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

VIKING FLYER



Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch

934th Civil Engineer
Squadron serves
with active-duty force
in England

Royal welcome

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On the cover

Master Sgt.
Robert
Schabacker,
934th Civil
Engineer
Squadron, finishes
carpentry work for a
remodeling project in
England. For more
on the squadron's
annual tour, see
Pages 6-7.



Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch

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News on the run ...

- August lunch entrees:
Saturday, baked ham and turkey;
Sunday, deep-fried fish and roast beef
- UTAs: Sept. 9-10, Oct. 14-15,
Nov. 4-5, Dec. 2-3
- Aug. 5-6 UTA pay date: Aug. 15

Commentary**Stuff of heroes****Enforcing tough standards protects honor of service**

Col. Dean Despinoy
Wing Commander

As I was flying home on a commercial airliner from a recent conference, I took some time to read the July 11, 2000 issue of *USA Today*. In the Life section there is an article entitled, "The Men of our Dreams."

The article was comparing the general public's reactions to the heroes of three popular movies, "Gladiator," "The Perfect Storm" and "The Patriot." Before you think I'm turning this article into a movie review, the most important fact to highlight is what characteristics the public found most appealing in these heroes.

The men were all disciplined with a keen sense of responsibility to country, family and some higher purpose for which personal sacrifice is dead certain. One of the principle qualities most revered by the moviegoers was the overriding selflessness portrayed by the characters — a quality of which the public thought the average contemporary man was in short supply.

Other quotes from viewers included statements referring to strength and honor, reliability, devotion, bravery, decency and modesty. When asked, people were hard-pressed to name contemporary figures who came close to meeting the new ideal. Among the suggestions of those that might include retired **Gen. Colin Powell**. Others earmarked anyone who fought in World War II, stating they were the last heroes in large numbers.

In my view, the sad part of this commentary was the statement, "I think you see a lot of people, particularly in the late '90s, who didn't do things necessarily with straight and narrow ways. Life is a

lot about living in gray, and I accept that. I'm no crazy idealist. But it's definitely nice to see on screen some of those qualities that you otherwise don't see."



Despinoy

I suggest that this person is looking in the wrong place. I know several "idealists" who have these exact qualities.

The article concludes with the quote, "There is a very basic human need for a world in which people take responsibility for their actions and see it as their responsibility to take care of others and to have a meaningful mission in life."

Every quality mentioned as desirable is the credo of the military and of our wing. Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do defines our standard. Other words we hold dear include duty, honor and country. But these are really more than words — these are principles that each of us have made considerable sacrifices to uphold.

We, in uniform, all live by a tough standard — a standard that is quite different from that of the general public. The only way that we can keep this standard is to monitor our fellow airmen and ourselves. Small transgressions should be pointed out and corrected. Large ones must not be tolerated. In some cases, personal failure to hold our standard mandates the removal of the person from our ranks.

We must never let down our guard or lose our integrity. We must never look the other way if a fellow airman is not meeting standards. To do so is the quickest way to ensure that our way of life will no longer be talked about as the stuff of heroes. □

Blueprint for honor

U.S. Military Code of Conduct provides direction for members held prisoner

Chief Master Sgt. Bill Tkacs, retired

Chiefs Group former president, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

The Airman Leadership School uses a realistic scenario to bring home the importance of the U.S. Military Code of Conduct. "The Code" serves as a guideline for military members perused or held by unfriendly forces and sets the standard of acceptable and unacceptable conduct while confronted by an enemy force.

The classroom is silent and dark except for the small spotlight shining on a red, white and blue piece of material symbolizing the flag of the United States. The silence is broken as an American prisoner of war is dragged into the spotlight coming to rest upon the simulated American flag. The silent POW stands quietly with a canvas sack over his head, hands tied securely behind him, not realizing he's now standing on America's symbol of freedom.

The POW then feels a harsh tugging at his wrists as the ropes are removed. He's ordered to remove the sack from his head and toss it to the floor. A bright light flashes from one side of the darkened classroom as the sack hits the floor.

