according to the council chairman.

"The 934th HRDC is a way for senior leadership to make sure the wing is retaining good people, and that we're recognizing and responding to the changing cultural diversity in the community and on the base," said **Col. Tim Anderson,** vice commander and council chairman.

The council remains focused on three key areas, according to Anderson.

"Retention, perhaps the most important element, is critical because we have to stay fully manned," he said. "Commanders, first sergeants and supervisors at all levels must provide the leadership in keeping people satisfied to stay in the unit."

## Council focuses on retaining, recruiting valuable people

Mentoring is a second key area for the HRDC, helping retain people and develop them for leadership roles. The wing is currently establishing a pilot program involving 10-15 mentees for fiscal year 1998, and field grade officers are forming a pool of potential mentors.

The third way the group works for the base — recruiting — is perhaps the most critical element, according to 934th senior leadership and recruiting officials.

"We are now going after the 18-to-25-year-old, non-prior service recruits," said **Tech. Sgt. Phillip Brown,** wing recruiter. "We're especially targeting females and ethnic minorities in the Twin Cities area and in outstate Minnesota."

Making sure the base reaches all areas of the Twin Cities population is a

concern of **Chief Master Sgt. Dick Grewe,** senior enlisted advisor.

"I want to make sure the base mirrors the surrounding community," said Grewe. "I also want to ensure all minority and female members of the 934th get the opportunity to reach their full potential in officer commissioning and job opportunities."

The HRDC meets every quarter at the Officers Club on the Thursday night before UTA. The group is always looking for new ideas and new members. Members of the group come from a variety of areas, including wing and group commanders, recruiting, social actions, staff judge advocate, personnel, public affairs and the medical squadron.

Anyone interested in more information about the council should call Anderson, Ext. 1204. For information on mentoring, call **Maj. Chris Martin,** program administrator, Ext. 1513, or **Lt Col. Mary Hanson,** program advisor, Ext. 1616 on drill weekends. □

**Medals**

**Meritorious Service Medal**

Lt. Col. Kathleen Marschinke (Retired), AES

**Air Force Commendation Medal**

Master Sgt. Robert Gastel (Retired, 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), ASTS  
 Master Sgt. Mariys Lang (Retired, 1 OLC), ASTS  
 Master Sgt. Sterling Meyer, LSS  
 Tech. Sgt. Curtis Nelson (1 OLC), MXS

**Air Force Achievement Medal**

Tech. Sgt. Suzan Bathurst, LSS  
 Staff Sgt. Anthony Feigum, CES

**Newcomers**

Senior Airman Kari Best, LSS  
 Senior Airman Jason Brinkman, MXS  
 Tech. Sgt. David Bugni, MXS  
 Capt. Alan Butler, AS  
 Staff Sgt. Mark Davis, CES  
 Senior Airman Howard Deaton, APS  
 Staff Sgt. Eric Decamp, AS  
 Staff Sgt. Merle Fischer, AES

Staff Sgt. Paul Gauthier, MXS  
 Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Groves, AES  
 Staff Sgt. Donald Head, SVF  
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Hoffman, APS  
 Senior Airman Marcie Huttner, AES  
 Staff Sgt. Diane Johnson, AS  
 Senior Airman Richard Kasterner, SFS  
 Senior Airman Todd Kirby, SFS  
 Staff Sgt. Calvin Lehna, ASTS  
 Staff Sgt. Chris Manchester, ASTS  
 Staff Sgt. Paul McCann, AW  
 Staff Sgt. John Miron, SFS  
 Staff Sgt. David Ohrt, MXS  
 Capt. Erik Sutcliffe, APS  
 Airman 1st Class Kristina Puffer, AES  
 Senior Airman Scott Vertanen, ASTS  
 Staff Sgt. Hans Vinge, APS  
 Senior Airman Brian Welter, MXS

