



# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)  
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.  
Volume 24, Number 6 June 2002

## UTA schedule

July 13-14, 2002  
Aug. 10-11, 2002  
Sept. 7-8, 2002  
Oct. 5-6, 2002  
Nov. 2-3, 2002  
Dec. 7-8, 2002





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### EDITORIAL STAFF

#### 934th AW Commander

Col. Gary L. Cook

#### Director of Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Marge McGiinn

#### NCOIC/Editor

Master Sgt. Al Eakle

#### NCOIC, Internal Communications

Tech. Sgt. R.J. Bruno

#### Viking Flyer Staff Writers

Tech. Sgt. Allen Marshall

Staff Sgt. Jeff Williams

Senior Amn. Nicholas Olson

Senior Amn. Stephanie Witty

#### Viking Flyer Photographers

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Robinson

Senior Amn. Chris Guthrie

Amn. Josh Nason



# VIKING

# FLYER



*Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kern serves a plate of spaghetti while Tech. Sgt. Mary Miller-Huff adds fresh breadsticks to the serving line. Despite manpower shortages and unit training during drill weekends, it is the men and women of the 934th Airlift Wing services squadron who work hard to make sure their fellow reservists get delicious and nutritious meals. For more details, see the story and photos on Pages 10 and 11.*



*Controller Senior Amn. John Brown plots a board in the wing command post. When a situation arises that affects the 934th Airlift Wing, it is up to the controllers in the wing command post to serve as the eyes and ears of the commander. For more on the command post, see the story on Page 14.*



### On the cover

*A member of the 934th Airlift Wing takes cover under a desk during the Ability to Survive and Operate exercise on Sunday of the May Unit Training Assembly. For more on the exercise, see the photos and story on Pages 12 and 13.*

# Wing to mirror changes to Air Force units

When the 934th Airlift Wing and other Air Force Reserve Command flying wings begin reorganizing in October to comply with an Air Force directive, they will follow a plan developed by the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Plans and Programs.

An AFRC cross-functional team will set up strategies, policies and directives for implementing the restructuring, which includes creating a new maintenance group, restructuring support groups and reducing operations group taskings.

"We're awaiting guidance from AFRC's cross-functional team," said Maj. Ray Otto, 934th AW director of plans. "This reorganization is scheduled sometime in fiscal year 2003."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper directed April 22 that all active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard wings adopt the new standard wing structure to enhance the service's warfighting capabilities.

"After careful deliberations with major command commanders, we reached a decision on a new wing organizational structure that will standardize operations across the Air Force and enhance our expeditionary capabilities," Jumper said.

The five major changes involved in the standard wing concept include:

- Aircraft and space maintenance specialists currently assigned to operations and logistics groups will be reassigned to a newly created maintenance group;
- Supply and transportation squadrons will be combined to form logistics readiness squadrons;
- Logistics plans functions will transfer to the newly created LRSs, which will form later this year;
- Contracting squadrons, aerial ports and LRSs will transfer into existing support groups, which will be renamed "mission support group;" and
- The logistics readiness officer career field initiative, which combines supply, transportation and logistics plans career fields, will begin new accessions in April.

AFRC has a year from October 2002 to implement the standard Air Force wing structure.

"We'll take our time to ensure those changes cause the minimum amount of turmoil," said Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., AFRC vice commander.

"There should be little need for variation or exception. Change is always difficult and disruptive, but our challenge at all levels of Air Force Reserve Command is to embrace the Air Force changes and do everything to make this a positive, fluid change."

Jumper emphasized the importance of these changes, saying operation and maintenance of air and space weapons systems are core competencies of the Air Force.

"Operations group activities focus on planning and executing air and space power," he said. "Commanders of operations groups are charged with leading their units in combat.

"They will continue to be considered leaders and role models in the tactical employment of their weapons systems...(and) will be increasingly involved in planning and training for the operational level of war."

The chief of staff said aging aircraft and space fleets, coupled with years of resource shortfalls, will require maintainers to skillfully balance sortie production with the condition of those fleets. He said maintenance groups will need to respond to challenges with the same skill and proficiency as other groups in the wing structure.

"Mission support, in the expeditionary, rapid reaction, contingency-based Air Force of today is (another) core competency," he said.

"The Air Force will develop a career path for commanders who understand the full scope of home station employment and sustainment, and deployment, beddown and sustainment at contingency locations: crisis actions, force protection, unit type code preparation, load planning, contracting actions, bare base and tent city preparation, munitions site planning, personnel readiness expeditionary combat support, etc."

Jumper said medical groups will continue to focus on maintaining a fit and ready force, with no change to the structure of those groups.

"I fully understand the magnitude of these changes," Jumper said.

"The goal is to achieve a more capable Air Force with professionals who understand and are capable of meeting our ever-increasing, complex mission." (AFRC News Service from Air Force Print News)



## Anticipated realignment of the 934th Airlift Wing

### 934th Maintenance Group

- 934th Maintenance Squadron.

### 934th Medical Group

- 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.
- 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

### 934th Mission Support Group

- 27th Aerial Port Squadron.
- 934th Civil Engineering Squadron.
- 934th Communications Flight.
- 934th Logistics Readiness Squadron.
- 934th Mission Support Flight.
- 934th Security Forces Squadron.
- 934th Services Squadron.

### 934th Operations Group

- 96th Airlift Squadron.
- 934th Operations Support Flight.

## Reservists, civilian employees to get "smart" ID cards

The military adage "hurry up and wait" may become as obsolete as brown boots and C rations once the Defense Department issues "smart cards."

For reservists and civilian employees the process of replacing the current identification cards with the new "smart card" will begin in June.

While retirees won't be issued the new card, the installation of the system and training on how to use it impact military retirees throughout the state during a four-day period.

"DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) will be down for four days beginning June 18 while the new computer system is installed and we're trained to use it," said Tech. Sgt. Bill Liberatore, from the 934th Military Personnel Flight.

The team will be installing the system at both Air National Guard and Army Reserve units throughout Minnesota during that same period as well.

"During this four-day period, reservists, civilian employees and military retirees will not be able to get an ID card issued anywhere in the state," he said.

Once the new system is in place, the 934th MPF will issue the new ID cards to reservists by unit, based on a schedule which will be published in July.

"Beginning June 24, activated reservists as well as civilian employees can stop by during the week to get the common access card issued," Liberatore said.

Smart cards are equipped with an electronic chip, a magnetic strip

and a bar code.

They've proven to be efficient time savers that can be programmed

provides additional layers of security on DOD's computer networks.

Defense officials say a critical element of this infrastructure is that it requires strong and substantial evidence of the individual's identity.

Key holders would use their PKI to access DOD computer systems and secure online transactions and for other security purposes, officials said.

Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre has authorized the department to implement the program, which military officials have been working on in one form or another for more

than a decade, Scheflen said.

The decision follows a series of tests done by the services over the past two years, he said.

"We do not plan to convert dependent or retiree ID cards because no requirement has been identified that would justify the expense," Scheflen noted.

The cards will cost about \$6 each, he estimated.

"The greatest thing about the smart card is that it allows an organization to take a hard look at its business processes to make them more efficient and to make life easier for the people in the field," said Mary Dixon, director of DOD's new Access Card Office.

The services will be able to program cards to meet their needs, Dixon said.

"The plan is for the components to get a certain amount of space on that chip that they can use for any application they choose," she said.

(American Forces Press Service contributed to this story.)



*A look at the new Defense Department common access card. With a 32 kilobyte embedded computer chip, magnetic stripe and two bar codes, the "Smart Card" will eventually replace the standard military identification card. (File photo)*

for use everywhere from dining facilities to weapons armories. They can be used to grant physical access to defense facilities and to electronically access computer networks.

The card can hold information about service members' inoculations, medical and dental records, finance allotments and other data.

Smart cards could help eliminate standing in line, filling out forms and other processing chores, according to defense officials.

Instead of moving from one station to the next, a simple swipe of the card would provide all the necessary information.

Flight manifests and deployment processing could be completed in minutes rather than hours.

The need for information security is the driving force behind the decision to employ smart cards, according to Ken Scheflen, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center.

The card would serve as the individual identification key, or "public key infrastructure," that

*Beginning Sept. 11, 2001*

## **DOD approves medal for war on terrorism**

Air Force reservists who serve in good standing in the Selected Reserve on or after Sept. 11 are now eligible to wear the National Defense Service Medal.

Department of Defense officials announced the reinstatement of the NDSM May 1.

Two days later the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Tex., released guidance on who in the Air Force is authorized to wear the medal.

"The sacrifices and contributions made by the Armed Forces in direct response to the terrorism attacks on the United States and to the long-term resolution of terrorism merit special recognition," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

The Selected Reserve consists of Category A reservists in Air Force Reserve Command units and Category B reservists in the Individual Mobilization Augmentee program.

