

VIKING FLYER



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

Annual tour success

*Communications flight
augments active-duty
squadron in Florida*

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remodeled facility
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On the cover

Senior Airman
Shawn Mason,
934th Communica-
tions Flight,
deployed to Florida
for annual tour with
his unit to augment
an active-duty
communications
squadron. For
more on the two-
week tour, see
Page 9.



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

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UTA schedule

June 5-6 • UTA entrees:
July 10-11 Saturday, pork
Aug. 7-8 chops and
Sept. 11-12 spaghetti; Sunday,
burritos and tacos.
• UTA pay date:
May 12.

934th Airlift Wing on the Internet:
[http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/
default.htm](http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/default.htm)

Commentary

Unit readiness

Exercise offers chance to check personal preparedness

Col. Richard Moss
Wing Commander

"This summer encampment comes at a time when the eyes and ears of the world are trained to far distant places. Names like Laos, Berlin, Congo, Vietnam are more familiar than Mankato, Faribault or St. Cloud. There are guests and questions, studies and decisions; a continuous movement toward a more settled world.

"We must contribute our share to a settled and peaceful existence for all peoples. We can do this best by ensuring that we are trained and ready for any requirement our Government may levy on us now or at some future time. Only by maintaining a readiness posture in our unit can we remain a large part of the overall deterrent power."

These words were written in August 1961 by **Lt. Col. Dodson Graybeal**, commander of our ancestral unit, the 96th Troop Carrier Squadron, in the unit newspaper. And while our eyes and ears are now focused on places like Yugoslavia and Southwest Asia, his message of readiness still rings true today.

This weekend, we will perform an exercise to test our readiness and prepare ourselves to support the needs of today's Air Force. We have put together a sound exercise scenario, and the respective deployment managers have worked extremely hard to ensure this is a valuable and productive exercise.

With that said, however, the success or failure of this exercise ultimately resides with each individual taking personal responsibility for their readiness. Make sure your paperwork is up to date, your shots are current and your gear is ready. If you have doubts or

questions about procedures or requirements, seek out the answer and don't be satisfied until you get one. These unresolved questions could become significant issues if a real deployment is ordered.

Your readiness also includes the readiness of your family and your employer. Ensure you have prepared your personal life for a deployment by updating wills, power of attorneys and other documentation. Family readiness, our legal office and others are here to provide you, your family and your employer this type of support. Take advantage of their services!

Let me close with the same closing written by Graybeal 38 years ago:

"Let us come to camp then with a firm resolve to use every hour in useful application to our weak areas; to train the untrained; to recruit for vacancies; and above all to show that we can work as a unit to further any aims or resolutions made by a higher command." □



Moss

Commander's Hot Line 713-HOT'L

Call 713-4685 to record questions for the wing commander. Callers may remain anonymous. Questions of general interest will be answered in the *Viking Flyer*.



Tax relief benefits in progress

The president announced his intention April 12 to issue an executive order designating the Kosovo area of operations as a combat zone for tax relief benefits.

The Kosovo area of operations encompasses the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, the Adriatic Sea and the northern Ionian Sea, as well as the airspace above those areas. In addition,

U.S. military people serving in this area will be eligible for imminent danger pay of \$150 per month. Those serving in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia are already receiving imminent danger pay. *(Air Force Print News)*

Travelers pay for mistake

Since the Department of Defense amended its policy on official travel nearly a year ago, hundreds of appeals have been received from federal employees who inappropriately purchased tickets for official travel.

At Scott Air Force Base, Ill., alone, more than 20 military and civil service members had to cough up nearly \$4,000 because they failed to coordinate their travel plans through a government-approved travel office — a violation of DOD policy.

In April 1998, DOD stipulated that travelers who arranged transportation through a non-authorized ticketing agency were not authorized reimbursement. For the 934th Airlift Wing, Omega Travel arranges official travel as well as leisure travel. *(AFPN)*

Anthrax program sees changes

• **Anthrax program modified.** The Department of Defense announced a modification to its anthrax vaccination program March 31, extending the program to include people serving on temporary duty in high-threat areas in Southwest Asia and the Korean peninsula.

Previously, only people deploying for more than 30 days to the high-threat areas were required to begin the shots.

The announced modification refines Phase I, which continues until the end of fiscal 1999. The start of Phase II is projected for August or September, covering vaccination of specified units identified in advance to deploy into high-threat areas within 35 days of an order. Beginning sometime around 2003, Phase III will provide shots to the remainder of the armed forces and new recruits.

• **Team studies anthrax program.** Trying to balance force protection with concerns from some people about the safety of vaccinations, the Air Force is forming a team to look at all aspects of the anthrax program.

• **Lt. Gen. David Vesely**, assistant vice chief of staff, is taking charge of an anthrax integrated processing team. He said the team will "review everything from the threat to the policies, processes, impacts on operations, morale, discipline, etc."

The secretary of defense approved the overall defense department plan last year to vaccinate all U.S. service members for anthrax. This approval was based on the successful completion of all testing and operational criteria. Since then, the Air Force has immunized more than 64,000 members.

The overwhelming majority of airmen have received the vaccine without complaint. However, several members have faced disciplinary actions or resigned from the military rather than have the shots.