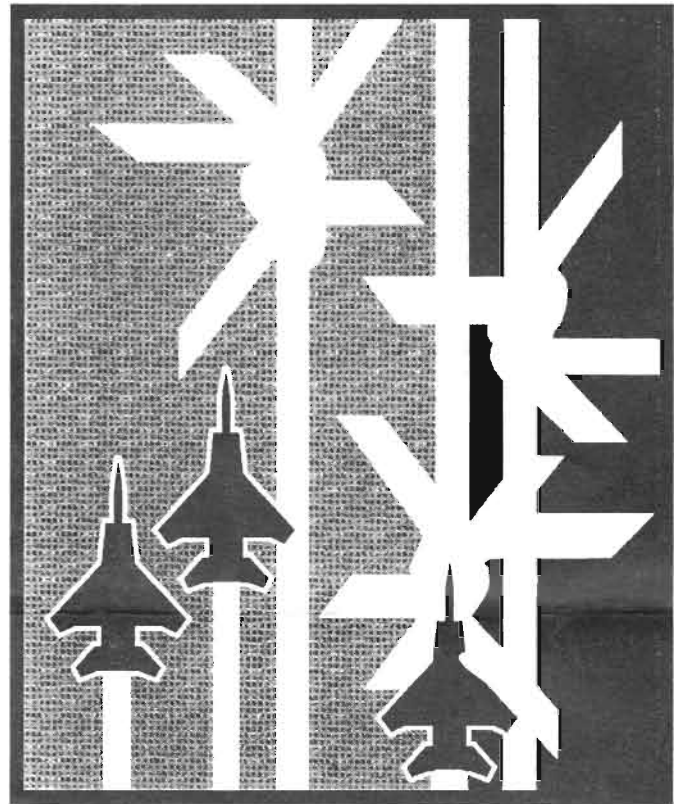
The identity of the POW is revealed at last. Standing before the class is a female technical sergeant, blood seeping from her ear, mouth and makeshift head bandage, demonstrating how to survive captivity with honor using the military's Code of Conduct as her guide.

Realizing she's standing on the flag, she immediately jumps to one side as the interrogation process begins. Pushed and shoved as questions are asked, she provides her name, rank, Social Security number and date of birth as authorized by Article V of the Code of Conduct. As the intensity of the questioning grows, she continues to resist providing information harmful to her comrades while realizing her actions are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

When she's pulled to the ground by the rope around her neck, she bites down on the capsule in her mouth, creating what appears to the students as blood shooting from her mouth. The mood changes as her interrogator now attempts to become her friend by offering her medical attention and comfort items in exchange for information. She unsuccessfully attempts to bargain for food and medical help for her fellow POWs.

A smiling interrogator helps her to her feet, his kind action surprising her as yet another bright light flashes in the background. The scenario concludes with her life in jeopardy as he places a gun to her head, demanding information in exchange for her life.

Can she provide the information to save her own life? That's now for the class to decide as they compare the skit



to a practical application of the code.

After the skit, the student's review each of the six articles contained in the code. They discuss the scenario and piece it all together. They also learn each of the flashes during the scenario was a photo taken and used for propaganda purposes. Prepared news articles read, "American standing on the U.S. flag denounces country and flag," and "Repentant American POW is friend of interrogator," and so on. Students learn quickly how easy someone can be manipulated or unwillingly used against their nation or fellow POWs.

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Colbert, ALS commandant, and his staff have the challenging task of providing tools for use throughout an airman's career. Although much of these tools deal with effective management and leadership skills, the UCMJ and the code are covered as well. Positive response by students on the visual impact of such a skit helps not only the learning process, but the retention process as well.

In this skit, students were given the guidelines of the code and a scenario to critique. They share what they

(CODE OF CONDUCT, continued on next page)

Local

September action planned

• **Employers' Day** will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, starting with a continental breakfast at the NCO Club. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, Aug. 6. No changes or name substitutions can be made after that date.

• **The 934th Airlift Wing Military Ball** is set for Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Radisson South, Edina, Minn.

Dress is formal. Cost is \$22 for airman through staff sergeant, \$27 for technical sergeants through chiefs and civilians GS-8 and below, and \$32 for officers and civilians GS-9 and up. Guest tickets are the same as member tickets.

Entertainment will be provided by Night Wing, from the Heartland of America Band, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

See unit first sergeants for tickets.

• **A special-interest vehicle show** will be featured at this year's Family Day, Sunday, Sept. 10. Any vehicle, truck, motorcycle, bike or boat is welcome for display.