"Individuals assigned to the 934th Airlift Wing and associated units on or after Sept. 11 are authorized wear of the medal," said Lt. Col. Pam LeBlanc, 934th Military Personnel Flight commander.

"Personnel records should be updated within the next 120 days to indicate award of the medal."

Eligible members wear the basic ribbon for the initial award of the

medal. Additional awards of the medal are denoted by bronze service stars.



*National  
Defense  
Service  
Medal*

In addition to active-duty personnel and reservists in the Selected Reserve, members of other than the Selected Reserve serving on active duty may also be eligible for the medal.

They do not qualify if they are on active duty for the sole purpose of undergoing a physical examination; are members of the Individual Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve or Retired Reserve whose active-duty service is for training only; or are on

active duty to serve on boards, courts or commissions.

The National Defense Service Medal is available through the Defense Supply System and in Army-Air Force Exchange Service Military Clothing Sales Stores.

The medal was first established by President Eisenhower in 1953.

It was subsequently awarded for honorable active service for any period between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954; between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974; and between Aug. 2, 1990 and Nov. 30, 1995.

No closing date has been established for the current award period.

Reservists who have questions about the medal should contact their military personnel flight. (AFRC News Service from a DOD news release)

## **934th AW commander salutes.....**

The **27th Aerial Port Squadron**, the National Defense Transportation Association's Reserve Military Unit for 2002. The award will be presented to the unit during the 56th annual Transportation and Logistics Forum and Exposition scheduled for Sept. 28 though Oct. 2 in Greensboro, N.C.

**Mr. Morrie Henjum**, a mobile equipment mechanic in the 934th Logistics Group's transportation section won state honors in the Federal Executive Board's Civil Servant of the Year awards program.

The 934th AW's other winners included: **Col. Paul Groskreutz**, 934th Support Group commander; **Larry Schyma**, superintendent in the 934th AW Plans Office; **Dianne Greeman**, secretary in the Reserve Recruiting Office, and **Rick Hunter**, a traditional reservist assigned to the 934th Logistics Group and nominated by the Defense Contract Management Command.

**Andy Anderson**, a student hire in the 934th AW Plans Office, received a Commander's Coin from the 22nd Air Force commander, for his work on a deployment database at 22nd AF.

Two Services' employees were recently named tops in their respective categories in AFRC competition. Congratulations to **Ms. Margo Leslie**, Services Civilian Senior Manager of the Year, and **Capt. Neal Landeen**, Services Company Grade Officer of the Year.

## High activity levels in summer prompts safety concerns

by Col. Gary L. Cook

934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander

As we once again head into the time of year when folks around the country (especially those of us still thawing out) start to plan a multitude of activities, we should give pause and consider a number of safety concerns.

Due to our higher activity levels in the summer, this subject deserves more attention now than at other times.

We're talking about everything here: cookouts; road trips; boating weekends; and just basic sun and fun.

Time and space don't allow a thorough discussion on every contingency. But what we can do to help you have a happy and safe summer is to arm you with information that addresses the full spectrum of safety related issues.

The best way to accomplish this is via the computer using a number of safety web sites. My safety staff provided me with a list of good websites.

The first is: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

This site is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Association and covers everything from how to deal with aggressive drivers, to basic vacation planning, certainly a good place to start.

Next is: [www.wranc.amedd](http://www.wranc.amedd).

[army.mil/safety/safetip.htm](http://army.mil/safety/safetip.htm)

This is one of many Army sites, courtesy of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and has very user-friendly links to 18 various safety tips to include seat belts, motorcycle safety, and lawn mowers. This is an excellent site.

A third site is:

[www.fightbac.org/summer\\_brochures.cfm](http://www.fightbac.org/summer_brochures.cfm)

This site has some very useful tips on food safety, primarily relating to the elimination of bacteria. Some 1-800 number hotlines are also included here.

Closer to home, there is a fantastic site. Naturally it comes from the Mayo Clinic. It's: [www.mayoclinic.com/invoke.cfm?id=HQ01460](http://www.mayoclinic.com/invoke.cfm?id=HQ01460)

Here's where you'll find everything you always wanted to know about summer safety, but were afraid to ask. It's not only thorough; it links you to the rest of the Mayo system.

Every computer should have [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com) listed as a favorite.

The next site is:

[www.gordon.army.mil/dps/safety/newpage12.htm](http://www.gordon.army.mil/dps/safety/newpage12.htm)

This also comes from the US Army. Keeping with the 101 theme, this site simply lists 101 links to other safety sites,

They will connect you to everything from lawn safety to sports injuries.

Just in case you thought the safety folks were devoid of humor, this last site is for you. It's: [www.petpigs.com](http://www.petpigs.com)

It will help ensure that not only you, but also your pig can enjoy the summer safely. Not much meat on this site, but it will put a smile on your snout.

On the educational brochures link, you can connect to: summer safety tips for Potbellied Pigs.

Back to the serious side of things, all of this (including the pig page) was found by simply using a search engine and typing in "summer safety".

There is a ton of information available regarding safety, during the summer or any other time.

As we begin to thaw and enjoy the warmer temperatures and many activities that summer brings, enjoy them and but do it safely.



## 101 Critical Days of Summer: A time to exercise caution

by Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III  
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON - Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, we are all much more aware of the need for diligent force protection. However, we also need to apply that same kind of vigilance off duty in the coming months, as we attempt to pack as much fun as possible into an all-too-brief summer.

Memorial Day Weekend signals the start of the Critical 101 Days of Summer, a time when off-duty mishaps are more likely to happen. Long workdays, coupled with alcohol consumption and horseplay, can spell disaster for even the most-seasoned citizen airman.

Here's a list of tried-and-true suggestions from the Headquarters Air

Force Reserve Command Directorate of Safety on how to survive and remain uninjured during the 101 critical days:



- Alcohol consumption: Don't drink and operate vehicles, such as automobiles, boats, jet skis, etc. If you drink, do it moderately and always appoint a designated driver;
- Traveling: Be sober, vigilant and well-rested;
- Boating: Know your craft and the waters you are operating within, and use personal floatation devices;
- Swimming: Swim with a buddy in known waters and don't drink;

• Jet skiing: Operate with caution, staying away from boaters, fishermen, swimmers and other jet skiers;

• Seatbelts: Use them and ensure passengers do the same. Remember, "it's the law;"

• Outdoor activities: Stretch muscles before athletic activity, don't overdo it, avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, use sunscreens and drink plenty of water; and

• Risk management: Use common sense, plan ahead and be prepared.

Enjoy your summer with family and friends, but be safe. Each member of our force is an irreplaceable resource in the continuing war on terrorism. Our nation needs each of us, our families need us, and I need you to help meet the challenges our nation is asking of our Great Air Force! (AFRC News Service)

## Kids don't come with a "how-to-do" manual

As parents, we wish our kids would come with a "how-to-do" manual which addresses every situation and problem that we encounter.

I haven't found such an animal at this time, but never the less, life is still interesting as my children grow into new stages of their lives.

We parents mirror our parents, TV, society and their religious beliefs. Whatever we learn we pass those values whether good or bad as well as if we want to or not.

I work with male adults who have had terrible childhood experiences that affected them all their lives. They

mirrored what their parents did, whether good or bad.

We can't expect our children to act right, when we don't show them how.

Parents are one of the greatest influences on a child's life. Children are like sponges; they soak up everything in their path. They look to their parents for advice and love.

When they don't find it there, they go elsewhere. Permanent attitudes can be instilled in the first seven years of a child's life.

Our children need encouragement like any other child.

They are very susceptible to harsh words. How we treat our children tells them a lot what they will think about God.

They are looking for a meaningful relationship with their mom and dad.

Neglect in spending time with our children and giving them things as a substitute for our love is like throwing a bone to a dog and leaving. It leaves them with very little to chew on.

Focus on the positive things of your children and tell them about it on a daily basis. They need a lot of affirmation. The parent is the most important figure in a child's life. They can either build them up or tear them down.

In today's society, children have been put on



Chaplain (Capt.)  
Derek J. Lauer

the back burner of parent's selfish desires, careers, sports and other such pursuits. Many children are being raised by day care centers, schools and other institutions.

America, unfortunately, has become a materialistic society failing to instill values, discipline, love and respect into their children.

My proof is observing today's children by looking at their values, ethnic and spiritual beliefs.

We are raising the next generation that will be leaders and servants in their generation. Raising children is no doubt the toughest thing anyone can do.

How can we raise our children to be godly and be a positive role model for society?

I believe that Deuteronomy 6:6-9, explains that we should not only teach His commandments but live them on a daily basis. More is caught than taught!

Do our children see us read our Bible? Do we have daily devotions with our children at their level?

I met a guy on a plane, saying he uses the "Daily Bread" booklet in the mornings with his children. What a great idea!

Children believe what their parents teach them

about God in the first five years. After that, they start forming their own ideas about God.