"The team will examine lessons learned so far," said **Lt. Gen. Charles Roadman II**, Air Force surgeon general, "what target audiences we still need to reach and how we can improve education so people will clearly understand they must fear the disease, not the vaccine." *(AFPN)*

'Brief briefs'

• **Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric Benken** announced his retirement effective July 30 after more than two and a half years in the job and 29 years of service.

• **Defense Finance and Accounting Service** officials said all payroll computer software has proved Year 2000-compliant and is now operating on compliant hardware. The service pays five million military members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians per month.

• **The commander of Air Mobility Command** announced that Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., will receive full operational readiness inspection credit for their continuing involvement in global missions.

• **AMC officials** announced Air Mobility Expeditionary Rodeo 2000 will be held May 6-13 at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

• **Air Force drug testing** was expanded in March to include all enlisted basic trainees.

• **The Air Force has changed the name** of its social actions offices to "military equal opportunity" to better reflect the human resource program's current mission.

• **Air Force members behind in child support** payments are being refused passports by the State Department, which places a hold on the application until the account is in order.

• **The Phoenix Aviator 20 program** to improve pilot retention has been termed a success by Air Force officials. The program guarantees career pilots an interview with one of the participating airlines, plus cost reimbursement for required certification items. *(AFPN)*

'Must run' items announced

The following items from Air Force Print News were designated "must run" for all newspapers by Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs:

• **Pay info remains just a call away.** A 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, automated telephone system offers Air Force active-duty and reserve forces members basic information about their military pay accounts. Called "Pay Call," the system can provide the amount of the last

(Continued on next page)

Briefs ...

(Continued from previous page)

paycheck, federal and state tax data, debt balance information, direct deposit and pay statement address, list of allotments in effect and more.

☎Call Pay Call at (800) 755-7413 from the United States or DSN 926-1281 from overseas bases.

• **Board considers incentive awards.** Supervisors of outstanding civilians can nominate them for 1999 Air Force incentive awards. Awards can be submitted up through the chain of command. For details, see Air Force Instruction 36-1001, Managing the Civilian Performance Management Program, Chapter 3.

• **Competitive sourcing, privatization unit maps way.** Competitive sourcing and privatization is needed to free up critical funds for commanders to meet future challenges as the service's missions evolve. A "CS&P" office serves as the focal point to help members better navigate through the process.

☐Information about the CS&P office is available at:
<http://www.dp.hq.af.mil/DP/dpfx/CS&Pindex.html>

Reserve

Keesler welcomes C-130Js

Calling it "a great day for the Air Force," **Maj. Gen. James Sherrard**, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, received a ceremonial key March 31, signifying the acceptance of the first of a series of new C-130J aircraft for the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

The J-model aircraft will gradually replace the wing's current 1960s-vintage airframes.
(AFRC News Service)

Leadership moves announced

A number of Reserve senior officer assignments have been announced:

• **Brig. Gen. James Bankers**, former commander, 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., is now assistant vice commander, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., replacing **Brig. Gen. David Sibley**, retired.

• **Col. Martin Mazick**, former commander, 507th Air Refueling Wing, Tinker AFB, Okla., is now commander, 439th AW. Mazick is the husband of a former commander of the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, **Col. Mary Jo Mazick**.

• **Brig. Gen. David Tanzi**, former 419th Fighter Wing commander, Hill AFB, Utah, is now AFRC director of plans and programs. He replaced **Maj. Gen. John Batbie Jr.**, who assumed command of 22nd Air Force at Dobbins ARB, Ga., last year. **Col. Floyd Williams**, former 419th FW vice commander, now commands the wing. (Message sources and AFRCNS)

Local

Club scholarships offered

Air Force Services is conducting the third annual club membership scholarship program. Current Air Force club members and family members are eligible to apply.

Three scholarships, in the amounts of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 are available. Applications are due to **David Lilja**, director, 934th Services Division, by July 15. Packages may be sent through base distribution to 934SVS/SV or delivered to Bldg. 852, Room 124. Two nominations will be forwarded from the base, and winners will be announced by Oct. 1.

Nominations must include the sponsor's name, last nine digits of their club membership card number, base, club name and the nominee's full name with mailing address and phone number. If the nominee is a family member, include his or her relationship to the club member. Nominees must also provide an essay of 500 words or less on one of the following topics: "Membership, Participation Makes a Difference," or "Air Force Club Membership: What It's Really Worth."

Nominees must provide a single-page summary of their long-term career/life goals and previous accomplishments. The summary may include civic, athletic and academic awards and accomplishments.

☐For more information, see the services Web site at:
<http://www.r.afsv.af.mil>
(Air Force Services message)

Lodging contest ends June 1

With construction on the new base lodging facility set to begin this fall, the services division is sponsoring a "name lodging" contest, ending June 1. The person submitting the winning name will receive a free night in a suite and dinner at the club. Information needed includes name, unit, daytime phone, and whether or not you like the current name, North Country Inn.

Submit ideas to **Melissa Blasier**, services marketing director, via base e-mail or through distribution addressed to "SVMM."

Base 'brief briefs'

• **Starting June 1**, the North Country Inn, Bldg. 716, will be a nonsmoking facility.

