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

# VIKING FLYER



Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

934th Logistics Support Squadron shines as 'mirror force' serving alongside active-duty members in Nevada

## Ace annual tour

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### Inside the VF

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### On the cover

Senior Airman  
Erik Wilson,  
934th Logistics  
Support Squadron,  
is all smiles on his  
way home after a  
successful annual  
tour at Nellis Air  
Force Base, Nev.  
For news on the  
squadron's  
accomplishments,  
see Pages 6-7.



Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

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### News on the run ...

- *April lunch entrees:* Saturday, **meat loaf, barbecued chicken;** Sunday, **beef stroganoff, fish.**
- *UTAs:* **May 6-7, June 3-4, July 8-9, Aug. 5-6, Sept. 9-10**
- *April UTA pay date:* **April 12**

## Commentary

# New Reserve 'world order'

## Reservist service priorities reflect changes, challenges

Col. Dean Despinoy  
Wing Commander

**M**any organizations within the 934th are experiencing the Air Expeditionary Force up close and personal this year. To say this concept has had a smooth beginning would be an overstatement, but considering the world affairs during the time of implementation, the fact that it is working at all is somewhat a surprise.

As we rolled into this fiscal year's cycle, Air Force Reserve Command had several units deployed and activated. Therefore, it was required to hand massage the process in a "take from Peter to pay Paul" concept. What resulted was single individuals from single organizations were called upon by the AEF cell to fill a shortfall. This process was effective but certainly did nothing to stabilize the scheduling process and make it more predictable.

To further exacerbate the problem, people used their availability for the backfill, and then when a unit arrived in the period of their assigned Expeditionary Aerospace Force, their people had little or no availability left for that fiscal year. This led to a ripple effect of producing backfill requirements in the near future to fill backfill requirements today. It appears, however, that things are finally settling down in many areas.

Once we get on a "normal cycle" — to be defined sometime in the future — most organizations should be able to develop a rhythm. One year do the AEF, the next a traditional annual tour, the third an expeditionary operational readiness inspection credited activity. In the original plan, there was to be four years between AEF cycles, but I expect most units will see only three years. If you are lucky enough to get the fourth (bonus) year, enjoy another traditional annual tour.

The cycle as described is not automatic. It will take very deliberate planning on each squadron commander's part as well as each individual in the organization.



Despinoy

I highly encourage each and every one of you to help your squadron develop a realistic plan to accomplish the AEF and EORI each cycle. Waiting to the last minute will take the process out of your hands and make the experience less pleasant for everyone.

While you are doing this planning, develop your annual tour plan as well. The traditional annual tour should be viewed as the reward for working hard the other years. Remember my adage, "Training can be fun," if you do it right. Just make sure you don't forget to mix in a heaping helping of that "T" ingredient.

I have indicated that most people will use their annual tour to perform their AEF responsibilities. To be more correct, I should say they would use their annual tour availability. Adding more confusion to the AEF process for reservists is the fact that you can not be in annual tour status. You must perform an active duty tour, or ADT.

If you have enough availability and wish to also perform annual tour during the same fiscal year, more power to you. However, if your availability is limited and you need to use your annual tour availability for AEF, a letter will be sent to me requesting an "in lieu of" tour which will substitute the period of active duty tour during the AEF for your required annual tour.

I wish to make clear the priority for AEF, EORI and annual tour. If your

(WING COMMANDER, continued on Page 4)

# 'Future force' key to Air Force

Each person's recruiting skills represent potential to strengthen military

**Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete**  
355th Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant,  
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

**I** am often asked about the Air Force and what makes it so successful in transforming young men and women into self-assured, responsible and courageous leaders.

And I tell them: It's because from the moment we raise our hands and recite that patriotic oath at the time of our enlistment, we fervently believe that we belong to a cause that is larger than ourselves.

The words – "... I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic ..." – remind us that when we took our oath, we pledged our allegiance to the Constitution and the nation – they are what we serve.

Do you remember the place and time when you recited those words? The lump in your throat as you committed your life to preserve the rights and freedoms of others? Well, maybe you didn't know this, but our Air Force is having a difficult time getting our nation's citizens to take on that noble and courageous call to duty.

Our Air Force has issued a call to help bring in new recruits. Whether you realize it or not, each and every one of us owes it to our nation to keep a strong and viable Air Force. We can do this by remembering we are all recruiters and we unknowingly recruit all the time.

Anytime someone knows you are involved with the Air Force, active duty, reserves or civilian, you are recruiting. Every conversation you have, even the most casual conversation while you fill your vehicle with gas or order at a fast-food restaurant, can have a far-reaching impact on recruiting. Wearing your uniform proudly as you

travel from one temporary duty location to another can unknowingly place that patriotic seed in someone's mind and make them think about the armed forces, specifically the Air Force, and their call to duty.

We at Davis-Monthan are fervently taking on this issue. Our program to get new recruits into the Air Force is called "Future Force." We are implementing this in every

**Each and every one of us owes it to our nation to keep a strong and viable Air Force.**

squadron by having them adopt a high school. The objective is to get out there and show these high school students what the Air Force has to offer. You, too, can sign up to give speeches at the schools, bring interested students to your work place for a tour, or talk to informal groups. Whether you're career Air Force or serving one or two terms, we need you to get involved. Civilians, officers and enlisted – take on the challenge of Future Force and recruit one new person! To find out how you can get involved or assist in such a noble and worthwhile cause, call your public affairs office or wing recruiters.