Start them early on knowing who God is.

Looking at Ephesians 6:4, it says to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Discipline is a touchy subject now days. The way we discipline is just as important as the way we reward.

Proverbs 23:13-14 says we "should not withhold discipline from children.." There are many ways to discipline our children.

Discipline must be consistent, fit the misbehavior, fit the child and be explained to the them why they are being punished in a calm manner.

We set boundaries at our home and tell our children if they cross over them, they receive a certain disciplinary action. This lets them know ahead of time what the punishment is before they act against their better judgment.

If they cross over, we give them what they want, discipline.

One of the worst things we can do is threaten them with discipline and not able to carry it out or follow through with it.

Lastly, enjoy your children. Children are a heritage from the Lord.

They are with us for a very short time.

My children have brought me much joy and I look forward to seeing them when I come home.

### UTA Chapel Schedule

#### Catholic Services

Sat: 3:30 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m.

Confession

8:00 a.m.

Mass

#### Protestant Services

Sat: 1 p.m.

Sun: 9 a.m.

All services are held in Bldg. 865 (northwest door).

#### Chaplains (Maj.)

Charles Perry (senior chaplain), (Capt.) Derek Lauer (Protestant) and (1<sup>st</sup>. Lt.) Tom Wilson (Catholic) are available for personal, spiritual and family concerns, visitation to work centers and recreational area, mobility and disaster assistance.

They can be reached at (612) 713-1226 or 1227.

## Computer users first line of cyber defense

It's always there, available at the touch of a key.

But although the Internet streamlines Air Force Reserve Command business and speeds up communication, it's vulnerable – that is unless computer users protect it.

If users neglect basic security precautions, the Internet capabilities AFRC users need may not be there to carry vital mission information.

Reservists routinely use the Internet despite its vulnerability. The vulnerability is underscored by the number of recent attempts to break into it.

In 1999, DOD computer security systems and specialists foiled nearly 22,500 would-be intruders and another 24,500 in 2000. There is no let up in sight.

Command officials are taking steps to improve the security of data systems to meet the increasing threat.

"AFRC operations depend on information systems," said Lt. Col. Bret Wilson, chief of the operations division in the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Communications and Information.

"It's important that we make sure our systems and the information they contain are available and protected.

"Our first line of defense is the individual computer user," he said. "We depend on users to know their responsibilities."

Computer users can thwart hackers by following these security tips:

- Use the automatic screen saver feature.
- Lock the machine when walking away from it by selecting Ctrl, Alt, Del and Lock).
- Scan all discs for viruses using McAfee Virus Scan or Norton Symantec before opening them.
- Do not use any unlicensed software on AFRC computers, including programs used on home computers.
- Do not download unauthorized software from the Internet.
- Report any suspicious e-mails or virus warning notices. Do not open any suspicious e-mails or attachments.
- Change passwords often, using

at least eight characters from three of four groups – uppercase, lowercase, number and special character.

This last point may be the most important thing computer users can do to help enhance the security of computer systems.

Hackers sometimes use programs to gain access to password-protected information.

These programs, which rapidly try various combinations of numbers and letters to figure out a password, can process millions of possible combinations per minute.

The easiest method is to try every word in the dictionary – a relatively simple, quick way to gain access to sensitive information, and unfortunately often successful.

It's not much more difficult for hackers to add a number or character to the beginning or end of words.

But the process is made much more difficult by adding random letters, numbers, characters and uppercase letters. (AFRC News Service)

## Travis reserve wing wins Solano Trophy

Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force named its best reserve unit as winners of this year's Solano Trophy several weeks ago.

The 349th Air Mobility Wing from Travis was recognized as the top Air Force Reserve unit for the second year in a row.

The Solano Trophy is sponsored by the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee, a group of community leaders from the seven municipalities in Solano County.

This year there were more than 40 units, including the 934th Airlift Wing, competing for Solano Trophy honors.

The 349th AMW demonstrated their readiness by participating

in every major strategic operation this year, in both hostile and peaceful environments.

The unit's two C-5 squadrons flew more than 190 operational missions, totaling more than 800 sorties and over 6,000 flying hours. In the process, the two squadrons moved more than 17,000 passengers and more than 19 million pounds of cargo.

Travis Reserve KC-10 squadrons flew 7,300 hours totaling over 1,100 sorties and offloading more than 329 million pounds of fuel.

For the fourth consecutive year, the KC-10 squadrons deployed to Southwest Asia, providing refueling support to coalition fighters enforcing the no-fly zone over Southern Iraq.

When the mission shifted to Operation Enduring Freedom, four crews deployed voluntarily despite not knowing scheduled return time.

Since that initial deployment, the unit has kept five crews continuously deployed for 30-day rotations, all in a volunteer status.

On the home front, the 349th Air Mobility Wing was thoroughly involved in the local community by hosting or co-hosting over 80 community events. Civic leader tours and flights as well as a New Year's Reception introduced more than 500 local leaders to Air Force Reserve operations. (AMC News Service)



## Special day allows reservists to thank their bosses

It's that time again—time for reservists to thank their boss for all the support given during the past year.

Employer's Day is Saturday, Aug. 10.

Events planned for the day include breakfast and briefings with the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve officials, orientation flight in a C-130 Hercules, lunch with and a tour of their reservist's work area.

Activities begin at 8 a.m. and finish up around 2 p.m.

Reservists in the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will have the opportunity to

show their boss or supervisor how much they appreciate the support they have been given as they finish another year of demanding Reserve duty.

Employer's Day isn't just a "reward" for those who have gone out of their way to support an individual's military career.

It's also an opportunity for reservists to introduce their employer to today's Air Force Reserve.

Reservists who wish to nominate their employer for an orientation should complete the form below;

Completed forms must be

received by Public Affairs, Building 865, Room 3, by the close of business on Sunday, July 14.

Forms may be mailed to: 934 AW/PA, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis MN 55450-2100; faxed to (612) 713-1229; or hand-delivered.

Leaving the form in the unit at the last minute can be risky. Be sure to hand deliver it by COB on Sunday of the July UTA.

Bosses nominated for the flight will receive a letter of invitation.

### ***Employer's Day Saturday, Aug. 10***

Invite your boss for an orientation flight with the 934th Airlift Wing. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT VERY CLEARLY. Also, be careful to get the correct name spelling and official title.

Reservist's Rank/Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ UTA Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**GROUND RULES:** Each reservist may submit *ONLY ONE* employer or supervisor --no exceptions! Federal civil service employees of military organizations are not eligible for nomination. You may not nominate family members (even when they are legitimate employers) or anyone who has flown with the wing for any reason in the past. Nominations will be screened. There can be no substitutions once a name has been submitted, even if the person nominated cannot attend.

Completed forms must be received by Public Affairs, Building 865, Room 3, by the close of business on Sunday, July 14. Forms may be mailed to: 934 AW/PA, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis MN 55450-2100; faxed to (612) 713-1229; or hand-delivered. Leaving the form with your unit at the last minute can be risky so be sure to hand deliver by Sunday on the July UTA. Your nominated boss will receive a letter of invitation.

# Commitment to quality

*Services squadron still feeding troops despite manpower shortages*

Photos and story by  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams  
Staff writer

Despite manpower shortages and unit training during drill weekends, it is the men and women of the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing services squadron who work hard to make sure their fellow reservists get delicious and nutritious meals.

The process of getting a hot meal on the unit training assembly weekend starts during the previous UTA with the menu selection. Tech Sgts. Stephen Kern, dining hall supervisor, and Mary Miller-Huff, storeroom superintendent, sit down with shift leaders and look through various recipe cards and plan the meals for the next drill weekend.

After the menu selection, Miller-Huff checks the meal plan with the current supply inventory, and orders the groceries during the month,

with the order arriving the Thursday before the next UTA.

Miller-Huff said she ordered 85 gallons of milk, 60-70 pounds of pork roast, 30 pounds of beef sticks, 100 pounds of hamburger and 60 pounds of French fries for a recent drill weekend alone. She has, on occasion, ordered up to 60 dozen eggs in past UTA's as well.

"I usually average 50 hours per month between menu selection, ordering groceries, paperwork and regular UTA duties," Miller-Huff said. "The biggest drawback to my job is when everyone yells at me when I don't order enough food. Then we have to go over to the club and borrow from them."

Kern said that food shortages rarely happen due to the inventory accounting program the unit has.

"We keep track of head counts for each month during the year," Kern said. "Most of the time the system is pretty accurate – we don't run out of food too often."

One of the biggest complaints was when we ran out of burgers, so I corrected the problem by ordering more hamburger. By far the compliments outweigh the complaints each month."

One of those compliments came from Tech Sgt. Ray Cleveland, 934<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, who said, "We're the best fed fighting force the world has ever known. The food is great."