• **The base zip code** has changed from 55450-2000 to 55450-2100. For agencies with preprinted stock of envelopes and other publications, existing stock should be used and new stock ordered with the correct zip code.

• **The Fort McCoy, Wis., commissary** is available to members on active-duty orders or with a commissary entitlement card, available from unit orderly rooms. The facility is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. A case lot sale is set for May 28-29.

☎For information on the commissary, call (608) 388-3542. ☐

Virus wars

Rothe 'troops' help defend wing against worldwide computer virus

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

While the nation's military forces mobilized for contingency operations in the Balkans, base Rothe Development computer experts mobilized for a virus war starting on a quiet Friday at the end of March.

The "Melissa" virus threatened worldwide computer networks by "breeding" high quantities of e-mail, potentially overloading and shutting down networks.

Mike Eischen, network control center manager, said local specialists started addressing the threat on Friday, March 26.

"On Sunday, we had a new virus definition put out there, posted on the Web page," said Eischen. He said the wing receives data updates via Air Force-licensed virus protection program administrators. Network Associates in California handles the wing's updates, issuing new information as often as hourly in the continuing war against viruses.

By Monday morning, however, Air Force Reserve Command directed all local area e-mail servers shut down until the highest level of virus protection was assured. Full

e-mail service remained unavailable for nearly four days.

"The e-mail servers had to stay down until every machine on base had the latest version, and that's approximately 700 computers," said **Glenn Groskreutz**, contract manager.

"We couldn't do the job alone," said Eischen. "The real key to the success of this operation was the CSSOs [computer systems security officers]."

Units have CSSOs assigned to oversee computer and software-related issues and serve as liaisons with Rothe. According to Groskreutz, CSSOs checked each computer under their control, with Rothe team members performing spot checks as well as update checks for offices without full-time staffing.

"We were out and about the whole time, with teams going out to facilitate the process," said Groskreutz. "Now we know we have a real good handle on virus protection, and we know that it works."

Eischen said centralized LAN virus scans located and cleaned four Melissa-infected e-mails on base.

"It's essential that everyone update definitions when the word is put out," said Groskreutz. "Otherwise, you open the whole network, Air Force wide, for intrusion." □

Welcome home

Medical units return to remodeled, expanded facility after 'homeless' months

Senior Airman Jeffrey Williams

Public Affairs

Renovations are nearing completion on the base clinic, Bldg. 840. The construction, which began in December, temporarily displaced the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron to other areas of the base, including neighboring Air National Guard facilities.

With the renovation complete, ASTS will be returning to Bldg. 840 by the end of April, performing services and training at "home station" again during the May unit training assembly. The 934th AES moved back into Bldg. 840 in April and should be fully functional by the May UTA.

The ASTS renovation consists of a new readiness and mobility storage garage for medical equipment, an improved soundproof audio room and a

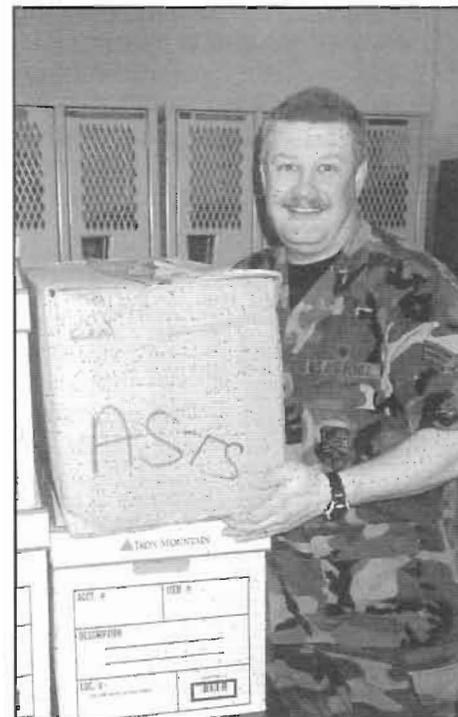
larger dental area to provide faster service.

"We're happy to be going back to our normal facility," said **1st Lt. Gail Gregor**, director of medical logistics for ASTS. "We will be able to provide physicals at our own place starting with the May UTA."

The AES renovation consists of a new sprinkler system, improved offices and training areas, more classroom space and new carpeting.

After four UTAs of inconvenience and disruptions of service, **Lt. Col. John Lawver**, AES training director, believes the hassles were worth the wait. "It's an investment you have to make," he said. "We know that we will be more efficient than before we remodeled." □

Right, Senior Airman Paul Ellingworth, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, helped moving items into the remodeled facility during the April UTA.



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

Not for the squeamish

Services members hold sobering responsibilities in mortuary affairs

Tech Sgt. Larry Dean
Public Affairs

Ten members of the 934th Services Squadron are back home following a March 11-14 mortuary affairs course at Dover Air Force Base, Del. The training gave them the chance to see the actions involved with checking and processing casualties before they are returned home from the main Air Force mortuary affairs staging area.

"The training is required for all members of our squadron before the end of the year and is a real eye-opening experience to what many may not see as the job of a services squadron member," said **Tech Sgt. John Steffen**, SVS. "Many people may think of us as mainly food handlers in services."

Steffen noted the work is not for the squeamish, since it can involve working directly with the remains of a service member to verify identity and cause of death before the body is flown home for burial, or in processing information gathered in extensive testing.