Twenty-plus years ago when a young man walked into my high school wearing his sharp, crisp, professional-looking uniform, little did I know that would be a turning point in my life – to serve my country. When I raised my hand and pledged my allegiance to my country, I became the future force – that was then.

It is now our turn to ensure the most respected Air Force around the world has a future force – right now. Commit to this worthwhile cause and make a difference. You'll be glad you did. *(Air Force Print News)* □

## Recruiters face roadblocks in replenishing force

**A**ccess to schools, educational assistance programs and corporate recruiting were listed as some of the top obstacles faced by military recruiters who spoke before the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on personnel recently.

In written remarks presented to the committee, **Lt. Gen. Donald L. Peterson**, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel, said, "We are experiencing the longest sustained economic growth period in our nation's history that shows no sign of slowing down. The job market is strong, especially in the high-tech industries, and the percentage of college-bound youths has increased to 65 percent, further reducing the number of potential recruits."

Recruiters face a growing number of school districts banning military recruiters on campus and refusing to make school directories available.

Also, recruiters contend with school counselors advising against military service, school systems graded by the number of students who go to college, and parents with military backgrounds who advise their children against joining the service because of perceived diminished benefits.

The Air Force relies heavily on a professional, highly skilled and experienced work force. "It is clearly more effective to retain our experienced force versus retraining a new one," Peterson said. *(AFPN)* □

## Air Force

### Officials stand firm on anthrax vaccination program

Department of Defense officials said they have no intention of ending their program of mandatory anthrax vaccinations for service members, despite a House of Representatives panel's recommendation that the program should be suspended.

"The Department of Defense is very confident in the anthrax program that we have undertaken," said **Dr. Sue Bailey**, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "We have a very safe and effective vaccine against a very deadly biologic agent that we know to be in the hands of many of our adversaries." *(Air Force Print News)*

### Travel card use made mandatory

Service members and Department of Defense civilians now have until May 1 before use of the government travel credit card is mandatory.

The Travel and Transportation Reform Act, which took effect March 1, mandates using the card for all authorized expenses while on official government travel. *(AFPN)*

## Reserve

### Family initiatives gear up Readiness strategic plan released

The Department of Defense studied the problems of family readiness within the reserve forces, issuing the "National Guard and Reserve

Family Readiness Strategic Plan: 2000-2005."

"The 'missioning' of the reserve components has changed dramatically," said **Charles Cragin**, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, "yet we really hadn't focused on how their operations tempo was impacting on members' families."

The plan established four goals:

- Support of mission readiness through family readiness,
- Develop family readiness programs and services,
- Provide reserve forces members equitable and accessible benefits and entitlements, and
- Standardize family readiness programs across the services and within the services.

☐ The strategic plan is available now online at:

<http://raweb.osd.mil/publications/handbooks/StratPlan.pdf>

Also, Cragin's office has released a reserve component family member benefits guide:

<http://raweb.osd.mil/publications/handbooks/Benefits.pdf> *(AFPN)*

### Council plans Reserve family survey

Air Force Reserve Command Volunteer Advisory Council members encourage all Reserve families to complete a questionnaire being mailed to homes in early spring. Family member input and opinions about experiences with the Reserve will be sought.

All responses and identifying information will remain confidential. Completed questionnaires are returned to AFRC headquarters.

☐ Anyone with questions may call the 934th Family Readiness Center, Ext. 1516. ☐

## Wing commander ...

*(Continued from Page 2)*

unit is responsible for an assigned AEF, it takes priority over everything else. In some cases, a unit's AEF requirement does not take all of their people. Therefore, it is possible that a portion of the unit could be doing AEF while the other is doing an annual tour.

The problem comes if the AEF responsibilities are shortfalled but the shortfalled Air Force Specialty Code is filled for the annual tour, especially if it is during the same time. Put simply, if you have availability for annual tour, April 1-15, then you have availability for AEF, April 1-15.

One wing commander already has had to cancel a unit's annual tour because they had lots of

availability for the annual tour but no availability for the AEF, which was at the same time.

The next priority is the EORI. It no longer is accomplished as a wing or even a squadron but as individual UTCs, or unit type codes, that must be scheduled and coordinated with the inspector general to receive credit. An individual squadron may have several UTCs, and each one of those UTCs must be separately scheduled.

Ideally, we will look for "real world" deployment opportunities or exercises to also get EORI credit. It will require a call to the inspector general for them to witness the deployment and employment of the UTC. In most cases it would still leave the ability to survive and operate requirement for that UTC.

It might be necessary for the squadron commander to schedule all or a portion of the UTC for an EORI exercise in order to receive ATSO credit. Until all portions are complete, the UTC does not receive EORI credit. Of course, you will need to do it all over again during the next cycle. Once you have the AEF and the EORI scheduled each cycle, then you can fill in the off years with annual tour.

A good understanding of all the requirements and good communication with your squadron commanders and staff is the best way to ensure that no one is surprised. So start making those plans now.