*Senior Amn. Nancy Winter fries fish during a recent unit training assembly meal.*

When asked about his favorite meal served, Cleveland smiled and said, "Lunch."

According to Senior Master Sgt. Dennis McLean, services superintendent, food preparation for Saturday meals takes place on the Friday before the UTA, especially baking and making sandwiches for the take-out window.

Senior Amn. Kristen Maloney, services helper, has been working in the dining hall for a year and a half. While she occasionally cooks the main course, most of her time is spent preparing the take-out window for service by making sandwiches and preparing the take-out bags.

"Once the take-out window starts, it's hard to keep up," Maloney said. "No matter how much we try to stay ahead, we usually fall behind and have people standing out there. It's a team effort. I don't do it alone. We just try to have good attitudes and

**Continued on Page 11**



*Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kern serves a plate of spaghetti while Tech. Sgt. Mary Miller-Huff adds fresh breadsticks to the serving line.*

## Great people make dining hall work fun

Continued from Page 10

keep it fun.”

Kern, who cross-trained from an active duty maintenance squadron years ago, has seen numerous changes in the dining hall during his tenure here.

“A lot of services people didn’t want to come to the dining facility before, and wanted to leave if they were here,” he said. “Now it’s more in reverse with people wanting to come here and stay here.”

“The people are great to work with. We have fun and there is great camaraderie. We all enjoy it and it makes our jobs a lot easier. A couple of years ago everything went well for the Hennessey inspection. We didn’t put on a big show. Everyone just did the job and things went extremely well. That made me feel good,” Kern said.

The Hennessey Award is given out to the best dining facility in the Air Force Reserve Command. The 934<sup>th</sup> last won the award in 1997.

Several improvements are also in the works, especially in the meal selection process.

“We’re trying to put a plan in place for tracking the previous meals to avoid duplication,” Kern said. “We want to be progressive where we get some new stuff going and add on to it.

“Maybe we’ll get some special dinners sometime in the future as long as it fits our budget – it gets raised a little bit around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

“We usually try to do it around Thanksgiving because there are a lot of squadron parties around Christmas and we don’t want to interfere with that.”

McLean said the squadron receives its budget appropriations based on the Basic Daily Food Allowance formula.

“People ask us why we don’t have things like steaks and other goodies,” McLean said. “It’s due to

the budget. Our BDFA runs from \$6.40 to \$6.75 per day and we have to feed you on all three meals with that. That’s why it’s important to eat at the dining hall – that’s how we get our money out of the budget.”

“The daily allowance is prorated on a per meal basis,” he said. “The levels are 40 percent for lunch, 40 percent for dinner and 20 percent for breakfast. We average 150 meals for breakfast, 475 meals for lunch and less than 100 for Saturday’s evening meal.

Where else can you go to get three decent hot meals for less than \$10 per day? Most restaurants will



*Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kruger stirs noodles before adding them to the serving line.*

charge you at least \$10 for one meal, yet we manage to feed you three times a day for less.”

While it may seem overwhelming to be able to feed so many on so little at the dining facility, there are additional responsibilities placed on the services squadron concerning the feeding of the troops.

“We’re responsible for feeding the whole base whether it’s directly through the dining facility or indirectly through the clubs when the dining facility is closed, or for meals, ready-to-eat,” said Master Sgt. Dan Shaddrick, services specialist and the squadron’s only full-time air reserve technician. “I do the contracts for the clubs. I pay for all the meals including the MREs. Everything comes through me on the IMPAC card.”

Staff Sgt. James Eric Cullum, 27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, is not a regular at the dining facility. “There are a lot better places to eat, but it’s pretty good since it’s free. However, the food is better on the bivouacs,” he said.

He conceded the fact that Air Force dining facility food is the best of all the branches.

“Out of the four services, we still have the best food. I’ve heard guys in the Navy and Army say the same thing about Air Force food,” Cullum said.

McLean summed up the squadron’s commitment to food service.

He said, “Our dedication is to put out a good meal with variety and good service with what we have to work with.

“We like it when people give us positive comments like ‘Great meal’ and ‘Good job.’ That’s what makes it worthwhile.

“Our people work a lot of long, hard hours,” McLean added, “and the compliments help keep us going.”

## Wing practices Ability to Survive, Operate

Donning chemical warfare suits, protective masks and helmets was the norm for members of the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing when they practiced their Ability to Survive and Operate for a few hours early Sunday morning during the May Unit Training Assembly.

The exercise was held for a number of reasons, primarily to

evaluate the unit's ability to protect it people and resources in a timely manner.

Events for the three-hour exercise kicked-off at 7:30 a.m when the base was put into a heightened state of alert. A little more than an hour later the first attack began, with people putting their protective gear on and diving for cover.

After a short period, masks returned to their cases and people went on about their business for nearly an hour before the alarm was given again.

As events were transpiring, members of the Exercise Assistance Team were circulating throughout the base, offering help when the notice a deficiency.

"Buddy Care was excellent (during the exercise)," said Maj. Bonnie Tremblett, chief of the EAT. "Another thing noted by the EAT was the fact that people put their suits on in a timely manner."

She said it was also noted that the Giant Voice system needs some improvement, and people remarked that there needs to be more exercises similar to this one.



*Master Sgt. Gerald Siehndel, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron disaster preparedness, briefs a class on unexploded ordinance prior to Sunday's exercise.*



*Maj. Mike Laughton, a member of the 934th Airlift Wing's Exercise Assistance Team, inspects the straps on a participant's chemical warfare gear during the recent exercise.*



*Master Sgt. Doug Johnson, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron disaster preparedness, teaches a class on the proper removal of chemical warfare suits prior to the start of the exercise.*



*Staff Sgt. Derek Green and Senior Amn. Adam Peterson, 934th Maintenance Squadron, don their chemical warfare gear*



*Green and Peterson do buddy checks to ensure proper wear of the gear.*



*While wearing chemical warfare gear, Green and Peterson perform checks using their inspection work cards.*

**Photos by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Robinson  
and  
Amn. Josh Nason**

## Controllers relay information to leaders when needed

**Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams  
Staff writer**

When a situation arises that affects the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, it is up to the controllers in the Wing Command Post to serve as the eyes and ears of the commander.

"It is our job to make a determination of whether or not something is serious enough to bring the wing commander and pertinent group commanders in for a briefing," said Master Sgt. Greg Johnson, command post non-commissioned officer in-charge. "If it has a significant implication, the wing commander would call in the crisis action team to take control of the situation."

While the day-to-day activities can be routine, from checking official messages to monitoring the activities of the security forces and civil engineering squadrons, some days can be stressful.

September 11<sup>th</sup> was one of those days.

Master Sgt. Dean Swann was in Dallas on a business trip when he heard the news of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

After experiencing feelings of shock, anger, grief and frustration, he kept in constant communication with Johnson, and returned to the Twin Cities on one of the first flights out of Dallas-Fort Worth International when the airport reopened the following Thursday.

Meanwhile, the rest of the members either called in or showed up without asking, according to Johnson, who cited the command post's officer-in-charge, Lt. Col. Carl Lindberg as one of the shining examples.

Lindberg had almost reached the main gate on Sept. 11 before he

called the command post informing them that he was coming in. He didn't even have his uniform with him at the time. His wife brought the uniform and two bags of groceries for the command post troops a couple of hours later, Johnson said.

"Lieutenant Colonel Lindberg is an integral working part of this shop," said Johnson. He is one of the many cogs that make this place work. He is the cohesiveness."

Swann, who has served in command and control for most of his 19-year career, likens this experience to his one-year remote assignment in

next."

Swann recalled sitting in the Chemical Warfare Training Course during the September unit training assembly, and the fact that he was paying attention to the material that day.

"They played this video on terrorism and how it could happen on U.S. soil. It struck me that people very well may have gotten complacent over the years," he said.

"It's ironic that I had paid attention to the training and a couple of days later have the world change.

"Before Sept. 11, the danger was 'somewhere over there,' but now there is no question that the potential exists for it to be right here."

Johnson still has a lot of challenges in creating a good working atmosphere for everyone in the command post, especially when it comes to making things comfortable and manageable for everyone.

"I'm still getting a grip on the responsibilities and diverseness of the job, especially on how the attitudes over the radio and telephone can really cause a lot of trouble,"

Johnson said. "It's hard work in balancing the sensitivities of everyone and understanding the different responsibilities of the crisis action team."

However, Johnson said the insight he received from his current position and the ability to understand the organizational process is rewarding for him, despite the intricacies.

"We live and breathe by different checklists to ensure that every action has a correct reaction,"



**Controller Senior Amn. John Brown plots a board in the wing command post**

Turkey during the Gulf War.