"We also learned how to perform

our job of locating casualties at a crash site and the steps to prepare and remove remains to be further examined at Dover AFB," Steffen said. "The processing through Dover can take up to two or three days, depending upon the condition of the bodies, since there are about 20 stations that remains may be processed through to identify them and what caused their death."

He said some of those tests include DNA samples, fingerprinting, checking dental work, and a lot of paperwork. The processing is handled by multiple agencies as well, including the Department of Defense and the FBI.

"In deaths such as aircraft accidents or explosions, you can imagine how difficult it may be to identify the remains of an individual," he said. "That's why the process is a thorough and very professional one — the remains are never left alone until they are released to their families."

"It's also part of services mortuary responsibilities to notify next of kin of the death of a family member," Steffen continued. "The services squadron commander lets family members know what help the service can provide in

returning their loved one to the location they would like and handling the remains for funerals and burials." Details include whether or not the family would like their loved one returned in uniform or other specific clothing, he said.

"The process is a combination of the medical examiner role, like many may recall from the television show *Quincy*," said Steffen, "and the local assistance provided by a mortuary affairs firm in making sure all the funeral arrangements are complete. It's not glamorous, but it's a critical part of what we do to take care of our fallen members and get them back home to their family."

Steffen said that the training was very informative, and instructors there had about 30 years experience each in handling casualties ranging from deaths under normal circumstances to tragedies such as the Space Shuttle explosion.

"It's a fascinating and very detailed process," he said. "But it can obviously make some very squeamish with the needed processing of remains, even for those who have done it for years." □



Staff Sgt. Robert Walz

Viking Victors:

Master Sgt. David Hammer

Honor: Air Force Reserve Command Program Management Award 1998.

Unit/position: 934th Airlift Wing historian.

Education: Bachelor's in management information systems, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, Minn.; associate's in avionics systems, Community College of the Air Force; enrolled in associate's in aerospace historian, CCAF.

Hobbies: Biking, camping, photography.

Civilian career: Webmaster, Minnesota Department of Economic

Security, St. Paul, Minn.

Professional organizations: Lieutenant, firefighter, first responder and truck committee, Eagan Fire Department, Eagan, Minn.; assistant scout master, merit badge counselor, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 510, Eagan; public relations committee, Woodlake Lutheran Church, Richfield, Minn.

Goals: "Work to provide easy access to the wing history for unit members, develop a wing history book and improve the display case in the headquarters building and the wing public Web site." □

Tech Sgt. Larry Dean
Public Affairs

Crews from the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron traveled to River Falls, Wis., in April to complete initial land surveys in preparation for work creating the new **Ryan DeSanctis Park**.

Named after the son of **Master Sgt. Pete DeSanctis**, 934th Maintenance Squadron air reserve technician, the park is located on 20 acres the family donated in 1996 to River Falls. Ryan, now 14, survived a battle with spinal meningitis at age 4. The DeSanctis' gift represents their thanks to the community of River Falls who helped them throughout Ryan's illness.

"We were contacted by DeSanctis and the city of River Falls to find out if we could help them with the project," said **Maj. John Larson**, CES. "We took a look at the plans and needs of the city and found that the work offered us the chance to train our people using heavy equipment not normally available to us while providing a community service at the same time." (See story on process requirements, right.)

"We will have 12-15 of our people working there during a combination of unit training assembly and annual training," said **Master Sgt. Steve Nicolai**, pavements and equipment craftsman. "They will move 8,000 to 10,000 yards of dirt to make level land and gradual slopes and hills on various points."

The work will also create a location for a man-made pond on the park and include grating some areas for playground areas within the park.

"This is a project that is great for the community of River Falls and for the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron people who will get the chance to work with some heavy equipment that we would be using in a wartime tasking," Larson said. "(It) will provide a park for residents to enjoy for years to come."

City plans call for additional work on the land to create a nature center, playground areas throughout the park, basketball and tennis courts, and tree planting. Although civil engineers are not currently planning additional work on the grounds after moving dirt into position, they may be asked to participate in seeding and other development.

"Any additional work would be evaluated on whether it would provide training benefits to have our unit participate and would depend upon what other commitments we have on base," said Nicolai. "But this initial work will be a good start for the city toward creating this new park."

Civil engineers are coordinating with the city and the U.S. Army to obtain the heavy equipment and needed permits, insurance and miscellaneous logistics to start the work in July. They expect to complete their portion of the project in August. □

Engineering a miracle

Project celebrating child's victory over deadly disease receives valuable expertise from base reservists



Senior Airman Cliff Larson

Staff Sgt. Thomas Daigle, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, worked with a surveying crew during the April drill to begin work on **Ryan DeSanctis Park**.

Step by step

Projects must survive approval process

Though many local community projects deserve help drawn from special talent available in Air Force Reserve Command units, requirements are stringent, according to **Mark Davidson**, wing chief of public affairs.

Major criteria include:

- Unit members receive training from the work performed.
- Unit members serve in inactive duty or active-duty status.
- The requesting group submits letters stating they are a nonprofit organization, have no money to hire contractors and that the Reserve will not compete with local contractors for the project.
- The Reserve will not contribute supplies or materials.