If you have questions on any of these requirements, ask your supervisors or use the "Q and A" time during my next commander's call. Keep up the great work. ☐

## Education cash Two new Reserve programs promise higher benefits

**I**n an effort to stimulate recruiting and retention, Air Force Reserve Command plans to offer two new education incentive programs to reservists and individual mobilization augmentees.

The programs are the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve "Kicker" program and a full tuition assistance program (see story, this page).

"I think it's absolutely great," said **Tech. Sgt. Helenka "Candy" Sommers**, 934th Airlift Wing line recruiter at the Maplewood, Minn., office. "It is something to offer new recruits."

To qualify, reservists must:

- Commit to a six-year enlistment in a critical Air Force Specialty Code identified by the Office of the Air Force Reserve, which also qualifies the member for an enlistment bonus,
- Participate in the Selected Reserve,
- Complete initial active-duty training,
- Hold a high school diploma or equivalent, and
- Be enrolled in an approved institution.

In addition to the MGIB basic benefit, kicker recipients receive \$350 per month up to a maximum of 36 months for full-time students. The program is a congressional initiative designed to bolster recruiting and retention.

"When you add your basic pay, basic benefit of \$255 per month, and the kicker of \$350," said Sommers, "that comes out to almost \$800 for a first time E-3 [airman first class]. That's really nice!"

She said there are other



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

incentives for joining the Reserve other than the education benefits, which make the 934th attractive to recruits.

"We sell a lot more than education," she said. "We have high-tech training, teamwork, quality of life and esprit de corps. For the 934th, the biggest benefit, especially to prior service, is the family-oriented atmosphere, since we are a small but close unit."

Reserve officials are working on the programs and plan to start them later this fiscal year. Implementation depends on the availability of fiscal 2000 funding. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service) □

### Tuition boost

Program expansion raises annual cap to \$2,500

**T**he new Air Force Reserve Tuition Assistance Incentive Program will expand the existing Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support tuition assistance program, known as DANTES.

The new program will offer tuition assistance to all eligible reservists seeking education up to a bachelor's degree. Tuition assistance is payable for up to 75 percent of tuition costs not to exceed \$187 per semester hour, up to a maximum incentive of \$2,500 per year, raising the annual cap from \$1,500.

"Education benefits are one of the biggest incentives that most recruits are looking to obtain," said **Tech. Sgt. Helenka "Candy" Sommers**, 934th Airlift Wing line recruiter in the Maplewood, Minn., office. "This will definitely make us more noticeable."

The Reserve began its DANTES program in October 1997. Command training officials say they will announce eligibility requirements and new program features at a later date. (AFRCNS) □

## Reserve forces take on Banner Express 2000

**T**he 934th Airlift Wing tackled a new mission tasking in March, supporting presidential airlift.

"Banner Express 2000" was established this fiscal year, designated as a Reserve and Guard mission. At least one aircraft from each command serves on call at

### Wing tasked for special presidential support mission

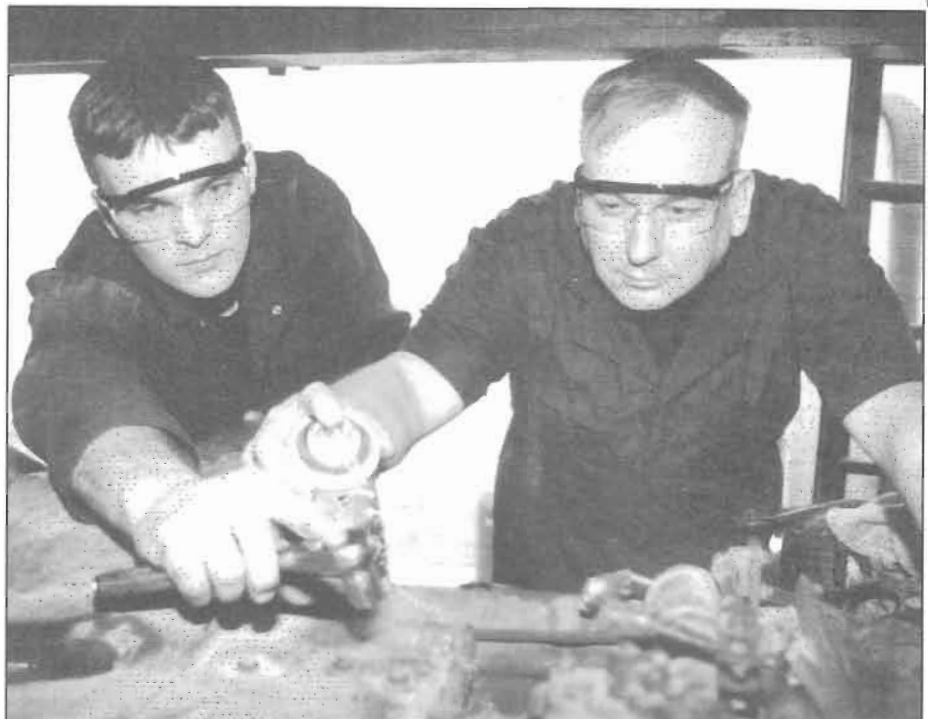
Andrews Air Force Base, Md., for a week at a time. The mission supports increased airlift requirements during the election year and is expected to continue through the fall. Banner

Express missions support the president and Secret Service, often involving movement of communications equipment.

