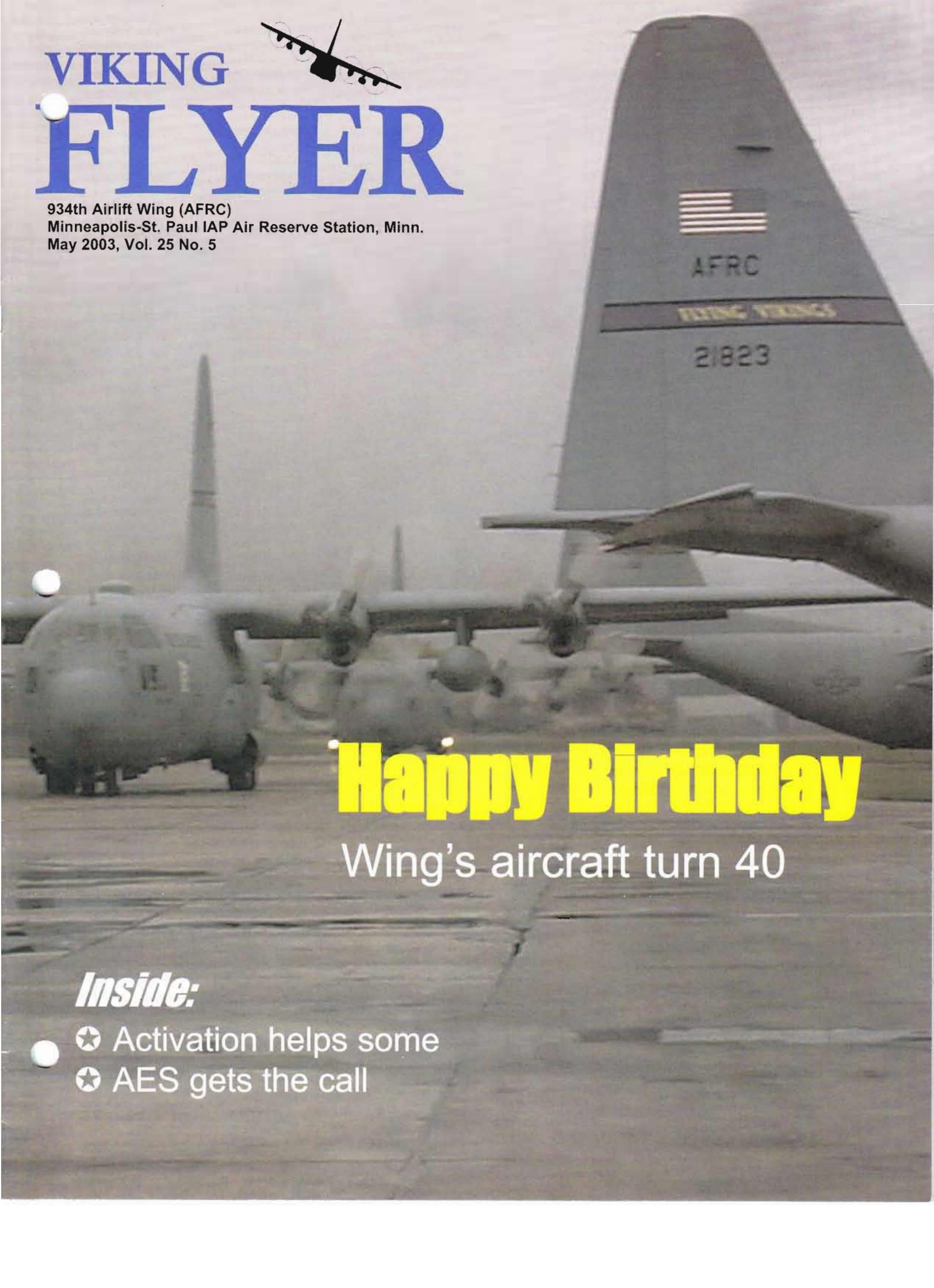




VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)
Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.
May 2003, Vol. 25 No. 5



Happy Birthday

Wing's aircraft turn 40

Inside:

- ✪ Activation helps some
- ✪ AES gets the call



This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the *Viking Flyer* are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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The deadline for unsolicited submissions is the Monday after the UTA.