Letters and supporting information are reviewed by both the chief of public affairs and the staff judge advocate. If all criteria are met, the proposal is submitted for the wing commander's approval. Upon his approval, the civil engineering squadron commander submits the package to Headquarters AFRC.

☎To initiate a community service project request or receive more information, call Davidson, Ext. 1217. □

Wing roundup

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson
The unit recently received a new pickup truck and 10-ton trailer to aid in meeting ever-growing demands on the unit. April 17-18 will be a rescheduled unit training assembly as the unit helps an Army battalion with airload, airdrop and deployment operations in an exercise at Camp Ripley, Minn. *At press time, the squadron was selected to receive the National Defense Transportation Association Unit Award, Air Reserve Components, after winning at the 22nd Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command levels; see coverage next month.*

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Staff Sgt. Shana Strozewski
The squadron has moved back to its newly-remodeled facility and thanks everyone involved for their patience in the past months of planning, moving and general chaos. During the April UTA, unit members prepared for future deployments, reviewing mobility folders. In May, 27 members travel to Yokota Air Base, Japan.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Michael Sanford
We are moving back into our newly-remodeled building and will be there for the May UTA. In April, unit members completed physicals, immunizations and extensive ancillary training.

96th Airlift Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jess Lind
The squadron will airdrop Navy Seals in San Diego, Calif. Squadron flight engineers completed an intense refresher course at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., in combat repair — repairing aircraft under fire.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews
Firefighters trained at a St. Paul, Minn., structure fire exercise and also provided short-notice fire/rescue support for U.S. Marine C-130 aircrews as they trained in night-flying operations at Camp Ripley. Electrical specialists analyzed additional circuitry needs for the remodeled medical building and prepared an installation plan.

934th Communications Flight

Staff Sgt. Robert Walz
New members in mobility positions went through training for the first time in preparation for the May exercise. Chemical warfare bags were prepared and mobility packets reviewed. Following a mission change, the unit's mobility pallet had to be rearranged during the April drill.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Senior Airman Martina Delp
The unit is preparing for the May mobility exercise.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken
Maintenance launched one aircraft and four people

heading to North Island Naval Air Station, Calif., to assist the Navy Seals. Many members attended various ancillary training classes.

934th Operations Support Flight

Master Sgt. Cara Utecht
Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Stemig is busy preparing for the annual escape and evasion exercise at Camp Ripley in June. Base operations completed a nine-day annual tour at Nellis AFB, Nev., and **Maj. Dave Olafson** performed a tour of duty in Panama during February and March, supporting the 96th AS.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Niklas Hammarberg
In April, members completed mobility processing, weapons qualification on the M-870, weapons cleaning and maintenance, and mobility pallet buildup. A number of full-time positions in SFS are available, so anyone interested should contact **Master Sgt. Bryan Voigt**, Ext. 1808.

934th Services Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Pamela Peck
Not available.

Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight

Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez
Despite the cold weather and rain, more than 70 percent of members assigned completed the three-mile walk in April. The plans office is busy finalizing the May mobility exercise schedule. The chapel section attended critical incident stress

management training at Andrews AFB, Md., April 8-10. The training enables members to assist those affected by extremely stressful situations, such as natural disasters, mass casualties or accidents. □



Wing around the world:

May

- 27th APS:** Delaware, Texas.
- 934th AES:** Bosnia, Florida, Germany, Illinois, Japan, Saudi Arabia.
- 934th ASTS:** Maryland, Texas.
- 96th AS:** Colorado, Florida.
- 934th AW HQ/MSF:** Georgia, Mississippi.
- 934th CES:** Alabama, Texas.
- 934th CF:** Georgia.
- 934th LSS:** Maryland.
- 934th MXS:** California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, New York.
- 934th OSF:** No travel.
- 934th SFS:** Kuwait, New Jersey, Texas.
- 934th SVS:** Not available.

This list shows official travel destinations for wing members, via commercial or military transportation. For space-available travel information, call the 96th Airlift Squadron, 713-1741, or the local Air National Guard wing, 713-2450. □

Work hard, play hard

Long-awaited off-station annual tour deemed success

Tech. Sgt. Anne Huhtala
934th Communications Flight

When **Tech. Sgt. Dick Loesch** rounded the corner of the building at the eleventh hole during an off-duty game of golf, an alligator faced him about 30 feet away.

Though he lost a golf ball to *that* gator, Loesch shared technology skills and experience at another "gator": a Ground Air Transmit Receive communications hub.

"Work hard, play hard" is how the 934th Communications Flight served March 13-27 on a two-week annual tour, augmenting the 325th Communications Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., receiving an open invitation to return anytime. This was the first annual tour as a unit since the 1996 operational readiness inspection, and the first off-base tour since 1995.

According to **Capt. Kirby Bauer**, commander, an annual tour away from home base allows a focus on primary training without the distraction of additional duties.

"Personnel are exposed to new technology and methods of operation we don't have at our home base but may use in the new Air Expeditionary Force structure," Bauer said.

The extended tour enabled members to interact more than possible during unit training assembly weekends. Following sizeable changeover and influx of people recently, several new members said they learned more about their comrades in two weeks than they would have during two years of UTAs.

The tour provided training opportunity in the areas of command, radio, telephone, secure communications, small computers, visual information and information management.