The ongoing presidential support mission is called "Phoenix Banner," involving support of the president, vice president and Secret Service. □



**Staff Sgt. Charles Klinkner, right, and an active-duty member check in stock using a bar-code reader.**



*Photos by Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch*

**Tech. Sgt. James Mueller, right, 934th Logistics Support Squadron, and an active-duty member remove a hydraulic system cover plate of a cargo loader.**

# Helping hands

## Training, experience gained in augmentation of active-duty squadron

**Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch**  
Public Affairs

**F**orty members of the 934th Logistics Support Squadron deployed to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., for annual tour and found excellent training, hard work and a welcome break from freezing weather and snowy streets.

Although the Nevada weather was in stark contrast to the Upper Midwest, training and duty requirements were very much the same as reservists proved once more that "Total Force" works.

Total Force and "Mirror Force" calls for reserve and active-duty forces to blend seamlessly together, and that's exactly what happened.

"You wouldn't know the difference," said **Master Sgt. Tony Polisenio**, vehicle mechanic supervisor.

By the second day, reservists were making engine and safety modifications, repairs and upgrades; pulling engines; and conducting classes on forklift safety and operations for reservists and active-duty mechanics.

Deployment planning began more than one year ago, according to **Chief Master Sgt. Dave Chapman**,

superintendent. Normal training requirements are met at home station; however, some training can only occur where the facilities and opportunities exist, such as Nellis.

"This is an excellent opportunity for everyone, Reserve and active-duty folks, to prove Mirror Force works," said Chapman, "and for us to blend in with our active duty counterparts. This is critical as we move toward the AEF [air expeditionary force] model of doing business."

Having the opportunity to put their skills to the test was another advantage to reservists training at Nellis.

"Our vehicles are used a little during the week but mostly only one weekend a month," said **Staff Sgt. Martina Delp**, vehicle maintenance apprentice, as she worked on a 25K cargo loader with a malfunctioning parking brake.

"They're in great shape. Here, there's a lot more going on. I'm learning how to troubleshoot problems."

**Chief Master Sgt. Ken Passno**, Nellis vehicle maintenance manager, oversaw the training and duties of eight reservists. "They are here for training, but they also bring us very specialized expertise," he said. With many reservists holding civilian jobs relating to their Air Force

*(Continued on next page)*



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career field, "These folks can teach us a few tricks of the trade that aren't taught in technical school," Passno said.

Reservists also help active-duty units keep pace with growing demands of exercises and deployments.

"We've helped vehicle maintenance get to 103 percent of available ready equipment," said **Tech. Sgt. Gary Rolli**, transportation shop supervisor.

Reservists took advantage of all training opportunities, especially those not available in Minneapolis. The active-duty's 99th Supply Squadron used a wireless, computerized system of inventory demand processing, a process not yet available here.

"Someday we'll get this equipment," said **Master Sgt. LaVerne Terwey**, noncommissioned officer in charge of demand processing. "Meanwhile, we've received great



*Far left photo, Senior Airman Barbara Ostler, right, supply management, and an active-duty member check inventory.*

*Left, Staff Sgt. Martina Delp, front, and Senior Airman Eric Drexler adjust hydraulic hoses on a cargo loader.*

exposure to the systems we'll use when we're deployed.

Unlike an active-duty base, the 934th has no requirement to process inbound and outbound people and household goods. The Nellis Traffic Management Office provided needed training with processing freight and personal property.

"We learn all the systems that we don't have back home," said **Tech. Sgt. Alma De La Garza**, air transportation specialist. Those systems include quality control, ensuring civilian shippers pack and unpack household goods properly.

"It is so nice to learn all the different parts of TMO, like shipping personal property and customer service," De La Garza continued. "... This is a great base and an awesome annual tour."

The 65-degree weather presented more training advantages than a Minnesota winter. Learning to back up a tractor trailer was a required upgrade task put on hold for **Master Sgt. Jeff Nyhus**, materials inspection specialist, until the Nellis deployment.

"My training would have to wait until spring when the roads are clear of ice and snow back home," he said. "Here I get all the practice I need and get my core competencies checked off."

Reservists attended trainer and certifier classes for the Air Force Form 623, On-the-Job Training Record, as well as other readily-available classes, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The timing of the Minnesota deployment "couldn't have been better," said **Capt. Brian Haugen**, deployment commander. "The fuels, vehicle operations and maintenance folks were swamped with the exercises going on now, and we were happy to help." □



*Master Sgt. Jeff Nyhus, right, noncommissioned officer in charge of receiving, and Staff Sgt. Doug James go through tractor-trailer training.*

**27th Aerial Port Squadron**

*Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson*  
No report.

**934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron**

*Staff Sgt. Shana Strozewski*  
Block training continued in March. Our unit participated in valuable equipment training in our new medical simulation lab, and our flyers received contingency training on the plane. The unit is preparing and looking forward to its first operational mission for next unit training assembly.

**934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron**

*Staff Sgt. Gino Marchetti*  
The unit supported the wing's readiness requirements by performing physicals and immunizations in March.

**96th Airlift Squadron**

*Senior Airman Jess Lind*  
Unit members deployed to Puerto Rico in support of Coronet Oak. We also airlifted members of the medical squadron to Keesler Air Force Base, Texas, for their annual tour. In March, the unit will support presidential airlift, called Phoenix Banner, based out of Andrews AFB, Md.