**Air reserve technicians:**

Tech. Sgt. Barbara Kiepeke, LGMA  
 Lt. Col. Robert Spence, OG

**Civilians:**

Rannie Reyes, CE

**Reenlistments/Extensions**

Master Sgt. Linda Davidson, OSF

Master Sgt. Mark Hartnett, AS  
 Tech. Sgt. Hector Hermosilla, MXS  
 Master Sgt. Jean Hohn, AES  
 Master Sgt. Allen Johnson, SVF  
 Staff Sgt. Randy Kline, SVF  
 Senior Airman Christopher Manchester, ASTS  
 Tech. Sgt. Dana Moog, AS  
 Staff Sgt. James Olafson, APS  
 Staff Sgt. Anthony Osborne, CES  
 Staff Sgt. Steven Ross, MXS  
 Staff Sgt. Roxanna Steffen, SVF  
 Tech. Sgt. David Strande, MXS  
 Staff Sgt. Jeremy Weber, SFS

**Honors**

► **Master Sgt. David Hammer**, wing historian, was pictured on the cover of a special 1998 calendar as a part-time volunteer fire fighter for Eagan, Minn. The calendar, "Fire Trucks in Action," was produced in California and pictures Hammer at work from an Eagan fire truck. The cover photo is used also for the month of May. Photos of fire fighters and equipment from all over the United States were included. □

**Viking Search:**

**Medical services technician**

**C**lip this for a friend, colleague or family member and assist 934th recruiters in their Viking search!

**Air Force Specialty Code/unit:** 4NOX1, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

**Basic job description:** During wartime, provides ground medical care to patients in transit in the aeromedical system. Includes on/off loading patients from a variety of aircraft as well as setting up temporary medical facilities wherever mobilized. During peacetime, trains for wartime mission and provides physicals for wing members.

**Testing:**

► Class II enlistment physical and Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery with a score of at least 43.

**Training:**

► Estimated cost of training: \$60,000.

Training can prove useful as a starting point in pursuing formal education and licensing and/or starting a civilian career in nursing or health care.

► Phase I, 13 weeks, two days at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

► Phase II, seven weeks, four days at an Air Force hospital.

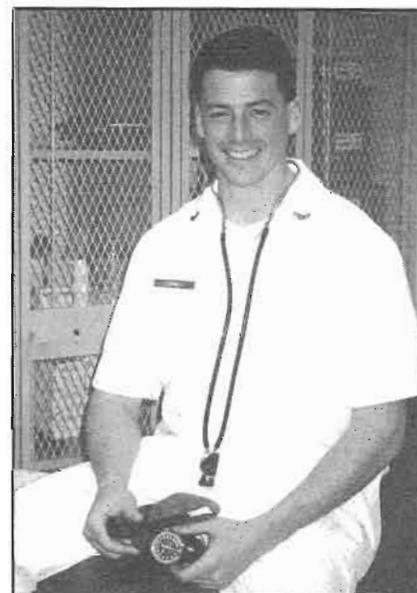
► Ongoing training required to maintain currency as an emergency medical technician.

**Bonus career field:** If you qualify, incentives are \$5,000 and two stripes.

**You heard it here:** "It's exciting and challenging to work on the flightline, loading and unloading patients from running C-130s, not to mention learning a skill that is a step up to a position in the medical profession in the civilian world."

**Master Sgt. Ann Hawkins.**

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



**Senior Airman Michael Touney, medical services technician**

# Family Day '97

Here are more details on some programs planned for Sept. 7

**F**amily Day makes its long-awaited arrival this Unit Training Assembly with the following schedule:

▶ **Lunch:** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., softball field. **Menu:** Hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans. Cost is \$1.50 per meat item.

▶ **934th Family Readiness Program Workshop:** 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., NCO Club. A panel of experts will be available from the following areas: staff judge advocate, chapel, base security police, personnel, family readiness, public affairs, recreation services, CHAMPUS/casualty affairs and Red Cross.

▶ **Children's games/activities:** Noon-3 p.m., softball field.