Command

Bauer, commander; **Senior Master Sgt. Karen Wilson**, superintendent; **Master Sgt. Rick Ensenbach**, acting first sergeant.

Activities: Managing and supporting overall annual tour.

Radio

3C1X1, operator: **Tech. Sgts. Mike Thorner** and **Penny Billings**, **Airman Sara Webb**.

2E1X3, maintenance: **Tech. Sgt. Dick Loesch**, **Senior Airman Mark Schmidt**.

Activities: Technical tours of communications sites and the air traffic control radio and mobile communications shop. Also, working in the "gator" — Ground Air Transmit Receive — the communications hub supporting air traffic control and F-15 training, airborne warning and control systems and southeast air defense sector. Loesch also received kudos for helping with public address system problems during Tyndall's annual air show.

Telephone

2E6X3: **Tech. Sgt. Jeff Sonsalla**, **Senior Airman Nate Behrends**, **Airman 1st Class Barry Torseth**.

Activities: Installing phones; training on the DMS100 telephone switch and a specialized computer to locate and solve routine, daily telephone problems; and troubleshooting on outside phone lines.

Secure communications

2E3X1: **Tech. Sgts. Tim Mikesh**, **Allen Williams** and **Joe Kniesz**; **Senior Airman Shawn Mason**.

Activities: Working on cryptographic systems equipment, troubleshooting and bench testing KG-194 and KIV-7 equipment, working on cables and racks, and consolidating crypto equipment from two locations to one.

Small computers

3COX1, software: **Staff Sgts. Paul Gulenchyn**, **Mike Allen**, **Ed Cox** and **Bob Zak**; **Senior Airmen John Herrick** and **Rich Thompson**; **Airman 1st Class Blake Robertson**.

Activities: Computer-based training in networking and applications software; attending a networking class that included training on network administration and loading, configuration and administration of network server Microsoft NT; help desk functions; and hands-on experience with systems inaccessible at Minneapolis.

Because of extensive experience in their civilian careers, flight members helped relieve a critical shortage in the network control center's server management area and provided training for 325th CS members. Also, the host unit donated computer equipment to 934th members for a local test lab.

2E2X1, hardware: **Master Sgt. Charlie Epps III**, **Staff Sgt. Eric Ortiz**.

Activities: Learning job control, using assorted software, working on a variety of peripherals such as printers and hard drives, training in topologies and assorted troubleshooting techniques for wireless network, and using assorted test equipment.

Visual Information

3VOX2: **Senior Airman Cliff Larson**.

Activities: Photography for 934th use and historical records and training in basic photography techniques, including scanning non-digital photos and negatives.

Information Management

3AOX1: **Master Sgt. Ed Johnson**, **Tech. Sgt. Anne Huhtala**, **Staff Sgt. Robert Rodriguez**.

Activities: Training in records management, benchmarking on operating procedures in the orderly room and administration section as well as work group management operations, streamlining forms program computer-based training, assisting the help desk supervisor with trouble calls, facilitating design of a work group administration refresher course and conducting classes. □

Wing Civil Servants of the Year 1998

Leo Bosard

Unit/position:

Department of Defense Security Forces, desk sergeant.

Job

responsibilities:

Security control desk, midnight shift, operating base fire/intrusion systems and specialized computer systems.

Hobbies: Scuba diving – rescue diver with night and ice diving

specialties, hunting, fishing, amateur radio/advanced class license.

Military career: Active-duty Army, 1977-1980, serving in Germany as a cavalry scout, unit armorer. Army Reserve, 1980-1982, supply sergeant. Active-duty Army, 1982-1983, recruiter. Army Reserve, 1986-1989, anti-armor infantryman and retention noncommissioned officer.

Professional organizations: Minnesota Part-time Peace Officer's Association, Fraternal Order of Police, American Radio Relay League, Minnesota Firearms Safety Instructor's Association.

Goals: "Continue my education and training in the law enforcement/public safety field. Complete a transition from the sport diver level to the professional diver level. In the near future, I hope to pass my extra class amateur radio license exam."

Comments: "I think it's great to receive recognition for doing my job. I don't believe I've done any more than anyone else, given the same opportunities and situations. I tend to take on extra tasks but only because it makes me feel good and not for some 'greater good.' If it were not for some great co-workers, I wouldn't be receiving this award." □



Cherie Huntington

Bosard

Thomas Stratton

Unit/position:

934th Logistics Group, maintenance supply liaison.

Job

responsibilities:

Monitor all parts ordered for aircraft maintenance, act as focal point for supply-related problems for all of maintenance.

Hobbies: Camping, coin collecting, reading and "just spending quality time with my kids."

Military career:

Almost 13 years active-duty Air Force, serving in England, Florida, Idaho, Montana and Turkey, as well as deploying to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. Served seven years in the Reserve, first with the 934th, 1992-1994; then with the 440th Airlift Wing, Milwaukee, Wis., 1994-1997; then back with the 934th. Became an air reserve technician in 1995.

Professional organizations: Hiawatha Lions Club, Minneapolis; VFW Post 151, Mankato, Minn.; committee chairman, Boy Scout Troop 185, South Minneapolis; board of youth, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Richfield, Minn.