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Ministering to the troops... Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Perry, 934th Airlift Wing, traveled to the West Indies to help provide humanitarian assistance. Learn more about the mission and learn more about the wing's chaplain on **Pages 6 and 7.**

Activation vs. Unemployment... The activation of more than 400 unit members has caused hardship for many. But, there are some within the unit that have benefitted. Read more on **Page 5.**

New commander... The 934th Mission Support Group has a new commander. Col. Teresa Hams will officially assume command during a ceremony on Saturday of the May UTA. Read more about her on **Page 4.**

Operation Iraqi Freedom... Reservists have played key roles during Operation Iraqi Freedom. One unit was involved in the troop rescue. Read more about these reservists on **Page 8.**

Dealing with the seperation... An activation can mean mothers and fathers, and husbands and wives have to be separated for a long period of time. Read about how the family of one wing member is coping with the separation...**Page 9.**



On the Cover

Some of the 934th Airlift Wing's C-130 aircraft taxi in preparation for take off. The wing's aircraft turn 40-years-old this month. The wing will hold a celebration in the hangar in honor of the occasion. The celebration is Saturday to begin at approximately 4:30 p.m. (Photo by TSgt. Phillip Kvamme)

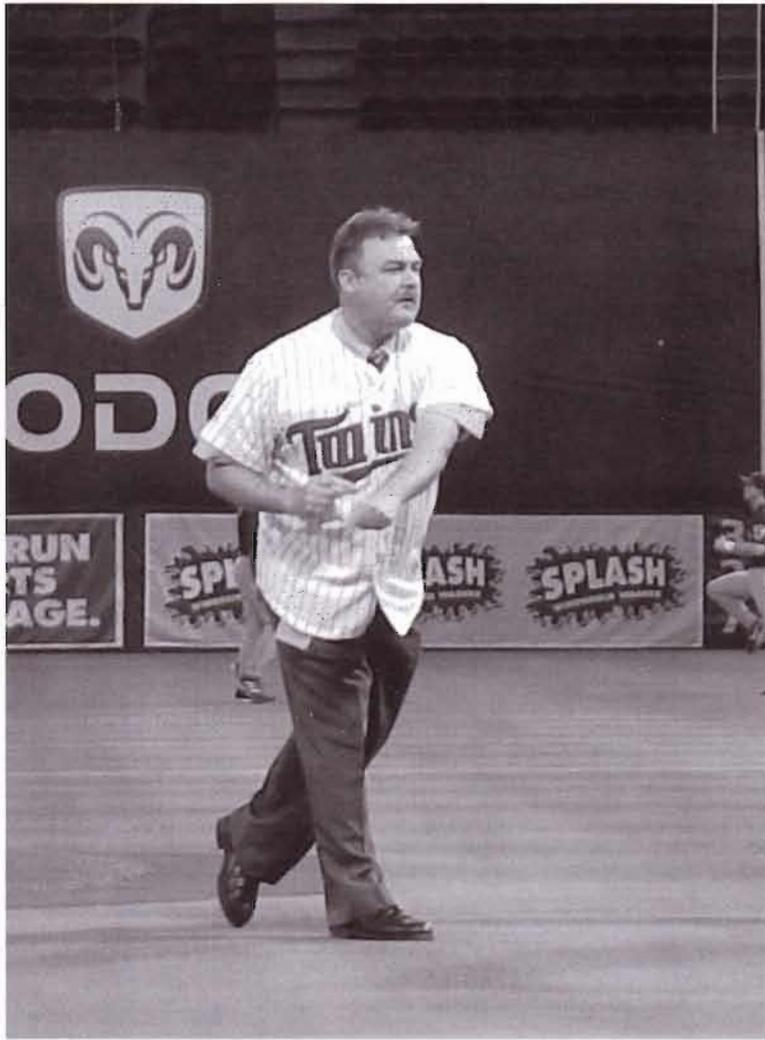


photo by Allen Marshall

South Paw!

CMSgt. Tracy Tratar, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, hurls the first pitch at a Minnesota Twins game April 6. Tratar, a US Postal Employee and now activated reservist, participated in the event as part of a US stamp unveiling. He was one of the postal employees chosen to throw out the pitch in part because of his involvement with the Air Force Reserve.

TRICARE changes help reservists' families

WASHINGTON - Families of reservists mobilized for more than 30 consecutive days may now opt for the military's best form of healthcare insurance. In a pending change, families who live with their military sponsors at the time of their mobilization will be eligible for TRICARE Prime Re-

mote when the mobilized reservists deploy outside the area.