For more information, call **Senior Master Sgt. David Pudney**, Ext. 1324; **Master Sgt. Craig Molm**, Ext. 1357; or **Tech. Sgt. Ralph Rundquist Jr.**, Ext. 1367.

Golf tournament deadline nears

The Fifth Annual Combined Federal Campaign Golf

Tournament will be held Thursday, Sept. 14, at 11:30 a.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

The 18-hole tournament, four-person/best ball scramble, will be held at Southern Hills Golf Course, Farmington, Minn. The \$47 entry fees includes green fee, burger/brat meal and prizes. Entries are due by Aug. 18, accepted from only federal or postal employees/retirees. After that date, any openings will be made available to the public.

For details, call **Sharon Blalock**, Ext. 3570. An entry form is available at the Federal Executive Board Web site:

<http://www.minnesota.feb.gov>

Chapel musicians needed

The base chapel needs musicians, including pianists, song leaders and accompanists.

For more information or to volunteer, call **Master Sgt. LaVonne Wier** or **Staff Sgt. Jan Wills**, Ext. 1226 or 1227.

Spring Fling donations reported

The annual Spring Fling, sponsored by the 934th Civilian Welfare Council, was held June 14 for the wing's full-time employees and reservists on duty.

Though attendance was down slightly, 300 pounds of food and \$134 were collected and donated to the Trinity Mission, Minneapolis.

The next event will be held in August or September. □

Code of Conduct ...

(Continued from previous page)

might have done differently had they been in that situation. With the help of some unfamiliar faces and a short skit, the instructors hope to place a vivid picture in the mind of each student, a picture that can be recalled should they find themselves placed in such a situation. A skit that could some day save their lives or that of a comrade in captivity.

Although we might not all have the benefit of the ALS staff to help us see how the code would apply through a scenario, we do have a responsibility to know and understand it. These written values serve as a guide and bond us together as comrades in arms when confronted by the enemy. Without them there would be no guide for conscience, accountability or self-preservation.

This might be the perfect time to review the Code of Conduct:

Article I

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

Article II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never

surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

Article III

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and to aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

Article IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

Article V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

Article VI

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America. □

Anthrax: slow ride

Vaccine shortage prompts search for second U.S. source

The Department of Defense announced July 11 it is temporarily slowing its anthrax vaccine immunization program effort.

Most of the remaining vaccine will be used to help protect those most at risk serving in the high threat areas of Southwest Asia and Korea.

DOD will continue new starts of the shot series for the highest risk members serving in the high threat areas; other new starts will be delayed. Members who have begun the shot series, but have since departed the high threat areas also will be delayed. A full resumption of the vaccination effort will occur when a sufficient supply of FDA-approved and certified safe and effective vaccine is available.

"While we regret this necessity, we do not have a sufficient supply of vaccine at this time," said **William Cohen**, secretary of defense. "We will expand our vaccination effort as soon

as logistically feasible, with FDA-certified vaccine. In making the decision to protect our service members against anthrax, we put safety first.

"We determined that vaccination is the safest, most reliable way to protect our service members from a potential threat that is 99 percent lethal to unprotected, untreated individuals," he continued. "Anthrax remains the top biological warfare threat to U.S. troops, and the vaccine is our safest, most effective weapon to protect our people against that threat."

When FDA-released vaccine is again available, the full scope of the program will be resumed. Precise plans for resuming vaccinations will be based on the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and consultation with the Food and Drug Administration.

"Additionally, we need to assure a sufficient, long-term supply of vaccine," said the secretary.

"Protecting our service members is far too important for us to rely on a single source. We are immediately and aggressively seeking a second U.S. source of anthrax vaccine.

"By having a second source, we can have greater confidence and comfort that a sufficient supply of safe and effective vaccine will be available to protect our service members against anthrax," Cohen continued.

A request for a second supplier was published recently in the *Commerce Business Daily*.

More than 455,000 service members have started their vaccinations and more than 1.8 million vaccinations have been given. To be fully protected, service members are vaccinated using the FDA-approved protocol of six shots over an 18-month period, plus annual boosters. *(Air Force Print News)* □



White House photo

Hail to the chief

Maj. Doug Kveene, right, wing executive officer, and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams, center, public affairs specialist, met President Clinton during one of his recent visits here. The base hosted three visits, with the 934th Security Forces Squadron earning kudos from the 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Team for their outstanding service in guarding the president and Air Force One. □

Royal welcome

Civil engineers provide support for two weeks at England base

Staff Sgt. Suzanne Runtsch
Public Affairs



Wing civil engineers moved dirt for a runway construction project.