Goals: "Get myself and my two boys through college. Someday I would like to put myself in a position where I can help others through my own experiences."

Comments: "I feel honored to be chosen for such an award among so many outstanding professionals. The 934th has many excellent performers who are all very deserving, and to receive this honor is amazing. A big thank-you to those who nominated me." □



Cherie Huntington

Stratton

Medals

Aerial Achievement Medal

- Staff Sergeant David Fisher, MXS, medal and first oak leaf cluster, *Operation Southern Watch 1998*
- Staff Sgt. Donald Fletcher, MXS, *Operation Southern Watch 1998*

Air Force Commendation Medal

- Maj. Mark Johnson, MSF, first oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal

- Senior Airman Shana Strozewski, AES

Promotions

- The following are Promotion Enhancement Program accelerated advances:

- Tech. Sgt. Steven Pittman, MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Christopher Rumriech, CES
- Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Sonsalla, CF
- Master Sgt. Dean Swann, AW
- Master Sgt. Robert Swartout, CES

- The following members have been selected for the rank of colonel:

- Lt. Col. Mary Hanson, ASTS
- Lt. Col. Paul Groskreutz, SPTG
- Lt. Col. Rocco Maffei Jr., AW
- Lt. Col. Lou Anne Page, AES

Newcomers

- Staff Sgt. Darrin Askevold, APS, *prior service Navy*
- Staff Sgt. Lawrence Breiner, APS, *prior service Air Force*
- Senior Airman Gary Cangil, SFS, *Air Reserve Personnel Center, Colo.*
- Senior Airman Cari Dickhudt, ASTS, ARPC
- Senior Airman Louis Dutra, LSS, ARPC

- Senior Airman Bernard Gillmore, LSS, *prior service Army National Guard*
 - Sgt. Derek Green, MXS, *Minnesota Air National Guard*
 - Staff Sgt. Lee Hansen, MXS, ARPC
 - Staff Sgt. Stephen Hawkins, CES, *prior service Navy*
 - Staff Sgt. Steven Johnson, MSF, *prior service Air Force*
 - Senior Airman Brian Knutson, CES, *Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.*
 - Airman Basic Paul Kraft, MSF, *non-prior service*
 - Senior Airman Shannon Lee, SFS, ARPC
 - Staff Sgt. Troy Odella, CES, *Minnesota ANG*
 - Senior Airman Samantha Packard, APS, ARPC
 - Senior Airman Troy Pousardien, CF, *Grand Forks AFB*
 - 1st Lt. Lloyd Reimers, ASTS, ARPC
 - Senior Airman Charles Reinard, MXS, *Beale AFB, Calif.*
 - Staff Sgt. Bruce Rineer, OSF, *Minnesota Army National Guard*
 - Staff Sgt. Denise Sanders, AES, *Kelly AFB, Texas*
 - Senior Airman Craig Slavik, APS, *prior service Army Reserve*
 - Senior Airman Aimee Stewart, ASTS, *Shaw AFB, S.C.*
 - Staff Sgt. Joseph Sunde, AES, *prior service Army National Guard*
 - Staff Sgt. Thomas Theis, MSF, *prior service Air Force*
 - Airman 1st Class Sally Welter, AES, *non-prior service*
 - Staff Sgt. Joseph Wong, MXS, ARPC
 - Staff Sgt. Andres Waszczenko, MXS, ARPC
- Air reserve technicians:**
- Tech. Sgt. Timothy Atchley, ASTS, *local reservist*

- Maj. Randy Hatten, MSF, *Barksdale AFB, La.*
 - Staff Sgt. Thomas Jorgensen, MXS, *local reservist*
 - Tech. Sgt. Alan McCann, MXS, *local reservist*
- Civilians:**
- George Hunt Jr., SGPB, *retired Air Force*

Re-enlistments

- Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Adriaens, CES
- Staff Sgt. Michael Cleveland, CES
- Staff Sgt. Edward Cox, CF
- Airman 1st Class Rachel Curilli, SVS
- Master Sgt. Linda Davidson, OSF
- Staff Sgt. James Erickson, MXS
- Master Sgt. David Friestad, MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Geraldine Garoutte, APS
- Senior Airman Joseph Gentile Jr., MXS
- Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Gustafson, CES
- Staff Sgt. Jesse Hagen, APS
- Tech. Sgt. David Hardy, SFS
- Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Irving, ASTS
- Master Sgt. Donald Johnson Jr., APS
- Tech. Sgt. Philip Kinnunen, SFS
- Master Sgt. Eugene Kirk, CES
- Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kruger, SVS
- Senior Master Sgt. Robert McGonigal, LSS
- Master Sgt. Sterling Meyer, LSS
- Master Sgt. Craig Molm, LSS
- Tech. Sgt. David Nelson, CES
- Senior Airman Melissa Newell, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Terence Otis, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Ian Owen, MXS
- Master Sgt. Dan Pekel, MXS
- Master Sgt. Anthony Polisen, LSS
- Tech. Sgt. Wade Priest, MXS
- Senior Airman Lucas Resemius, CES

- Staff Sgt. Robert Rice, CES
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Rieland, AS
- Tech. Sgt. Christopher Sayre, LSS
- Senior Airman Guillermo Simkins, MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Steffens, CES
- Senior Airman Scott Strader, AS
- Tech. Sgt. Gregory Tackaberry, APS
- Tech. Sgt. Gary Vick, MXS
- Airman 1st Class Ryan Wallin, SVS
- Staff Sgt. Bradley Weis, SFS
- Staff Sgt. Kevin Wogan, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Brian Wollak, SFS

Achievements

- **1st Lt. Ed Hawkins**, AES, was selected as the April "Member of the Month."