**934th Civil Engineer Squadron**

*Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews*  
Unit members returned from their air expeditionary force tasking in Turkey, believed to be the first civil engineering unit in Air Force Reserve Command to meet an AEF tasking. Three firefighters traveled to Puerto Rico for support of Coronet Oak, a first-ever assignment for the squadron.

**934th Communications Flight**

*Staff Sgt. Stephanie Robinson*  
Members prepared gear for the 5th Combat

# Wing roundup



*Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch*

Communications Group tactical communications training course, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. Four members will attend the two-week course in May.

**934th Logistics Support Squadron**

*Tech. Sgt. Tom Stratton*  
The unit returned from annual tour at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and is planning for the 22nd Air Force staff assistance visit at the end of May. We are also conducting squadron chemical mask cleaning and inspection.

**934th Maintenance Squadron**

*Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken*  
Squadron members launched and recovered four sorties in support of the flying squadron's tactical missions on Saturday of the March drill. The Chicago shuttle and a cross-country mission to Mississippi were also supported. Post-inspection engine runs and operational checks were performed, and an isochronal inspection on an aircraft from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., was started.

**934th Operations Support Flight**

*Master Sgt. Cara Utecht*  
The intelligence section is preparing for the 22nd Air

Force staff assistance visit. Base operations members performed annual tour at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., in March. **Maj. Mark Montee** traveled to Hurlburt Field, Fla., to teach a course for the special operations school. We have members preparing to deploy to Italy and Germany.

**934th Security Forces Squadron**

*Staff Sgt. Tom Theis*  
A security forces patrolman found an unauthorized individual in the vicinity of the airport beacon on March 5. The individual, who had been living in a homeless shelter and had no money, was found not to be a threat. Officers took up a collection for food and removed the individual from the base.

**934th Services Squadron**

*Airmen 1st Class Kristen Maloney and Melissa Putnam*  
We have teams deploying to Florida and Germany in March for annual tour. A group is training for this year's Readiness Challenge competition, set for late April at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., involving services and civil engineering people from all major commands.



**Wing around the world: April**

- 27th APS:** No report
- 934th AES:** Hawaii, Illinois, Texas
- 96th AS:** Bahamas, Florida, Jamaica
- 934th ASTS:** Japan, Mississippi
- 934th AW HQ/MSF:** Georgia, Puerto Rico, Spain, Texas
- 934th CES:** Michigan, Puerto Rico, Texas
- 934th CF:** Georgia, Mississippi, New York
- 934th LSS:** Nevada, Puerto Rico
- 934th MXS:** Florida, Germany, New Mexico
- 934th OSF:** No travel
- 934th SFS:** No travel
- 934th SVS:** Florida, Germany

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

**Wing Headquarters/ 934th Mission Support Flight**

*Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez*  
All sections concentrated on completing checklists and preparing for the upcoming 22nd Air Force staff assistance visit. The customer service section reviewed all family care folders for the various units in the wing. □



# Services survey

## Members receive answers to questions on base facilities

**Melissa Blasier**

Services Marketing Director and  
Acting NCO Club Manager

**T**he 934th Services Division would like to thank everyone who participated in the annual services survey recently. It is through your feedback that we are able to look at our operations and what we are offering. The facility managers have responded to the survey with the following results:

### Service clubs

The feedback provided regarding the NCO and Officers Club told us those who responded to the survey feel the clubs have room for improvement when it comes to quality of food and customer service issues. We recognized this as well and continue to seek ways of improving in these areas. The numbers showed us what we are providing is currently considered "average."

The following are some of your questions and concerns:

#### • **Will there be more current menus implemented?**

New items are currently underway at both clubs. The NCO Club recently went through a kitchen lead chef change, and some of his new ideas are being continued. The Officers Club currently has a new dinner menu under development, bringing in some more popular items. We hope to see some of these things happening as near as this spring. Check our monthly calendars for menu items.

#### • **Can the NCO Club offer a salad bar during the weekdays?**

The NCO Club used to have a salad bar available for the customers. However, when exposed to open air, produce needs to be consumed in a relatively short period of time, or it begins to spoil. If we know people will use this feature for lunch, we could consider reopening this area and keeping it fresh at all times.

#### • **Can we get a larger variety of bands on the unit training assembly?**

We can certainly try to get some different entertainment for you. If you have any recommendations for the club manager, please feel free to suggest a band along with a phone number for us to contact them.

#### • **Can work schedules be adjusted to accommodate the crowds during the UTA?**

The clubs are short staffed throughout, and labor is an issue we are always dealing with. With a 2 percent unemployment rate, the "perks" or lack of what the government provides along with mandated wages prevent us from offering what the civilian world can in regards to benefits. We continue to seek new employees through newspaper ads, word of mouth, local technical schools, in

our communities, etc. We are always looking to improve in this area.

#### • **The big-screen television is not always working.**

We have now purchased a new big-screen television to go along with the other one in the lounge. Please feel free to come to the club and enjoy!

#### • **Will there be more desserts available?**

The clubs always have desserts on hand; however, we are currently looking at a way to make them more visible to the customer at the NCO Club. In the meantime, please ask a staff member. Regarding the Officers Club, we have desserts available as you pass through the serving line.