"It gives me satisfaction in being able to provide support to aircrews and others, anyone who has been on a rigorous schedule since 9-11, to help them complete their mission requirements," Swann said. "I thought being involved closely with the Cold War and Gulf War is what I would remember my career by, but 9-11 created a much different world than before. We are continually trying to adapt to that. I'm just trying to stay mentally prepared for whatever comes

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## New enlistees learn about new unit on incentive flight

by Senior Amn. Stephanie Witty  
Staff writer

Flying high on a C-130 Hercules, new enlistees are being provided an opportunity to learn more about the Air Force Reserve and their future unit, the 934th Airlift Wing.

Fourteen newcomers to the wing had the chance to fly aboard one of the wing's C-130's May 4, as a part of the newcomer's flight, which was started by recruiting earlier this year.

The flight was conducted by an aircrew from the 96th Airlift Squadron.

The newcomer's flight was established due to problems getting

newcomers dates to attend Basic Military Training. Many new enlistees have had to wait several



*Lt. Col. Mike Bladel, 934th Operations Group chief of staff, conducts a safety briefing for 14 new members of the 934th Airlift Wing. The new enlistees had a opportunity to learn more about the Air Force Reserve and their future unit when they were given an orientation flight. (Photo by Amn. Josh Nason)*

months to get a date and 13 currently are waiting for dates. "It gives them a chance to feel a part of the wing and prepare for BMT and technical school," said Senior Master Sgt. Larry Giles, 934th Reserve recruiter.

The newcomer's flight meets every Saturday during the monthly Unit Training Assembly for two hours on a volunteer basis. They introduce themselves and get to know other people in the wing. It gives them an opportunity to get insight, network and get the latest information about BMT, according to Giles.

Many newcomers have spoken highly of the program.

"I like it, people answer questions and you learn a lot," said Amanda Hightstone, a newcomer who has been waiting since

September to leave for BMT. "I feel more prepared and relaxed."

"It is a good program giving folks who have made a commitment to the Air Force Reserve who haven't had a chance to participate, a chance to fulfill it," said Giles.

## High operations tempo tasks local controllers

Continued from Page 14

he said. "We make sure that we link with public affairs to make sure that things don't get out of hand in any situation. We don't want the wing commander or the organization looking bad."

"Between that and knowing the workings of a military organization from the top down and dealing with it on a daily basis gives me a good understanding of how each cog in the wheel needs to be efficient," he said.

That understanding has had a stabilizing effect six months later, despite having a high operations tempo.

"We still have the opportunity to be tasked beyond what we can

comfortably handle," he warned.

"I have some highly trained controllers who are tempting commodities for other command posts in different units who are trying to fill their shortfalls too.

Every time we have to take someone off the schedule means we have to do a whole lot more with less people. Lt. Col. Lindberg puts himself on the schedule all the time and that definitely helps."

He praised his troops for their volunteerism and commended them for their attitude throughout the ordeal, despite having only eight people when he felt he should have between 9-14 controllers to handle the current situation.

"I work with a high quality bunch of people," Johnson said. "They are hard working troops.

"Some even feel guilty if they don't pull a shift in a couple days. They truly are selfless people."

With personnel reallocations and new recruits, Johnson knows that help in bringing the office up to full staffing is on the way. "I could be in pretty good shape in about a year," he said.

Johnson maintains that he wouldn't have anybody shy away from the command post if they are professional, take pride in their looks, and have a proactive personality and a sense of humor.

He said, "When there's not a war going on, it's actually a fun place to work."

### **AGR positions available**

Opportunities for Air Force reservists to serve in full-time Active Guard Reserve positions have more than tripled since 1990, from 400 to more than 1,400 authorizations.

Members of the AGR Program serve under Title 10 of the U.S. Code and are entitled to most of the benefits received by the active force. They qualify for an active-duty retirement, provided they attain career status and can serve 20 years active federal military service.

The program offers AGR tours on the Air Staff; at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver; in AFRC units; and with other major commands.

Information about vacancies, application procedures and more details on the program is available on the AGR Management Office's web site at <http://www.re.hq.af.mil/agr/agrhome.html> (AFRC News Service)

### **Navy gate open on UTAs**

The Navy gate to the base is open on UTA weekends from 6:45 to 7:30 a.m. and from 4:00-4:45 p.m. Security forces officials remind drivers that vehicle lights should be dimmed when approaching the gate.

They ask individuals to have their identification cards ready to show to the guard. This will assist in the expediting entry to the installation.

### **June UTA dining hall menu**

The menu for the June UTA is as follows:

**Saturday:** schnitzel, bratwurst, rice, and saurkraut. On the short order line there will be burgers, reuben's and french fries.

**Sunday:** chicken alfredo, walleye fillets, rice and noodles.

### **Volunteers for band sought**

Headquarters Air Forces Reserve Command and the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve are currently looking for qualified musicians within the command to assist the Reserve Band on an intermittent basis.

Due to active duty requirements and some recruiting difficulties, the AFRC Band is experiencing a shortfall of musicians with expertise on piano/keyboards, guitar, and saxophone, among other instruments.

Anyone with professional experience playing a variety of musical styles (commercial, jazz, rock, classical/orchestral, Broadway-show, etc.), and interested in performing with the AFRC Band on a limited basis should contact Mr. Dave Ballengee or Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ferrell at (478) 327-0555 or DSN 497-0555; or via e-mail at [david.ballengee@afrc.af.mil](mailto:david.ballengee@afrc.af.mil) or [roger.ferrell@afrc.af.mil](mailto:roger.ferrell@afrc.af.mil).

### **Dental plan available for reservists**

Officials from the base dental clinic remind reservists that information on the United Concordia Dental Program is available at the clinic.

For a single person, the premium is \$7.63 per month, they said.

Participation in this program provides a maximum of \$1,200 per year.

For airmen basics through senior airmen, there is no co-pay for diagnostic, preventive and emergency treatment, they said.

To enroll in the program, contact United Concordia at 888-622-2256, or online at [www.ucc.com](http://www.ucc.com). Information is also available in the customer service section at the

Military Personnel Flight.

### **HRDC seeks volunteer speakers**

The Human Resources Development Council is seeking volunteers to work with their recruiting subcommittee by speaking at local schools, job fairs, etc. Anyone interested can contact Senior Master Sgt. Larry Giles at (612) 713-1454 or Lt. Col. Mike Huttner at (612) 713-1724.

### **Deadline changes for Viking Flyer**

The deadline for submissions to the Viking Flyer will change beginning with the July 2002 issue.

Individuals having submissions should send them to the 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office by close of business, Tuesday, AFTER the unit training assembly.

The Public Affairs Office is located in Bldg. 865, room 3.

### **Spring Fling set for June 5**

The Civilian Welfare Fund will be sponsoring their annual Spring Fling Wednesday, June 5 in the parking lot behind Bldg. 760.

Chicken and burgers will be grilled at a cost of \$3 per person.

Other activities on the slate include golf, water balloon toss and a fun walk.

Those planning to attend as asked to bring non-expired food shelf items which will be donated to the Trinity Mission.

### **AFSA meets June 1**

Chapter 858 of the Air Force Sergeants Association will hold a general membership meeting Saturday, June 1 beginning at 5 p.m. in the Enlisted Club. All AFSA members, as well as those interested in joining the organization, are welcome to attend.



## Options available to mailing letters to troops overseas

The 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office continues to receive calls from both reservists as well as groups and organizations within the community wishing to send mail and other items to U.S. troops overseas.

According to guidance received from the Defense Department, "we are not accepting mail from the general public to our servicemembers.

The reasons are twofold: security and logistics.

The military postal system simply cannot screen for safety and process the tons of mail that would be generated, they said.

To add to the difficulties, the mail from servicemembers families

might be delayed or mixed up in it all.

"Our troops may not get personal mail from their families," they said, "due to the volume of mail from the general public."

However, there are some websites out there that people have been encouraged to use to electronically post their greetings.

[www.anyservicemember.navy.mil](http://www.anyservicemember.navy.mil) is just one of them.

Also, DoD suggests that the general public do good deeds on behalf of servicemembers.

Members of the military typically are great volunteers in their communities. The general public could offer to fill their shoes while

they are deployed.

DOD also encourages people to be innovative in their approach to support.

For example, rather than write letters or prepare packages, one teacher had his school-children do a car wash and they donated the proceeds equally to all the services' official aid societies (Air Force Aid, Army Aid, etc.).

Others have written cards/letters to the many veterans who are in VA hospitals and local long-term care facilities.

This is a win-win, as both the community and the people who volunteer benefit.

## GI Mail keeps families in touch with loved ones overseas

While there may not be a laptop in every mobility bag, service members with Web access are finding their families are only a few key-strokes away, thanks to a 1997 Air Mobility Command initiative that has spread Air Force-wide.

Global Internet Mail, or GI Mail, is a secure means to allow service members and their families to reliably communicate with each other through e-mail.

The service, found at <https://www.gimail.af.mil/>, is one of many programs that keep families in touch, such as morale calls and video conferencing.