▶ **Family life education booths:** Noon-3 p.m., fuel cell hangar. Red Cross, American Cancer Association, Veterans Administration/home loans,

benefits, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Catholic Charities, mediation and single parent information, marriage encounter, drug prevention, parenting, Alcoholics Anonymous, crime prevention, children's fingerprinting and Military Affiliate Radio System.

▶ **Squadron displays:** 934th Aerial Port Squadron, C-130 "hulk" trainer photos, Bldg. 710; 96th Airlift Squadron/934th Maintenance Squadron, C-130 static display; 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, fire fighting equipment demonstrations; 934th Communications Flight, radios and photo displays; 934th Security Forces Squadron, equipment/weapons/tents at Bldg. 865; 934th Services Flight, camping/rental items.

▶ **Rummage/craft sale:** Noon-3 p.m., fuel cell hangar.

▶ **Reading is Fun Book Fair:** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., fuel cell hangar; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Base Exchange.

▶ **Air Guard Museum:** Shuttle buses hourly, starting at noon, Bldg. 852. □

## Operational Risk Management:

### Unit-level 'baby steps'

**O**perational Risk Management, described in last month's "Viking Flyer" as "quality with a twist," is a new program all units have been tasked to implement by 1998.

The program for support units begins with squadron/flight level unit commanders and training managers "boning up" on ORM guides.

**Lt. Col. Rich Huntington**, 934th safety, said the identification process offers great flexibility. "Some processes might take only a few minutes," he said, "while others might take several hours or days."

Once familiar with these publications, here are the next steps:

**1. Make sure all unit members understand ORM principles.**

▶ Conduct initial awareness briefings for new members.

▶ Combine recurring ORM training with normal activities such as safety days, crew resource management

or commander's calls.

▶ Remember: the training medium is flexible, but the need for both initial and refresher training cannot be overemphasized.

▶ Integrate ORM into all unit activities.

**2. Document training.**

▶ ORM awareness training should be documented either on an Air Force Form 55 or specialized training documentation programs used by maintenance and operations.

**3. ORM is not just for workdays on base.**

▶ This is a logical, common-sense program with uses on the road and in your off-duty time.

▶ Make ORM a natural process of your thought process.

Huntington said wing safety people will be available to assist with unit familiarization training. Details remain available on the shared G-drive, G:\Riskmgmt. □

## Services Briefs

### ▶ Softball

The August drill weekend results and championship news follow:

**Coed-recreational:** SVF Food Fighters beat APS Ramp Raiders and MSF Wingers beat LSS Bud Bunch. SVF plays MSF for the championship on Saturday, Sept. 6, on Field 1, time to be announced.

**Men's:** LSS Bud Bunch and CE beat Avionics, so LSS and CE will play for the championship also on Sept. 6 on Field 3, time to be announced.

### ▶ Golf tourney

Results of the July golf tournament at Highland Park Golf Course, St. Paul,

Minn., follow:

**Overall winners:** 1. Base Fuels. Don Mickleborough, Matt Etter, Rory Schmidt, Darren Patterson. 2. MXS. Orin Johnson, Don Fletcher, Mark Woodson, Fred Walker. 3. APS. Fred Carlson, Mike Kuntze, Brad McLain, Jeff Kellington. **Highest score:** FM's Paul Burnett, Tim Donnay, Pat McCullough, Dave Fischer. **Longest drive, male and female:** Orin Johnson, MXS, and Lynne Fotsch, SVF. **Longest putt, male and female:** Pat McCullough, FM, and Ronna Puck, SVF.

▶ **Renaissance Festival** discount tickets and food coupons are available. The festival continues each

weekend through September.

▶ **Discount University of Minnesota Gopher football** tickets for Armed Forces Day, Saturday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m. The Golden Gophers play the Houston Cougars. Tickets range from \$3.75 to \$9.

① Order forms are available from recreation services or by calling **Marc Rood**, Gopher ticket sales, 612-624-7308. □

① **934th Recreation Services Bldg. 802, Ext. 1128 or 1665**