#### • **Can the NCO Club implement a bar menu or have the kitchen stay open later on Friday nights?**

When a bar menu is in place, the possibility of the kitchen staying open later to serve the bar customers is definitely possible. However, we have tracked the trend on business in the dining room on Friday nights, and there is not typically a customer after 8:30 p.m. We have been looking at implementing a bar menu for some time now. With labor issues and a few obstacles in front of us, we are having some difficulty getting this started. We will continue to work this issue for you.

• **Other club issues:** Unfortunately, we do not always have a say in what decisions are made for the clubs. The surcharge was mandated to us as well as the smoking issue. We are mandated to go nonsmoking by 2001 unless the ventilation factor is fixed; however, this is not looking too good and could greatly impact the clubs.

◻ If you have any additional questions regarding the clubs, call **Marge Hyatt**, Officers' Club, Ext. 3670, or call me for NCO Club issues, Ext. 1655.

### Fitness center

The feedback on the new fitness center remained positive. After careful research, we discovered we offered extended hours for the UTA from March 1999 until June 1999 without a significant increase in business. However, we are looking at expanding our UTA hours.

There were several questions/suggestions, which I have noted below with the responses.

#### • **Can the fitness center stay open later on Saturday night of the UTA?**

This issue is currently being staffed with the reservist and civilian services components.

#### • **Can you designate an area with mats for stretching?**

Currently, we have six mats available for check-out. The end of the gym serves as the current stretching area due to space limitations.

(SURVEY, continued on next page)

## Survey ...

(Continued from previous page)

### • **Is an expansion of the fitness center planned?**

There is a \$4 million project under review, but it has not been formalized. We built what we could at the time. We know there are space issues, and hopefully this will be rectified in the future.

### • **Any possibility of getting the following equipment?**

Decline bench press: Not enough room at this time.

More leg workout equipment: We are required to have equipment listed in the Golden Eagle Standard's.

Cybox with bench for sit-ups: We currently have ab and back machines that work those muscles. There are also exercises that you can do without the machine, and we would be glad to help anyone wanting more information.

### • **Can you offer aerobics or tae-bo?**

We are planning to start showing tapes in March (see *fitness center news, Page 12*). We have just received our new big-screen television. Call us for a schedule of times.

### • **Is there a possibility of increased ventilation in the "cardio" room?**

We control the temperature because of lack of fans in the gymnasium. There is no air movement; therefore, we offer fans for your use.

### • **The locker rooms need cleaning more often.**

We have instituted an increased schedule of cleaning.

### • **Please check for unattended juveniles.**

The staff has been informed.

### • **Can the fitness center remain open for business on holiday weekends?**

We are planning our holiday schedule for the year, staffing for extension of holiday hours.

☐ If you have any additional questions for the fitness center, call **Ronna Puck**, Ext. 1665.

### **North Country Inn lodging**

The lodging portion of the survey also gave us indications of improvements needed in customer service and housekeeping. The portion of the feedback taken into consideration is from those reservists who use lodging. Please read on for the results:

### • **Is customer service training being implemented?**

Customer service training is an ongoing venture in all hospitality areas. We recently started in-house training, called "Performance Plus," required at all Air Force Reserve Command bases. The training includes housekeeping as well as customer service areas. We always strive to provide good customer service.

### • **Can you increase the vending machine selections?**

Yes, the vendor rotates the items in the machines. The vending machines are stocked on Tuesdays and Fridays.

### • **Can housekeeping be improved upon?**

Yes, areas of improvement have been identified by the supervisors and will be remedied immediately.

### • **Will the phone system improve?**

The present telephone system cannot be updated until we move to the new facility in 2001. The phone rings repeatedly instead of like a telephone in your home, so the continual ringing can be an annoyance for the customer at the desk. There are six incoming phone lines and usually one lodging clerk, so there is occasionally a delay in answering all calls. We will try our best in this area.

### • **Can staffing be increased on the UTA?**

Actually, the civilian staffing combined with the military staffing often means there are too many people working at the front desk, given there are only two check-in points. Most reservists arrive at the same time in the evening, so it is normal to see delays during high-traffic times.

### • **Will the rooms be larger in the new facility?**

Yes. The square footage for visiting quarters will be approximately 250 square feet; for distinguished visitors, approximately 450 square feet. Each room will be private with its own bathroom.

### • **Will there be overhead lights in the new facility?**

I don't believe so. However, there will be more adequate lighting in each room. The current facility is very old, and lamps are the only alternative in many rooms due to the age of the facility. Some private rooms have overhead lighting.

### • **Will phone charges be going away for 800 calls?**

No. This is part of the AFRC contract. The fee is an access fee.

### • **Can reservists have the option of choosing a smoking room when lodging off base?**

Seventy percent of the rooms off base are to be non-smoking, dependent upon the rooms available at the hotel when we request rooms. Smoking rooms are not always available and are often limited. Guests should ask the commercial hotel for a smoking room. If one is not available, we apologize but unfortunately have no control over this. Please note that if a smoker and non-smoker share a room, the room is designated as non-smoking.

### • **What is the procedure of changing linen for the guest staying one week or more?**

According to military standards, linens are changed once per week or more often if a guest requests it.

### • **What is the reservation procedure?**

There are many questions to ask: grade, gender, number of nights needing lodging, duty status or space available status, traveling alone or with a family, flight status, etc. It is in our best interest to always provide rooms and to have full occupancy.