While it is similar to commercial e-mail services, there is one key difference — bandwidth.

"Commercial-driven services take up a lot of bandwidth because of the advertising that comes along with the free service," said Maj. Jay Doherty, chief of Air Force Family Matters at the Pentagon.

"GI Mail functions in every theater of operations because it is on a

military server with no advertising or anything extra.

"And, since government networks are limited to military access only due to a hacking or virus threat, GI Mail will be allowed through when other services won't because it's a military domain," he said.

GI Mail started out in 1997 as an AMC initiative and grew until the service became part of the Air Force Crossroads Web site in February.

"It's a perfect match," Doherty said. "Family communications is a community issue, and Air Force Crossroads is our official community Web site.

"We know that family is a big part of who we are and what we do. We know that when we're separated from our families, there is anxiety that can cause a lack of focus on the mission.

"If our total force members know that their families are taken care of and that they can stay in communication, they'll perform better," he said.

Not only is GI Mail available to Air Force members and their families, but it is also available to all members of the Department of Defense worldwide, Doherty said.

"Air Force Crossroads just went over 10 million hits in April, so we know that Air Force personnel aren't the only ones visiting the site," Doherty said.

Account registration and use of GI Mail is available to users from any computer with Internet access. Eligibility to use the system is determined by the Air Force Crossroads interface with the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System.

Once validated as a member of GI Mail, the account's User-ID and password can be used to access the system from anywhere in the world. The account is intended for short-term use. Stored messages and dormant accounts are deleted after 90 days.

"It is designed to communicate on a more personal level, compared to your official government account," Doherty said. "It's the equivalent of letter writing. Instead of sitting down with a pen and stationary, you can use GI Mail. You hit the key and it goes."

(Air Force Print News)



## AF announces Thrift Savings Plan open season

Civilian and military employees can enroll or change their contributions during the Thrift Savings Plan's "open season" May 15 to July 31.

"TSP is an easy, long-term retirement savings plan, that everyone should consider," said Lt. Col. David Zeh, Air Force Personnel Center's contact center chief here. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans, and you only contribute what you feel you want to."

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute because they don't have to pay taxes on earnings until reaching retirement age.

"Other features of the plan include a choice of five investment options, and an easy way to move your money between those options," said Janet Thomas, of the center's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

"You can take out loans from your own contributions and earnings and make in-service withdrawals. Another great benefit is that TSP is 'portable,' you can keep it if you leave military or federal service."

The investment money can be paid directly out of each paycheck so people never have to think about it, said Zeh.

"That makes it so easy to 'pay yourself first,'" he said.

"Employees already contributing to TSP are encouraged to review their TSP plan and account balances," said Thomas.

Some of the specifics of the military program include:

- Military members can initially contribute up to 7 percent of their base pay with the option to increase that to 10 percent by 2005. They also have the ability to contribute all or part of their bonuses or special pay up to \$11,000 in 2002.
- Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$40,000 in annual contributions.

Military members can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site, or go to the local military personnel flight, finance office or family support center and ask for form TSP-U-1.

Contribution allocations are made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site.

For general TSP questions, call the AFPC Contact Center at DSN 665-2949 or (800) 558-1404.

Civilian contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

Federal Employees' Retirement System employees may contribute up to 12 percent of their basic pay each pay period.

Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to 4 percent as well as an automatic 1 percent each pay period whether the employee contributes or not.

This brings the maximum government contribution to 5 percent.

Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay each pay period, but do not receive any matching contributions.

The amount FERS and CSRS employees may contribute will increase by 1 percentage point each year through 2005, when they will be restricted only by the Internal Revenue Code's annual limit, currently \$11,000, said Thomas.

Beginning with the Nov. 15

open season, FERS employees can contribute 13 percent and CSRS employees can contribute 8 percent.

All Air Force civilian employees must make their TSP contribution elections. The amount they want to contribute from their basic pay, or changes through the BEST automated phone system or Web application by July

31.

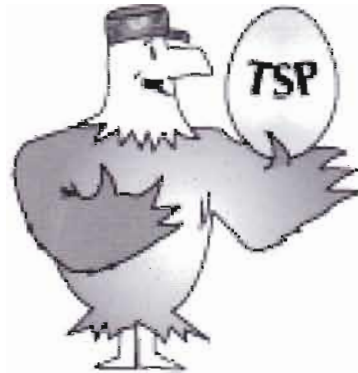
The BEST phone system may be reached at (800) 997-2378, or commercial 527-2378 within San Antonio. Hearing impaired employees may contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276.

Counselors are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT.

Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest their money among the five funds) are made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site.

The five TSP funds are: Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> or the BEST home page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm> and for Air Force military personnel at [http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift\\_savings\\_plan.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm). (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)



## Eberhart tapped to head new U.S. Northern Command

The commander of the U.S. military's space and continental air defense assets has been chosen to lead the nation's premier military homeland defense organization.

Air Force Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart has been nominated by President Bush to command the soon-to-be established U.S. Northern Command, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today in a Pentagon news briefing. The nomination requires U.S. Senate confirmation, DoD officials noted.

Northern Command will take the homeland security missions being performed by various combatant commanders and put them under a single command, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted April 18 at a Pentagon press briefing.

The new organization is slated for activation Oct. 1 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo., as part of changes to DoD's Unified Command Plan announced April 17.

Eberhart currently wears three hats as the commander in chief of both U.S. Space Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command and as Defense Department manager for Space Transportation Systems Contingency



**Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart**

Support, all at Peterson. He has served as head of Space Command since Feb. 22, 2000.

A command pilot, Eberhart flew 300 combat missions in Vietnam. Other assignments during his career include tours as Air Force vice chief of staff; commander, Air Force Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va.; and commander of the 5th Air Force,

Yokota Air Base, Japan. He is a 1968 graduate of the Air Force Academy. *DOD News Service*

## Reserve announces senior officer assignments

The Air Force Reserve started the spring season announcing significant senior officer reassignments.

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Duignan, deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve, will leave Washington, D.C., to become the director of plans and programs at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins.

Brig. Gen. William M.



Rajczak, a traditional reservist and mobilization assistant to the director of plans and programs, will replace Duignan in the Pentagon.

The Office of Air Force Reserve announced the assignments April 4. The effective dates of these moves are to be determined.

Duignan will replace Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, who assumed command March 3 of 10<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint

Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

In Portland, Ore., Col. Mark A. Kyle, 939<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander, will move up to command the 939<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, effective May 21. Headquarters AFRC announced Kyle's reassignment March 27.

Kyle will replace Col. Hanferd J. Moen Jr., whose reassignment as commander of the 445<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, was announced earlier. (AFRC News Service)

## Summer brings transfers for several wing people

Several members of the 934th Airlift Wing will be moving on to different jobs or retiring over the next several months.

**Col. Mary K. Hanson**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander, will retire in Aug. She will be replaced by **Col. Jorge L. Llambes**, currently the unit's director of aerospace medicine.

**Lt. Col. Cam LeBlanc**, 934th

Logistics Group commander, will be moving to Grissom ARB, Ind, where he will become logistics group commander for the 434th Air Refueling Wing.

**Lt. Col. Pam LeBlanc**, 934th Mission Support Flight commander and 934th Military Personnel Flight commander, will become the Deputy Support Group commander for the 434th ARW at Grissom.

**Maj. Kelly Shawback**, executive officer for the 934th Support Group commander, will move to Maxwell AFB, Ala., where she will become executive officer for the 908th AW commander.

**Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Voigt**, chief of training and resources for the 934th Security Forces Squadron, will move to March ARB, Calif., where he will work for security forces at Headquarters 4th Air Force.

### **934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron**

by Maj. Carol Freerks

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-3590

Several unit members remain deployed throughout the world: 15 people are deployed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom; and two unit members completed Top Star Training at Travis AFB, Calif.

The squadron has two sets of new proud parents.

**Tech. Sgt. Shane Lohmann** and wife **Sheila** had a baby boy in March, **Tyler** at 8.0 lbs.

**Tech. Sgt. Michael Thrasher** and wife **Chris** are parents of baby girl, **Madison**, born April 1. 8 lbs, 9oz.

One unit member, **Master Sgt. Ken Plummer** is hospitalized.

### **934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron**

by Tech. Sgt. Shirley Houin

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-1606

The ASTS is on the move!

The unit just completed a major administrative Health Services Inspection with flying colors!

The unit is mission ready.

This is also evidenced by the number of members deployed in support of real-world missions. Active duty Air Force people are looking to our Critical Care Air Transport teams for guidance.

Looking ahead to this UTA, members of the 934th ASTS and 934th AES will conduct a joint Aeromedical Evacuation and Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility interface.

The concept of this exercise will simulate an air evacuation mission (transporting patients) and setting up a CASF (to process patients brought in by the AE mission).