Working side-by-side with active duty and civil servants, 59 members of the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron hopped across the Atlantic and performed their annual tour at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, June 4-17.

"Our two-week annual tour is our chance to make sure our skills match active duty," said **Lt. Col. Stan Thompson**, 934th CES annual tour commander. "We want to be productive — we want to be called upon to be part of the team."

He said reservists bring a special bonus to the table: skills honed by civilian experience.

"Many of our technicians have journeyman and master licenses in their trade, adding valuable expertise," said Thompson. "We're able to come in and begin working right away, sometimes bringing in skills that are otherwise unavailable."

Minneapolis reservists assisted with work in areas including structures, roads and grounds, utilities, power production, water treatment, surveyor and liquid fuels shops.

"It's brilliant having reservists over — we get a lot of work done at a great cost savings," said 100th CES self-help

manager, **Alan Preston**.

Over the past 12 years, Preston has worked with about 18 Reserve or Guard units. Base projects are forecast and submitted to Headquarters, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, for approval and then passed on to reserve units to determine manning availability.

Readiness support

"Exercise, exercise, exercise," a big voice from the sky boomed across the base. Not a call to base-wide aerobics, the orders issued from the command post directed military members to different mission-oriented



Tech. Sgt. Mike McNally works on heavy equipment hydraulic connections.



Senior Airman Paul Tobkin installs electrical service to an office.

protective posture levels.

Again, Minnesota members reported to duty, with **Maj. Don Kom**, **Master Sgt. Gerald Siehndel** and **Staff Sgt. Cathy Bethke** acting as exercise evaluators. Kom said this was the first annual tour in which they were given the opportunity to participate in a readiness exercise.

"They came to us looking for subject matter experts to assist in training and evaluating of their wartime readiness," said Kom. "This is the kind of stuff we live for — it's second nature for us."

Siehndel and Bethke visited work sites as the base went through different MOPP levels, advising participants how to properly don protective gear and ensure facility protection.

Carpenters hang doors, drywall

"We're really happy to come in here and build something. It's a great opportunity to use our skills," said **Tech. Sgt. LeRoy Rothove Jr.**, 934th carpenter.

One of the first projects for carpenters was remodeling an area of the self-help building. With a rough sketch in hand, carpenters ripped out existing walls and doors. Some of the old



Photos by Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch

Staff Sgt. Luke Resemius attaches office walls to the floor as part of a remodeling project.

wood was recycled into a much-needed picnic table for the self-help store.

As studs were hammered into place and drywall secured, two new rooms were created. "It's great to stand back and look at the finished project — you experience a real feeling of accomplishment," said Rothove.

Heavy equipment moves earth

"The end-of-runway overrun project is a priority for us at RAF Mildenhall," Preston said, "and we save a significant amount of money by using reservists instead of having to contract all of the work."

The benefits were mutual, however, as reservists completed training on a variety of equipment and received considerable "stick-time" in loaders, graders and other heavy equipment.

Reservists moved about 9,000 cubic yards of earth for the project. Old bunkers were leveled using loaders and excavators. The dirt was then loaded into a convoy of six 10-ton dump trucks.

The trucks moved slowly along the active taxiway, always mindful of aircraft movement, to

the end-of-runway overfill area. **Master Sgt. Dave Sowers**, 934th heavy equipment operator, remained in contact with airfield management, directing operators where to dump their trucks.

In addition to the convoy, a sweeper was kept in constant operation along the taxiway.

"Operating the sweeper is a boring job but essential for the continued safety of their mission," said **Tech. Sgt. Pat Smith**, 934th heavy equipment operator.

"The end-of-runway project gave us the opportunity to train many reservists on heavy equipment operation," said **Senior Master Sgt. Dave Halverson**, 934th heavy equipment superintendent.

Quality of life improvements

Surveyors and carpenters worked together on several picnic pavilions.

"These are really quality of life improvements," said Preston. "The wing picked several locations, so these pavilions can be used by multiple squadrons."