- **Staff Sgt. Don O'Bert**, OSF, was selected as the "Supporter of the Quarter."

- The 109th Airlift Squadron selected its airmen of the quarter for October through December 1998: **Senior Master Sgt. John Skarhus** and **Tech. Sgt. Tom Kim**.

Education

- **Staff Sgt. Diane Johnson**, AS, completed her operations resource management career development course with a score of 94.

- **Staff Sgt. Jim Running**, APS, graduated from transportation proficiency school with a 97.5 percent average.

- **Senior Airman Angela West**, ASTS, completed her medical technician CDC with a score of 90.

(PEOPLE, continued on next page)

Services Briefs

NCO Club

Disc jockey play will be featured on Saturday, May 1, at 8:30 p.m.

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

Officers Club

• **A Cinco De Mayo party** will be held Wednesday, May 5, in the lounge. Hot and cold snacks, beverage specials, free prizes and Spanish music will be featured. The event is free for club members and \$5 for guests.

• **Mother's Day dinner** will be offered on Sunday, May 9, featuring a choice of dijon chicken or grilled salmon, plus dessert tray selections. Cost is \$11.95; kids 12 and under, \$5.95. Reservations are required, and there will be a special kids' menu.

☎For reservations or information, call Ext. 3678.

Fitness center

• **Hours have been extended** at the fitness center on unit training assembly. On Saturday, hours are 6 a.m.-7 p.m.; on Sunday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

• **A golf event** will be held Saturday, June 5, at the Highland Golf Course, St. Paul, Minn. The cost is \$27, including green fees, balls, food, beverage and prizes. Twenty tee times are reserved for a game of best ball. Sign up and pay at the fitness center by Saturday, May 2.

• **The Gopher Walking Club** offers walk times at 11 a.m., noon, 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sign up at the fitness center before each walk.

☎Call for a schedule of court times available, Ext. 1GYM. □

Community outreach

Recruiters need assistance in area activities

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing are needed to assist in numerous recruiting events in the community. Call recruiting, Ext. 1456, to volunteer or receive more information on the following events:

- **June 6:** Crystal, Minn., Airport Day
- **June 6-7:** Mankato, Minn., Thunderbirds show
- **June 27:** Air shows in St. Cloud, Minn.; and La Crosse, Wis.

- **July 14:** Madison, Wis., Thunderbirds show
- **July 15-18:** Ramsey County, Minn., county fair and parade
- **July 31-Aug. 1:** Minnesota Military Expo, 934th AW
- **Aug. 3:** Maplewood, Minn., National Night Out
- **Sept. 18-19:** Metropolitan Airports Commission Airport Days, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. □

People ...

(Continued from previous page)

• The following members graduated from the Leadership Development Program in April:

- Tech. Sgt. Gary Athey, MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Crystal Bell, LG
- Staff Sgt. Scott Benson, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Eugene Eberhardt, AS
- Staff Sgt. Curtis Hochstetler, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Richard Hofmann, CF
- Staff Sgt. Brian Iverson, LSS
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Jacobson, MSF
- Tech. Sgt. Calvin Johnson, APS
- Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kim, AS
- Tech. Sgt. Randall Lenton, AS
- Tech. Sgt. Bernardette Lunde, MSF
- Staff Sgt. Gerard Marking, APS
- Staff Sgt. Leo Moreno, SFS
- Staff Sgt. Thomas Olson, SFS
- Staff Sgt. Anthony Osborne, CES
- Staff Sgt. Paul Oven, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Ian Owen, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Rieland, AS
- Staff Sgt. Randy Schmidt, MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Gordon Stransky, MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Gregory Tackaberry, APS
- Staff Sgt. Gregory Teslow, CF
- Staff Sgt. Thomas Whiteford, CES

Engagements/ marriages

• **John Dittrich II**, APS, and **Debra Huffman** are engaged and have set a wedding date of Oct. 1.

• **Timothy Tamlyn**, CES, and **Malinda Miller** were married March 27.

Births

• **Cathy Goldsmith** and **Jeremy Bethke**, both of CES, have a new son **Jameson Carl Bethke**, born April 7, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

• **Rich Hanson**, ASTS, and his wife, **Mary**, have a new son, **Jacob Richard**, born Feb. 26, weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces.

• **Rebecca Rodriguez**, AW, and her husband, **Robert**, CF, have a new son, **Jacob Alexander**, born April 10, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

• **Bob Schulte**, ASTS, and his wife, **Kathy**, have a new daughter, **Brooke Katherine**, born March 9, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

Taps

Senior Master Sgt. Wilbur Thomas, retired, passed away March 23. He served many years in the wing in a number of military and civilian positions. He retired militarily as an air reserve technician in maintenance. As a civilian, he served in civilian personnel and in what is now information systems as an assistant chief and chief, retiring in the late 1980s. □