### • **Can rooms be rearranged for more usable floor space?**

Each guest prefers a certain layout and some just move the furniture, but it really needs to stay the way it is due to electrical cords, cable connections, opening of doors, etc. More lamps are on order for additional lighting. We have to work with what we have but are looking forward to our new, large and modern facility.

☐ If you have any additional questions regarding lodging, call **Tamara Davis**, Ext. 1978. ☐

## Medals

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. David Lunde, MXS, first oak leaf cluster

Capt. Thomas O'Reilly, AS, first OLC

Tech. Sgt. Gordon Stransky, MXS

### Air Force Achievement Medal

Tech. Sgt. Charles Keller, MXS, first OLC

Staff Sgt. Bryan Nill, MXS, first OLC

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Taylor, AS

## Promotions

Tech. Sgt. Robert Braesch II, MXS

Airman 1st Class David Dachs Jr., CES

Tech. Sgt. Earl Dodge Jr., MXS

Tech. Sgt. Michael Eastridge, MXS

Staff Sgt. James Endres, CES

Master Sgt. Shawn Ferrin, SVS

Staff Sgt. Scott Fitzgerald, MXS

Staff Sgt. Len Haagenson, LSS

Master Sgt. David Hardy, SFS

Tech. Sgt. Devin Heldman, MXS

Staff Sgt. Nanette Maglinao, CES

Senior Master Sgt. Timothy McGuire, AW

Airman 1st Class Daniel Mellesmoen, SFS

Senior Airman Kristen Maloney, SVS

Senior Airman Rodrigo Merced, ASTS

Staff Sgt. James Mills Jr., MXS

Staff Sgt. Thomas Murphy, MXS

Senior Airman Cena O'Brien, ASTS

Master Sgt. Gene Olsen, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Terence Otis, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Donald Patterson, MXS

Master Sgt. John Peterson, SFS

Senior Airman Timothy Poirier, LSS

Senior Master Sgt. David Provo, SFS

Senior Airman Melissa Putnam, SVS

Master Sgt. Gary Rolli, LSS

Tech. Sgt. Shirley Smith, AS

Tech. Sgt. Wayne Stenberg, ASTS

Staff Sgt. Douglas Swanson, MXS

Master Sgt. Lee Traxler-Siehndel, SVS

Master Sgt. Jason Velasquez, OSF

Master Sgt. Kenneth Weber, CES

Master Sgt. Steven Williams, SVS

## Newcomers

• Senior Airman Daniel Andrews, APS, *Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver*

• Airman 1st Class Kristen Boneberg, AES, *non-prior service*

• Senior Airman Shawn Conway, CES, *Barksdale Air Force Base, La.*

• Staff Sgt. William Cox, SFS, *ARPC*

• Senior Airman Daniel Lauseng, APS, *prior service Army National Guard*

• Senior Airman Charity Lusteck, CF, *ARPC*

• Airman 1st Class Daniel Olson, LSS, *non-prior service*

• Staff Sgt. John Redinger, APS, *prior service Army Reserve*

• Senior Airman Trisha Wasmund, LSS, *ARPC*

## Air reserve technicians

• Staff Sgt. Curtis Hochstetler, MXS, *from local, traditional position*

• Senior Airman Joseph McAllister, SFS, *Grand Forks AFB, N.D.*

• Capt. William Short, AW, *March Air Reserve Base, Calif.*

## Extensions/ reenlistments

Tech. Sgt. Shannon Bauer, AW

Senior Airman Stacy Bounds, MXS

Master Sgt. Joseph Bystedt, MXS

Senior Master Sgt. David Cormier, MXS

Master Sgt. James Courneya, AS

Staff Sgt. William Cox, CF

Master Sgt. Peter Desanctis, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Eugene Eberhardt, AS

Master Sgt. Shawn Ferrin, SVS

Staff Sgt. August Funaro, SFS

Master Sgt. Curtis Henke, AS

Senior Airman Jason Holm, CES

Staff Sgt. Angela House, ASTS

Tech. Sgt. David Kramer, LSS

Tech. Sgt. Donald MacElroy, MXS

Senior Airman Keisha Marshall, LSS

Senior Airman Joseph McCallister, SFS

Staff Sgt. Dennis McClain, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Michael McNally, CES

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Mutch, MXS

Senior Airman Cena O'Brien, ASTS

Tech. Sgt. Larry O'Connell, APS

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Olson, SFS

Staff Sgt. Eric Ortiz, CF

Staff Sgt. Paul Oven, LSS

Master Sgt. Terry Preusse, AS

Staff Sgt. Zane Ranum, APS

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Reese, AES

Tech. Sgt. Douglas Roden, MXS

Staff Sgt. Robert Rodriguez, CF

Senior Master Sgt. Norman Rosenow, LSS

Tech. Sgt. Larry Rothove Jr., CES

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Schutz, CES

Senior Master Sgt. John Skarhus, AS

Senior Airman Peggy Smith, SFS

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Spaulding, MXS

Staff Sgt. Reno Strdiotto, MXS

Staff Sgt. Sean Thiery, CES

Master Sgt. Lee Traxler-Siehndel, SVS

Staff Sgt. Randal Utzka, CES

Master Sgt. Aaran Weinzirl, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Richard Welter, MXS