"Getting practice with the instruments and learning more about how they operate has been fantastic," said **Airman 1st Class Dave Dachs Jr.**, 934th engineering assistant.



Airman 1st Class Dave Dachs Jr. conducts a site elevation survey for a picnic pavilion.

Power production for USO show

Much to the surprise of reservists, a USO show stopped at RAF Mildenhall on June 6. An alternative rock group, Tonic, winner of two Grammy awards, played for this free concert. **Senior Airmen Brad Hegge** and **Brian Knutson**, 934th electronic power production journeymen, were tasked to provide power for the band.

"I was glad to help," said Hegge. "It was great to see the band and be part of a team that made the concert possible."

Power production was involved in assisting the base heating, ventilation and air conditioning shop, called HVAC, with the change out of connectors on generators and repair of aircraft arresting barriers.

"The 100th CES HVAC shop superintendent was more than impressed with the work we've done," said **Master Sgt. Gene Kirk**, 934th electronic power production craftsman. "He kept telling us to slow down—we accomplished the jobs quicker than they anticipated." □

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Mark Pierson
No report.

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Deborah Ward
The squadron launched and recovered a training mission, with a film crew from *Citizen Airman* magazine covering loading procedures. Flight nurses and aeromed techs simulated in-flight patient and aircraft emergencies.

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Senior Airman Angie Kiblin
On the July drill, the unit processed members for physicals. Several members traveled to other states for training, while those at home trained on various subjects, including bioterrorism and hands-on experience at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Unit physicians continue to provide wing briefings on anthrax. The squadron held its third annual pig roast on Saturday at a member's home.

96th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Jess Lind
The squadron is providing airlift for an aeromedical training mission to California and Washington, and an Air Force Reserve film crew will be taping the preflight action for a local newcomer/visitor videotape. In June, aircrew members flew a Phoenix Banner mission in support of the president, hauling limos, parade cars and secret service members. The squadron will provide a static display and volunteers for the Minnesota Military Expo, July 29-30, and the Minot Air Force Base, N.D., air

Wing roundup



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

show and open house, July 30.

934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Randy Matthews
CE craftsmen began a yearlong demolition and remodeling of an old Navy building located behind the CE compound. This building will house training rooms and offices for the communications flight. Engineering began site development plans for the October bivouac, which includes plans for a community service project. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning section supported the base's civilian specialists during the July drill "heat wave," handling numerous air conditioning work orders.

934th Communications Flight

Senior Airman Chris Krug
The unit held a dress blues inspection in July.

934th Logistics Support Squadron

Master Sgt. Tom Stratton
The unit spent the July unit training assembly preparing for the Joint Guard deployment in August and the October exercise. The first sergeants for the logistics and maintenance

squadrons have switched positions. **Senior Master Sgt. Tom Anderson** is now the first sergeant with LSS, and **Senior Master Sgt. Robert McGonigal** serves as "first shirt" for MXS.

934th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Steven Lerbakken
Flightline members performed transient maintenance on a visiting C-130, KC-135 and C-17. Squadron members also provided an aircraft for the medical squadron to train on during the unit training assembly. Many members completed the three-mile walk and also attended the anthrax briefing.

934th Operations Support Flight

Master Sgt. Cara Utecht
A number of unit members will be deployed to Germany in August, and one member will be in Puerto Rico for Coronet Oak.

934th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Barry Haukoos
No report.

934th Services Squadron

Senior Airmen Melissa Putnam and Kristen Maloney
Come watch the Annual Best Ball Golf Tournament, Saturday, Aug. 5, at 3:30



Wing around the world: August

27th APS: No report
934th AES: Illinois, Kosovo, Oregon, Texas
96th AS: Germany, Newfoundland, Puerto Rico, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin
934th ASTS: Hawaii, Texas
934th AW HQ/MSP: No report
934th CES: Arizona, Texas
934th CF: Mississippi
934th LSS: California, Texas
934th MXS: Alaska, Azores, Germany, Puerto Rico, Texas, Virginia
934th OSF: Florida, Germany, Puerto Rico
934th SFS: No report
934th SVS: England, Texas

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. □

p.m., Carriage Hills Golf Course, Eagan, Minn. The deadline to register for play was July 9. For more information, call 1-GYM.
Wing Headquarters/934th Mission Support Flight
Staff Sgt. Linda Jimenez
No report. □

Top achievers

Two loadmasters continue local tradition of excellent school performance

Staff Sgt. Suzzanne Runtsch
Public Affairs

They're not called loadMASTERS for nothing.