This will fulfill training for both units for their respective wartime mission requirements.

**Maj. Dennis Smith**, **Tech. Sgt. Mike Sanford**, and **Tech. Sgt. Shirley Houin** are at Keesler AFB, Miss., for Mental Health Services Topstar to fulfill their annual tour.

Congratulations to **Senior Amn. William Batdorf** in achieving a 90 percent on his Aeromedical Specialist (4F051) Career Development Course end-of-course exam!

### **96th Airlift Squadron**

by Capt. Scott Brady

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-1716

The unit participated in the Ability To Survive and Operate exercise on Sunday of the May UTA.

About one-third of the unit participated in the Fitness Walk Saturday of the May UTA.

Two airplanes flew various missions, from local training to a newcomer familiarization flight.

### **934th Civil Engineering Squadron**

by Master Sgt. Mike McGuire

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-1953

**1st. Lt. Steve Christoff** completed the recent FY02 Reserve Component Joint Officer Leadership Development Seminar (RCJOPDS) last month.

Long time unit member **Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Gustafson** was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sgt. Congratulations "**Chief**" **Gus**.

**Senior Master Sgt. David Halverson** will be attending a Human Resources Development Council Workshop this month in San Antonio, Tex.

**Senior Amn. Lance Werth** from the Fire Department and his wife, **Amy**, are the proud parents of a baby girl. Their new daughter's name is **Taylor Anne Werth**, born April 19.

**Tech. Sgt. Tony Feigum**, also from the Fire Department, and his wife, **Melissa**, are the proud parents of a baby boy. Their new son's name is **Ethan Anthony Feigum**, born April 24.

### **934th Communications Flight**

by Amn. Joshua Nason

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-1620

**Staff Sgt. Stephanie Robinson**, **Senior Amn. Chris Guthrie** and **Amn. Joshua Nason** of the unit's photo department will be going to Robins AFB, Ga., for training at the end of May.

**Master Sgt. Charlie Epps**; **Tech. Sgts. Edward Cox** and **Al Williams**; **Staff Sgts. Scott Inwards**, **John Herrick** and **Chris Krug**; and **Senior Amn. Anthony Blume**, **Chris Jones** and **Russell Robertson** are at Keesler AFB, Miss., attending various training courses.

**Robinson** also received the first oak leaf cluster to the Air Force Longevity Service ribbon.

### **934th Logistics Support Squadron**

by Master Sgt. Craig L. Molm

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-1351

**Senior Amn. Shawn Knutson** from transportation is deployed to Luke AFB, Ariz., until June 15.

**Maj. Dave Mattson**, the squadron commander, is deployed to Headquarters Air Combat Command until Aug. 6.

### **934th Maintenance Squadron**

by Senior Master Sgt. Robert McGonigal

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-1323

The unit is looking forward to working the Maple Flag exercise with units from Canada next month.

**Senior Amn. Del Deatherage** scored a 90 percent on his Career Development Course.

**Senior Amn. Doug Kiser** scored a 91 percent on his CDC. He also scored a 98 percent on another CDC.

**Senior Amn. John Steensen** scored a 91 percent on his CDC.

**Master Sgt. Edward Vigilante** scored a 93 percent on his CDC.

Certificates of appreciation for their outstanding participation in the recent Coronet Oak deployment were presented to: **Maj. Charlie Lowe**; **Capt. Jay Smeltzer**; **Senior Master Sgts. Dave Cormier** and **Ken Gillette**; **Master Sgts. Rick Klick**, **Conrad Kluck**, **Steve Lerbakken**, **Don MacElroy**, **Orvin Melaas**, **Lee Nupson**, **Tim Payton**, **Wade Priest**, **Mike Sabaka**, **Mitch Shores**, **Roy Schwegel**; **Tech. Sgts. Robert Braesch**, **Sam Baty**, **Devin Converse**, **Tim Giles**, **Bruce Medearis**, **Joe Mohlis**, **Ian Owen**, **Mike Pierce**, **John Tverberg**, **Dan Roth**; and **Staff Sgt. Dave Cadry**.

### **934th Operations Support Flight**

by Staff Sgt. Jess Lind

Unit Public Affairs Representative

(612) 713-3536

Unit participated in Joint Airdrop/Air transport Training at Demois, Ill., on Sunday of the May Unit Training Assembly.

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Members of the unit will participate in the Maple Flag exercise in Canada June: 8-22.

The unit will be involved in 1-2 June Combat Search and Rescue Recovery training at Camp Ripley June 1-2. Training combines intel and life support to train aircrews and personnel.

**Senior Amn. Jaqueline Burns** attended Human Relations Development Council training May 10-12 in San Antonio, Tex.

**Maj. David Olafson** recently attended a planning conference in Orland Norway for a NATO air exercise in beginning in late August.

**934th Services Squadron**

by Senior Amn. Kristen Maloney  
Unit Public Affairs Representative  
(612) 713-1652

The squadron has completed ATSO training for the year.

Lodging is competing for the command's small installation innkeeper award. Inspectors will be on base during the July UTA.

**Senior Amn. Curtice Storm** and wife **Chontee** are the proud parents of a 6 lb, 11-oz daughter, Kailie Lehua Storm, born Mar. 27.

**934th Mission Support Flight**

by MSgt. Vicky Kuntz  
Unit Public Affairs Representative  
(612) 713-1445

The unit participated in the base-wide Ability To Survive and Operate exercise on Sunday of the May UTA.

Senior Amn. Martin Roy Arceo and his wife Gloria are the proud parents of a new daughter, Maegan Bianca, born April 3.

**May 1 promotions**

**Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey D. Gustafson**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron.

**Senior Master Sgt. Lawrence P. Corrigan**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron.

**Senior Master Sgt. Larry J. O'Connell**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**Senior Master Sgt. Eric W. Sund**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**Promotion recognition**

**Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr.**, (center), Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, and **Col. Harry Weirath**, (right) AFRC deputy director of security forces, surprised **TSgt. Lyle Coney**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, at the Robins AFB, Ga., main gate May 1. Coney, deployed to assist security forces there, was promoted that day and the pair pinned on ceremonial chevrons to mark the occasion.

**Master Sgt. Donald G. Fletcher**.

934th Logistics Group.

**Master Sgt. Richard J.**

**Karpinski**, 934th Maintenance Squadron.

**Master Sgt. Martin M. Miller**,

27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**Master Sgt. Dale M. Place**, 27th

Aerial Port Squadron.

**Master Sgt. Michelle Sciarra**,

27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**Master Sgt. Wayne D. Stenberg**,

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

**Master Sgt. Karl M. Thorner**,

934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

**Tech. Sgt. Scott M. Chock**, 934th

Security Forces Squadron.

**Tech. Sgt. Merle M. Fisher**, 934th

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

**Tech. Sgt. William J. Liberatore**,

934th Mission Support Flight.

**Tech. Sgt. Donald W. Scott**, 934th

Security Forces Squadron.

**Staff Sgt. John G. Cheney**, 934th

Maintenance Squadron.

**Staff Sgt. Lyle D. Coney**, 27th

Aerial Port Squadron.

**Staff Sgt. Brian M. Hoff**, 934th

Logistics Support Squadron.

**Staff Sgt. Patrick M. McDonald**,

934th Mission Support Flight.

**Staff Sgt. Peggy J. Smith**, 934th

Security Forces Squadron.

**Staff Sgt. John R. Steensen**, 934th

Maintenance Squadron.

**Staff Sgt. Christopher B. Stotler**,

934th Security Forces Squadron.

**Staff Sgt. Erick E. Wilson**, 934th

Logistics Support Squadron.

**Senior Amn. Marcus D. Erickson**,

934th Logistics Support Squadron.

**Senior Amn. Danielle Romero**,

934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

**Major selectees**

Congratulations to the following captains who were selected for promotion to major:

**Michael P. Burns**, 934th Airlift Wing.

**Michael P. Deselich**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

**David S. Edwards**, 96th Airlift Squadron.

**Sara A. Hormig**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

**Michael S. Johnson**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

**Todd A. Kay**, 96th Airlift Squadron.

**Leslie A. Kirkpatrick**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

**Paul K. Knabenshue**, 934th Operations Support Flight.

**Neal J. Landeen**, 934th Services Squadron.

**Wanda M. Lorsung**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

**Timothy J. O'Reilly**, 96th Airlift Squadron.

**Raymond C. Otto**, 934th Airlift Wing.

**David J. Zenner**, 934th Maintenance Squadron.

**Retirements**

**Master Sgt. Kenneth J. Weber**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron, retires June 8, after 33 years of service.

**Master Sgt. Lawrence C. Dean**, 934 Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, retires June 6 after 20 years of service.