"It's important that we take care of the families of our reserve component members," said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "We want to ensure that

Continued on Page 5

AES gets the call to duty

**By SrA Jennifer Johnson
Staff Writer**

About 30 people from the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron are being given the opportunity to put their training to a test as they officially got their activation orders March 27th.

"I've been waiting for the phone call for awhile now," said Master Sgt. Chris Vandenberg, 934th AES medical technician. "We train and train and train, and now it's like we've been called up for the 'Big Game.'"

Vandenberg, who will be part of a five-man crew made up of two nurses and three medical technicians, said he's proud to be serving for his country and is honored to be able to aid his fellow comrades.

"It's a bittersweet feeling because when we are deployed we want to be helping out but if we are busy that means someone else is in pain and is suffering," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Albert Anderson, also a 934th AES medical technician, said the crews' job is comparable to being in a flying ambulance. He added that they are directly responsible for the safety of the patients and are sometimes faced with obstacles other medical technicians don't have to overcome, such as altitude and other stresses the patients may experience from flying.

"We don't always know what situation we are going to have, so many times we have to adapt and overcome," Anderson said. "We train to the extreme so that when something unpredictable happens, we are

Continued on Page 9

Hams takes command of MSG

New CC is a native Minnesotan

by SSgt. Troy Novak
Staff writer

Colonel Teresa A. Hams, the new Mission Support Group commander, sets high standards for the 934th Airlift Wing.

Hams, who has come to the 934th from Charleston AFB, S.C., replaces Col. Paul Groskreutz who is now the 22nd Air Force Regional Support Group commander.

Hams said, "People want to be a part of a winning team – set the highest standards possible; high standards equal success."

A former resident of Lakeville, Minn., Hams said she is happy to be back in the state after 25 years. Already she has run into former classmates like Senior Master Sgt. David Hammer (base historian), whom she graduated with 30 years ago.

Hams said, "Minneapolis is a great family community," and she will be proud to serve here.

Commissioned in 1980, Hams brings knowledge



Col. Teresa Hams with MSgt. Dan Shaddrick.

and experience to the 934th AW.

Hams said, "People are an asset," and "the Support Group is about caring for people."

Hams graduated with a bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and has completed a master's degree from Campbell University, N.C.

Active, reserve units blend seamlessly

By SSgt. Kristina Barrett
457th Air Expeditionary
Group Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM - Active-duty and Air Force Reserve Command airmen are working side-by-side and facing the same wartime challenges while deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Air Reserve technicians from the 917th Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., work in tandem with their active-duty counterparts as members of the 5th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron munitions flight at a forward-deployed location.

It is impossible to tell who is in the active force and who is in the Reserve, except for the uniform patches.

At home station, the technicians, who are known

by the acronym ARTs, do the same jobs as other bluesuiters. However, they serve in their units as civilian employees except during periods of Reserve duty, which usually include one weekend per month of drill and two weeks of annual tour.

"My job in peacetime is the same as my job upon activation - to train and prepare traditional reservists to perform their wartime duties," said Master Sgt. Joel Estes, senior munitions controller. "During the rest of the time, we're supporting the 917th Wing's munitions flight, providing weapons for training."

The 917th Wing is a combined wing, equipped with A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and B-52 Stratofortresses.

"Our mission at Barksdale provides our people the unique opportunity of being able to train on both fighter and bomber assets at the same time," Estes said. "Most people spend their Reserve career on one or the other but rarely both. It's the perfect training environment for our traditional Reserve members."

This training is valuable to the Air Force's total force, which blends active-duty, Air National Guard and Reserve airmen into one team.

As deployed airmen, ARTs bring their experience and knowledge to the fight, according to Estes.

The difference, according to Senior Master Sgt. Clinton Cates, night-

shift supervisor, is the job satisfaction that comes with being deployed.

"Our mission here, in ways, is much more rewarding than the day-to-day," he said. "The pace is quicker and ever flowing, so it keeps you on your toes."

Estes agreed. "The stress level is more intense, and the hours are longer, but there's a great feeling of accomplishment. Being a part of any contingency is the only way we realize the true magnitude of our training."

"Everyone here is working toward a common cause," Cates said.

"The blending of active-duty and reserve airmen has been seamless," said Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Quattlebaum, munitions flight chief. (AFRC News Service from Air Force Print News)

TRICARE continued from Page 3

our mobilized National Guard and Reserve members aren't worried about who's caring for their families while they're gone, and to return them to families whose health care needs have been met by the military health system."