Two members of the 96th Airlift Squadron completed loadmaster training school earlier this year at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., with impressive results.

Staff Sgt. Eric Eversman earned distinguished graduate with a score of 100 percent, and **Staff Sgt. Jill Shepard** was honor graduate, scoring 99.9 percent — proving they are truly masters of their profession.

The average score for this course is 85-87 percent. "All the loadmasters with the 96th have scored in the high 90s," said Eversman. "That's the real story."



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

Shepard, left, and Eversman

"The course was challenging and exciting," said Shepard. "And it was fun to learn a whole new aspect of what the C-130 can do."

Prior to becoming a loadmaster,

Shepard spent about five years in the aeromedical squadron. She was looking for more than just a typical reservist job.

"I like loadmaster as a part-time job," she said. "Flying is an availability kind of thing — and I like flying."

"Little Rock is boring — without a car, there was nothing else to do but study," Eversman said, although he was surprised with his 100 percent score.

The five-month course includes classroom instruction in cargo weight and balance, cargo load/unload, hazardous cargo and troop load. The tactical phase of the course focuses on mission qualification with heavy equipment, container delivery system and personnel drops.

"I am enjoying the opportunity to learn and fly on the job now," said Shepard. □

No fuss, no muss

Jim Mathews
Environmental Engineer

Different types of recycling containers are provided around the base to help reduce municipal solid waste generated by organizations and shops.

Brown plastic pushcarts or marked barrels allow mixed collection of items.

Yes:

- Metal food cans, aluminum beverage cans
- Green, brown and clear glass bottles and jars — no lids or caps
- Plastic bottles with a neck, such as soda bottles, milk and water jugs and laundry product containers — no lids or caps

No:

- Yogurt or butter tubs
- Aerosol spray cans, motor oil, gasoline or other hazardous material containers
- Light bulbs, window panes, mirrors, pottery, ceramics, dishes/glasses
- Disposable razors, needles or silverware
- Toys, medicine containers, plastic cups, trays, plastic wrap, foam cups, foam packaging or cardboard milk containers

Red or green metal bins for paper/cardboard recycling look similar to trash bins, so check labeling carefully.

Yes:

- Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, direct mail advertisements, books, phone books

No-brainer containers around base make recycling easy as 1-2-3

- File folders and notebooks, even with metal fixtures
 - Envelopes, including those with cellophane windows
 - Paper of all colors — staples and tape do not have to be removed
 - "Sticky" notes, computer printouts, fax and telex sheets, onionskin paper, clean paper bags
 - Cereal, cake, chip and cracker boxes
 - Flattened corrugated cardboard
- No:**
- "Half-size" publications such as television guides
 - String, twine, cotton balls
 - Plastic envelopes, carbon paper, wallpaper
 - Paper towels, napkins, cups, coffee filters, tea bags, waxed paper/boxes such as pop cases, candy/gum wrappers, cellophane, foil, plastic wrap
 - Photos, slides, transparencies

Scrap metal is collected in a bin at Bldg. 735, but there are many restrictions. Contact environmental engineering, Ext. 1951, before depositing items such as electronic communication equipment, transformers and ballasts, electric wire and cable. Base Supply accepts empty 55-gallon drums for the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

Used pallets, standard 40" x 48", are collected in the civil engineering compound along the north side of the brick wall.

Anyone with recycling questions are welcome to call Ext. 1951 or check the G-drive file, "Guide," located under "Recycling Program." □

Shooting for success

Combat arms training and maintenance aims for readiness

Staff Sgt. Robert Butterfield
Public Affairs

"Ready on the right? Ready on the left? Ready in the center? ... FIRE!"
With a puff of smoke and a crash of M-16 fire, a group of Air Force reservists began the final stage of their required weapons qualification process.

"Our job is to train and qualify Air Force Reserve and DOD [Department of Defense] police personnel assigned to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station on their assigned weapons," said **Master Sergeant Steven Anderson**, combat arms training and maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge.