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Wills, OSF

## Commander's coins

Commander's coins are presented by the wing commander to deserving members following recommendation by unit commanders and chiefs. The coins recognize outstanding professionalism and dedication. Members recognized in March include:

• Capt. Michael Burns, AW

• Staff Sgt. Tracy Goetz, ASTS

• Capt. David Hanten, FM

• Capt. Deborah McBride, ASTS

• Senior Master Sgt. Dennis McLean, SVS

• Senior Airman Troy Novak, ASTS

• Tech. Sgt. Charles Nowicki, ASTS

• Staff Sgt. Donald Obert, OSF

• Tech. Sgt. Martin Paprock, ASTS

• Staff Sgt. Kenneth Stang, ASTS

• Staff Sgt. Scott Wheeler, APS

• Master Sgt. Naomi Williams, ASTS

## Achievements

• **Patricia Botkins**, wing family readiness director, received a letter of appreciation from **Charles Cragin**, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, for her participation in the Guard and Reserve family readiness strategic planning conference in March (*see related story, Page 4*).

• **Capt. Gordon Sigl**, AES, was selected as the Unit Member of the Month in March for his establishment of the new medical simulation lab.

• The 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron selected members for its Look Sharp Award for the past two months:

### January

Senior Airman Cory DeMuth

Senior Airman Russell Robertson

Senior Airman Mark Schmidt

Staff Sgt. Robert Zak

(PEOPLE, continued on next page)

## People ...

(Continued from previous page)

### February

Senior Airman Thu-mai Christian  
Senior Airman John Herrick  
Staff Sgt. Jeffery Teschendorf

• Members of the 934th Logistics Support Squadron received certificates of appreciation from the chief of transportation at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., for their achievements during their February annual tour (see story, Pages 6-7):

Master Sgt. Daniel Headman  
Staff Sgt. Brian Iverson  
Staff Sgt. Douglas James  
Master Sgt. Sterling Meyer  
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Nordstrom Jr.  
Tech. Sgt. Scott Sippel  
Staff Sgt. Marc Small  
Senior Airman Erik Wilson

• The Reserve Officers Association Flying Viking Chapter has elected new officers:

**President:** Maj. Douglas Kveene, AW  
**Vice president:** Lt. Col. Pamela LeBlanc, MSF  
**Secretary:** Capt. Brian Haugen, LSS  
**Treasurer:** Capt. Jay Smeltzer, MXS

• The 934th Security Forces Squadron awarded the Top Gun Award to two members on March 5, earned by individuals with the highest qualification of those firing, usually 50 people.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Leary, SFS, 9 mm  
Master Sgt. Kevin Harstad, SFS, M-16  
and highest combined score

### Family matters

Jason Hyatt, AES, is engaged to Jennifer Rogowski. □

## More wins

### Aerial port members continue winning streak

**T**hree members of the 27th Aerial Port Squadron won honors at the Air Force Reserve Command level after leading the way at 22nd Air Force level. Winners were:

• **Michael Dressen**, AFRC Transportation Civilian Employee of the Year

• **Capt. David Mattson**, AFRC Transportation Company Grade Officer of the Year

• **Senior Master Sgt. Tracy Tratar**, AFRC Transportation Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

They compete next at Air Force level. □

## Fun & leisure

### NCO Club

• **No April fools** – Jukebox Express will play on Saturday, April 1, starting at 8:30 p.m. Come out after unit training assembly for a relaxing, good time.

• **Easter Sunday buffet**, April 23, will be available 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The menu includes baked ham, champagne chicken and orange roughy, including many favorite side dishes and some of the best desserts around. The cost is \$11.95 for adults, \$5.95 for children ages 4-11. Reservations are required.

• **A new bar menu** is now available every Friday and Saturday, 5-8 p.m.

• **Mexican feast** will be offered every Thursday for lunch in April. Lunch hours are 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

☎Call Ext. 1655 for details.

### Officers Club

• **Easter Sunday buffet/brunch** will provide traditional fare, April 23. Carved steamship round, honey-glazed ham and many side dishes will be offered. All the best breakfast entrees will be available as well, including eggs, bacon, sausage, muffins, pastries and bagels. The chefs will prepare special desserts. Call for reservations – this event fills quickly.

• **Secretaries Day lunch** will be held Wednesday, April 26. Entree choices are baked torsk or hawaiian chicken, including vegetable, salad and rice – or a healthy chef salad. Each secretary will receive a flower. Reservations preferred.

☎Call Ext. 3678 or FORT.

### Fitness center

• **Climb the Mountain competition** enables participants to accrue miles on the stair trainer and climb the famous mountains of the world.

• **Open volleyball play** will be offered during the April drill, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

• **Fitness Clue**, just like the board game, will offer fun through April 14. Find out who killed the personal trainer and in what room and with what object. Your workout allows you to play the game.

• **Tae-bo fitness video classes** are offered Monday through Friday at 6 a.m. and also Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

• **Tickets to many leisure destinations**, theme parks and local favorites are available at the fitness center.

• **Fitness center hours** are:  
Monday-Friday, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Unit training assembly weekend hours are:

Saturday, 6 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The center is closed on holidays.  
☎For information, call Ext. 1496 or 1GYM. □