### Officers Club

**Lunch:** Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Dinner:** Tuesday -Saturday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Lounge:** Monday from 4-11 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

Bar food menu available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Bar food menu items reduced 20 percent between 2-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

**Sundays:** Closed.

**Mondays:** Dining room closed. Lounge open from 4-11 p.m.

**Tuesdays:** Early Bird Special in the dining room from 5:30-6:30 p. m.

**Wednesdays:** Chef's Special will be served in dining room.

**Thursdays:** Stir Fry Night in the dining room.

**Fridays:** Different seafood special in the dining room. Reservations required.

**Saturdays:** Prime rib for two in the dining room.

**Special events:** All you can eat seafood buffet June 8, reservations required. Father's Day special Saturday, June 15, Steak Au Poire. June 25<sup>th</sup> is Membership Night with an "American Picnic" theme.

### Enlisted Club

**Breakfast:** Tuesday-Friday from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

**Lunch:** Tuesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Dinner:** Friday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Open until 9 p.m. on UTA weekends.

Saturday dinner available at Officers Club.

**Lounge:** Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-9:30 p.m.;

Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 3 p.m. to midnight.

**Sunday:** Closed

**Monday:** Closed

**Tuesday-Friday:** Daily specials for lunch plus regular menu.

**Saturdays:** Closed for lunch. Different dinner specials in the dining room.

Club management urges everyone to come and check out their new lunch menu.

Some of the new items include an 8 oz Juicy Lucy, oriental chicken salad, Philly cheese steak salad, and Caesar salad with grilled chicken breast.

### North Country Lodge

The North Country Lodge has a new Lodging Touch (Reservation) System. The LTS is the newest reservation system that will allow guests to check out and print out information about the Twin Cities area.

Decorations and personal touches are also being added to make the new facilities more lodge-like, including a moose head in the lobby and elegant dining ware in the suites.

For reservations call 1-888-AF-Lodge or (612) 713-1983/1984.

Thanks to Master Sgt. Faye Dudley, 934th Support Group, the North Country Lodge has implemented a Book Exchange Program.



*The Fitness Center is sponsoring a special trip to watch the Minnesota Twins take on the Kansas City Royals Saturday, Aug. 3. The cost (for a \$17 ticket) is \$12 per person. Interested individuals have until noon Sunday of the June Unit Training Assembly to sign-up for the trip.*

Located in the hallway off the main lobby in Bldg 707, base personnel and guests can borrow books or drop off books to be shared.

Lodging officials say the rules are simple: "keep the area neat, no inappropriate material and remove any boxes or bags you might have used to bring books to us."

They said there is no need to coordinate with anyone, just bring in book donations to Bldg 707 and put them on the shelves.

### Fitness Center

Outdoor Recreation has a number of items available for rent.

These include EZ-UP party canopies, eight-foot aluminum banquet tables, coolers, a Super Cooker gas towable grill, beverage servers, and lawn games.

For those who enjoy the water, fishing boats, canoes and kayaks are also available.

In addition they also have camping equipment and bikes.

Sign ups are underway for the

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*Both the Officer's and Enlisted Clubs offer dining on certain nights.*

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Hike, Bike and Climb Minnesota Parks fitness contest.

It will begin Monday, June 3 and run through August 29.

Call Bill Garside at 612-713-1496 for more information.

All Officers and Enlisted Club cardholders receive a 10 percent discount on rental items.

Club membership applications are available at the Outdoor Recreation/Fitness Center office, the clubs and other Services facilities.

Current Discount tickets available at the Fitness Center:

Camp Snoopy-\$15.95/all day pass;

Underwater Adventures at the Mall of America - \$9 adult, child \$5;

Chanhassen Dinner Theatre (discount given at reservation, call the Fitness Center for details);

ValleyFair! tickets are now on sale;

Minnesota Zoo (20 percent off coupon)

Renaissance Festival (Aug-Sept);

Imax Theatre (\$1 off);

Minnesota Twins (select games);

For more information, contact Bill Garside or Ronna Puck at (612) 713-1496.

For UTA activities contact SSgt. Debra Hanson at (612) 713-1496.

**Officers' Wives Club**

The Officer's Wives Club meets for bridge several times during the month.

Individuals interested in playing on the second and third Tuesday at 10 a.m. should contact Germaine Reuterdahl at (952) 881-0107.

Individuals interested in playing on the first and third Wednesday should call either Roberta Gronemann at (763) 494-3517 or Inez Gugisberg at (651) 481-1983.



*Sign ups are underway at the Fitness Center for the July Unit Training Assembly golf tournament. The cost is \$40 and includes nine holes of play, the use of a cart, and prizes. Following the tournament there will be a BBQ and drinks. Contact the Fitness Center staff for more details.*

The OWC meets for brunch in the Officers Club beginning at 10 a.m. The program will include a style show by Bettie Lo.

**ATWIND summer promotion kicks off June 1**

Air Mobility Command begins the boarding call June 1 for their summer promotion, Around The World In Ninety Days.

The program, called ATWIND, continues throughout the summer.

According to Col. Terry N. Mayer, Director, AMC Services, ATWIND has been enormously successful the past three years.

"We are very pleased to be able to provide more than 11,350 prizes for ATWIND 2002," he said. It has become the premiere summer promotion, and we will award three brand new cars along with thousands of other great prizes—there is nothing that compares with this winning opportunity for our military community."

ATWIND is a virtual adventure around the world. The player's

"mission" is to travel from one landmark destination to another. Players earn travel miles every time they participate in an ATWIND event from June 1 through Aug. 31.

"The goal of ATWIND is to increase awareness and participation in programs, services and activities throughout the command," said Sam Parker, marketing director with AMC Services.

He said ATWIND's master events list includes recreational activities, sports and fitness, social functions, youth programs, educational opportunities, family support programs, chapel programs, base events and services.

Beginning June 1, people can see firsthand how the ATWIND game is played by registering the free introductory game piece # 9999-0033-333 at the ATWIND Web site

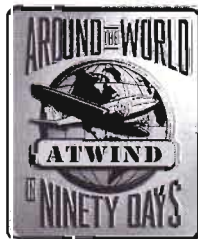
([www.atwind.com](http://www.atwind.com)) or calling ATWIND's toll-free number, 1-888-597-9960.

Once registered, participants then log their ATWIND travel miles on the Web or by using the toll-free number.

"The list of ATWIND opportunities is quite impressive," said Mayer. "We have included some new twists this year, adding an on-line Military Trivia Quiz and offering additional prize-winning opportunities worth thousands of dollars. I encourage everyone to log on and get into the fun."

This year, prizes range from promotional T-shirts to vacation packages, cash and a choice of one of three Ford Motor Company vehicles.

ATWIND random prizes will also be awarded during the game piece registration process. All prize drawings are conducted at random.





*Col. Gary L. Cook, 934th Airlift Wing commander, discusses the mission of the wing with a Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce member at a recent meeting. He brought Senior Amn. Kristen Maloney (center) with him to the meeting for her to talk to the group about the Base Honor Guard's involvement in the community. (Photo by Lt. Col. Marge McGlinn)*

## 934th ASTS ready to do their job, say health inspectors

by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams  
Staff writer

The 934<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron received a "Mission Ready" rating on their Health Services Inspection during the May unit training assembly.

A four person inspection team evaluated 74 elements in four functional areas in the squadron – Health Care Support, Military Leadership and Executive Management, Medical Readiness, along with Operational and Preventative Health Services, said SMSgt. James Gustafson, 934<sup>th</sup> ASTS health services manager.

According to the inspection report, the squadron is "providing timely and effective support to the wing. Unit leadership is commendable and team integration is fully evident."

According to Col. Mary Hanson, ASTS commander, the inspection process entailed a documentation review of medical and dental records, personnel training records and continuity binders established by functional managers as part of their program management. The documentation filled 29 boxes prepared for the inspector's review.

The inspection also involved a series of interviews with each functional manager as well as group interviews with executive leadership, company grade officers and both senior and junior enlisted groups.

"The overall result validates the readiness of our unit, and recognizes the hard work that our members put

forth," Gustafson said. "Any time you do an inspection that shows you are mission ready, you should be satisfied."

Even with the strong rating, he concedes the squadron still has a lot of hard work ahead.

"Within the 74 elements inspected, we received four major findings. Additional administrative oversight by executive management will allow us to correct these areas. In turn, we will be expected to forward documentation of our process change to the Air Force Inspection Agency. The inspection is a roadmap to further organizational improvement, which will make us a better unit," he said.

He cites the confusion on whether the squadron could have a media center in place of a reference library as one of the examples of what is right with the inspection process.

"Sometimes that outside oversight can get you back on the right track, especially in areas that are easy to fix, like the reference library," Gustafson said. "It was determined that we were to have a reference library instead of a media center, so we just have to make a few changes and we'll have the library."

Hanson said the results will be incorporated within the unit's self-inspection program and fills the requirement for one semi-annual internal inspection. This type of inspection occurs every four years. The unit can expect a future inspection in 2006.