CATM instructors train members on the M-9 pistol, M-16 rifle, M-203 grenade launcher, M-500/M-870 shotguns and the M-249/M-60 machine guns, usually at local facilities. Most machine gun and grenade launcher training is held at Camp Ripley, Minn.

The training process requires both classroom instruction and actual weapons fire. Students undergo instruction on loading and unloading, basic maintenance, safety and shooting techniques. This portion of the training takes approximately four hours.

In the last step of the training, students are taken to the range and given the opportunity to apply what they have learned. The shooters engage targets at 25 meters and are required to fire 40 rounds within four 90 second time periods. The minimum passing scores range from 15 out of 40 hits for most shooters to 25 out of 40 hits for security forces and DOD police officers. For the M-16, a score of 35 target hits qualifies any shooter as an expert, earning the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. An oak leaf cluster is earned for firing "expert" with a different type of weapon.

"The range usually takes two to five hours," Anderson said. "This time depends on the weather, size of the class and the experience level of the individuals firing."

Range activities are moved indoors in winter. Weapons qualification is conducted on the CATM's state-of-the-art weapons simulation system. The system simulates the live fire qualification process the shooter would encounter on the range.



Tech. Sgt. Robert Walz

Capt. Neal Lundeen, left, 934th Services Squadron, and Master Sgt. Jean Corrow, 934th Maintenance Squadron, familiarize themselves with the M-16 prior to firing.



Staff Sgt. Robert Butterfield

Students receive assistance during practice firing.

Qualification requirements depend on an individual's duty position and assigned weapon.

"Security forces personnel and DOD police officers are required to qualify two times per year," Anderson said. "Others, such as members of the civil engineering squadron, couriers, and custodians are required to qualify annually. All other personnel in a mobility position are required to fire every three years."

He and his staff train about 1,000 members per year who expend more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

"Weapons training is very manpower intensive," he said. "One instructor is required for every seven personnel on the firing line, and the ratio becomes one-to-one when firing at night or during weapons fire on full automatic."

"We currently have three instructor slots open," Anderson



Staff Sgt. Robert Butterfield

Final scores ...

continued. "Filling those slots is critical to maximizing range efficiency."

Instructors are security police officers with an additional identifier signifying them as weapons trainers. They attend an intensive instructor training course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The instructors are also required to practice what they preach — they must qualify each year on all weapon systems they teach. □

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

Tech. Sgt. Gregory Ahlfs, MXS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Master Sgt. Timothy Atchley, ASTS

Tech. Sgt. Richard Hanson, ASTS

Staff Sgt. David Hanson-Best, APS

Master Sgt. Ann Hawkins, ASTS

Maj. Michael Huttner, AS

1st Lt. Robert Levy, AES, first oak leaf cluster

Staff Sgt. Kent Long, APS

Tech. Sgt. Charles Nowicki, ASTS, second OLC

Air Force Achievement Medal

Tech. Sgt. Dale Cody, AES

Staff Sgt. Deborah Edwall, ASTS

Master Sgt. Paul Fischer, ASTS

1st Lt. Gail Gregor, ASTS, first OLC

Staff Sgt. Helen Meldrum, AES

Senior Airman Troy Novak, ASTS

1st Lt. Jane Shallenberger, ASTS

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Stang, ASTS, first OLC

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Szydel, LSS

Promotions

Staff Sgt. Cathy Bethke, CES

Senior Airman Jennifer Brooks, LSS

Maj. Scott Calvert, SVS

Tech. Sgt. Dale Cody, AES

Senior Master Sgt. James Dalton III, APS

Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher, CF

Master Sgt. Francis Huppert, LSS

Tech. Sgt. Todd Kopperud, MXS

Master Sgt. Mark Larsen, APS

Senior Airman Keisha Marshall, LSS

Tech. Sgt. Cherie Penn, APS

Master Sgt. Wade Priest, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Rory Schmidt, LSS

Tech. Sgt. Orrin Schmidtbauer, LSS

Tech. Sgt. Roxanna Steffen, SVS

Master Sgt. Edward Vigilante Jr., MXS

Master Sgt. Michael Vosen, APS

Senior Airman Sally Welter, AES

Maj. Karla White, OSF

Newcomers

Senior Airman Joseph Behr, LSS, prior service Army National Guard

Senior Airman Darren Brown, SFS, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver

Staff Sgt. Nestor Evaristo, APS, March Air Force Base, Calif.