Previously, reservists had to be placed on military orders for 179 days or more for their families to get TRICARE Prime, the most advanced form and lowest cost healthcare insurance, which includes preventive health care, no deductibles, no enrollment fees and no cost-shares. If reservists were activated for less than 179 days, their families were automatically covered under TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra without having to send enrollment forms to TRICARE.

Families lose their eligibility for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote for Active-Duty Family Members coverage when reservists deploy outside the immediate area, so officials in the TRICARE Management Activity are working to implement the change. In the future, families will still have to "reside with" the reservists at the time of mobilization to qualify for TRICARE Prime Remote for Active-Duty Family Member coverage, which allows them to obtain medical care 50 miles or more from a military medical treatment facility. TRICARE Prime Remote was originally designed to provide medical care for recruiters and their families if they live and work outside a military medical treatment facility area.

Hall and Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, announced the policy changes March 12. The change in qualifying days for TRICARE Prime took effect March 10. As of March 24, TRICARE Management Activity officials said the effective date of the TRICARE Prime Remote policy change was yet to be determined but said the change would not be retroactive.

Congress recognized the concerns of reservists and their families, so it mandated the changes in the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

To qualify for TRICARE benefits, Guard and Reserve sponsors need to verify the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information for themselves and their family members is accurate and up-to-date. They are encouraged to contact DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552.

Activation vs. Unemployment For some, the call to duty has been a blessing

by Staff Sgt. Troy Novak
Staff writer

The activation of the 934th Maintenance Squadron has delayed the inevitable for some; unemployment.

The residual effects of Sept. 11, 2001, and the ongoing war on terrorism directly affected the airline industry and other jobs related to transportation. TSgts. Gregory Jacobson and Dennis McClain know firsthand what it means to be laid-off.

Jacobson, a five-year veteran of the 934th Airlift Wing, is a former employee of Northwest Airlines. He lost his job within a few weeks of being deployed. Understanding that his pink slip will arrive the day he returns to work, Jacobson is determined to use the activation of the maintenance squadron to his full advantage. He said that he would like to find work with the federal government or explore other interests.

Jacobson understands "there's not much demand for aircraft mechanics' at this time," and "if you don't know anything other than aircraft maintenance, it's hard to make that kind of money."

Prior to the lay-off Jacobson was commuting to Detroit for work with NWA. His family was planning on moving to the Detroit area soon after his daughter graduated from high school. He said if he moved to Detroit his family would be struggling like many others that were employed with NWA and transferred, then subsequently, were laid off.

Ironically Jacobson's

activation has allowed him to spend more time with his family.

While driving to attend the March UTA, McClain, a truck driver for Baarts Trucking, received a phone call from his employer informing him that he had lost his job. Minutes later he received the phone call informing him he was activated, his first words were "Woo-ho, I got a job."

He said since Sept. 11, 2001, it has been tough for his employer to keep him within the area so if he was deployed he could report in time for duty.