Senior Airman Matthew Lyons, SFS, Minot AFB, N.D.

Senior Airman Troy Luschen, CES, Minot AFB

Senior Airman Joseph Marsh Jr., APS, prior service Air Force

Capt. Heather McCue, LSS,

Minnesota Air National Guard

Senior Airman James Newell Jr., SFS, prior service Army Reserve

Senior Airman Delvin Schmunk, OSF, prior service Air Force

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Shults, ASTS, Minnesota ANG

Senior Airman Patrick Stevens, CES, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Senior Airman Brian Wahlstedt, SFS, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom

Air reserve technicians

Capt. Mick Gleason, AW, from traditional position

Staff Sgt. Derek Green, MXS, from traditional position

Tech. Sgt. Robert Henn, LSS, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.

Staff Sgt. Jamie Van Fleet, MXS, from traditional position

Civilians

Timothy Anderson, CE, Camp S.D. Butler Marine Corps Base, Okinawa

Rex Hodge, DPF, Osan Air Base, South Korea

Margo Leslie, SV, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

James Mathews, CE, private industry, Buffalo, N.Y.; previously with Niagara Falls ARB, N.Y.

Summer hires

Jeremy Stratton, MXS, student, Richfield High School, Minn.

Jessica Tuttle, LSS, student, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minn.

Achievements

• **Staff Sgt. Mark Cooling**, CES, was selected to become an Air Force

Reserve recruiter, attending technical school this summer.

• **Master Sgt. Charlie Epps III**, CF, was selected for the "Look Sharp Award" in June.

• **Senior Airman Greg Gongoll**, SFS, received the distinguished honor graduate award for his academic excellence at the security forces apprentice course, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

• **Senior Airman Scott Inwards**, CF, was selected as the distinguished honor graduate in computer/phone switch school, Keesler AFB, Miss.

• **Tech. Sgt. Darrel Knox and Capt. Tom O'Reilly** were selected as the noncommissioned officer and officer of the quarter, April through June, for the 96th Airlift Squadron.

• **Maj. Mark Montee**, OSF, will serve as a guest instructor at the special operations school, Hurlburt Field, Fla., July 30-Aug. 4. Also, he received a letter of commendation from the wing commander for his work in mentoring an ROTC cadet.

• **Staff Sgt. Frank Preuss**, AES, graduated from medical service specialist school as a distinguished graduate.

• **Staff Sgt. Mike Tull**, APS, was presented the Chief Master Sgt. Robert C. Duckworth Memorial Award as a distinguished graduate with an overall rating of 99.6 percent at transportation proficiency center technical school.

• **Master Sgt. Jason Velasquez**, OSF, was selected as the flight's "Supporter of the Quarter."

• **Staff Sgt. Robert Zak**, CF, was selected as the distinguished honor graduate in combat skills school, Robins AFB, Ga.

(Continued on next page)

People

(Continued from previous page)

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 since last drill include:

Tech. Sgt. Gary Athey, MXS
Maj. Doug Kveene, AW
Master Sgt. Gregory Koury, MXS
Tech. Sgt. John Tverberg, MXS
Tech. Frank Helseth, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Douglas Huspeck, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Steven Hanson, MXS
Tech. Sgt. Sherrill Beecher, OSF
Senior Airman Kristen Maloney, SVS
Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kern, SVS
Master Sgt. Brian Lloyd, SVS

Family matters

• **Dean Andersen**, CES, and his wife, **Marlys**, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

• **Larry Corrigan**, CES, married **Amy Ernst** on July 29.

• **Casey Keller**, LSS, and his wife, **Joy**, have a new daughter, **Nicole Lynn**, born June 30, weighing 7 pounds.


• **Chris Knowles**, AES, and his wife, **Kristin**, have a new daughter, **Anna Lea**, born June 5, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

• **Don Kom**, CES, and his wife, **Carolyn**, have a new son, **Alex**, born June 21, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

• **Dave Nelson**, CES, married **Natasha Raganova** on July 29.

• **Angie West**, ASTS, married **William Kiblin** on Feb. 19. □

Family Day



Sunday, Sept. 10

- Kid Food
- Kid Fun
- Kid heaven

See next month's Viking Flyer for more information