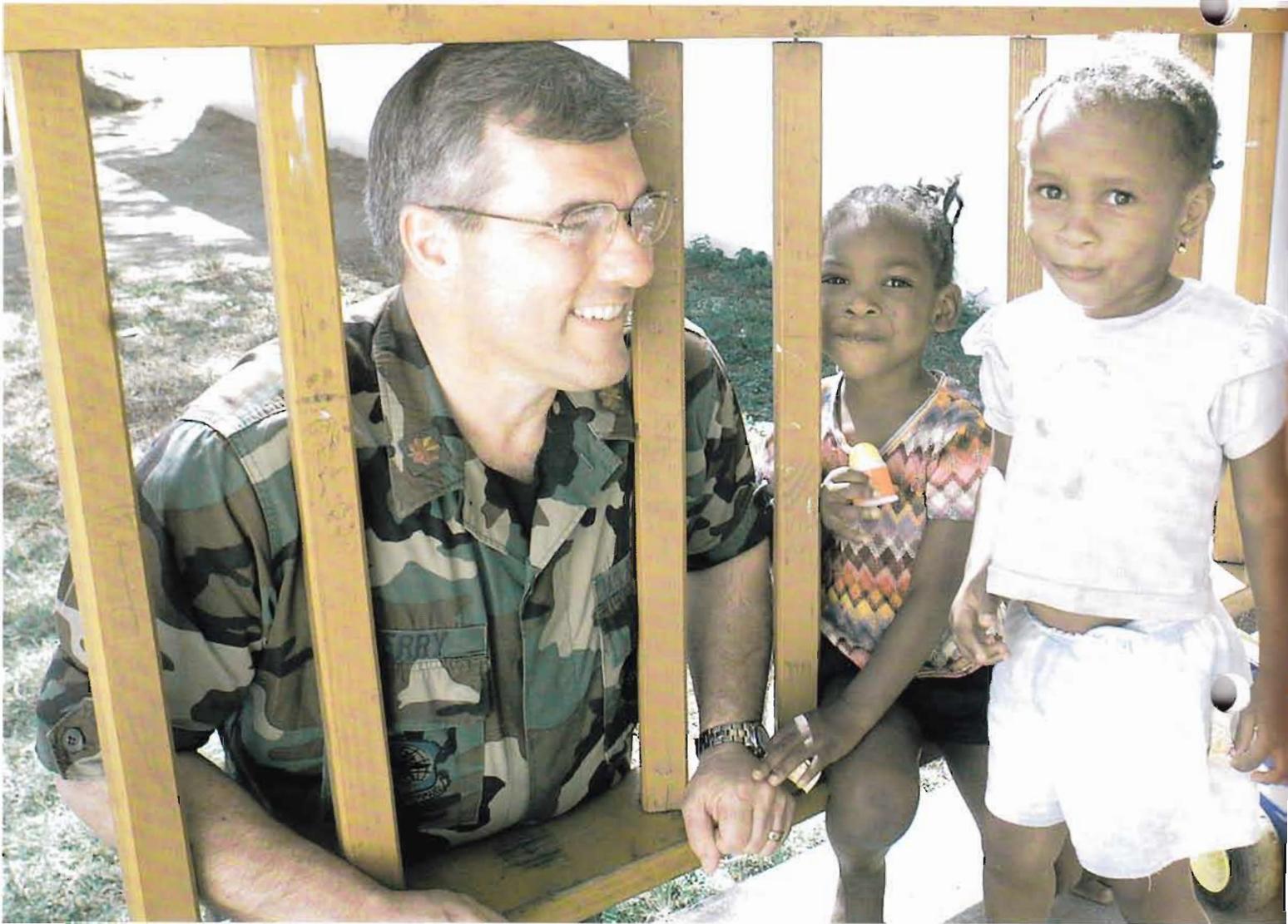
The economy has effected his industry, and his friends. McClain said the truck he was driving was repossessed and that the owner, a close friend, got hit hard from the slowdown in the economy.

McClain's outlook is bright. He said he could find a new job within three hours if he were deactivated. He said that this deployment could help him into a new career, or at minimal give him the opportunity to try something new, like computers.

McClain, single, said that he does not have to worry about family as much as others. He said that he will volunteer to take on tasks that would take others away from their families.

McClain said the activation saved his tail and that, "For some of us that may not have a job, it's a blessing, but if 9/11 would have never happened I would still have a job."

Ministering to the troops



Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Perry, 934th Airlift Wing, spends some time with orphans on a small island in the West Indies. Perry is taking part in a humanitarian operation called New Horizons.

Wing chaplain helps humanitarian cause

By Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord
Alabama Army National Guard

SAINT KITTS-NEVIS, (Caribbean) -- Here in this small East Caribbean island of St. Kitts-Nevis is a man, an officer—a chaplain—who continues to build his life's resume. He's ministering to United States servicemembers serving in humanitarian roles across this windswept country. Air Force Reserve Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Perry, from the 934th Airlift Wing in Minneapolis, has led a diverse life. As a soldier, a crew chief with the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, New York businessman, Alaskan oil pipeline worker and later as a pastor and chaplain.

Chaplain Perry, was asked to serve here on this small island during the two month duration of New Horizons and eagerly accepted. New Horizons is a Joint Chiefs of Staff directed, USSOUTHCOM sponsored, combined field training

exercise in St. Kitts-Nevis. The primary purpose is to train engineers, medical and support forces. U.S. Air Force, 1st Air Force Reserve, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines and Army National Guard in conjunction are conducting this exercise with the St. Kitts-Nevis Air Force. The focus will be to improve facilities and infrastructure in the host nation.

For Chaplain Perry, serving his country is in his blood. "I was a machine gunner with the 82nd Airborne during the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Bastogne in World War II." Perry says.

Perry got his first taste of military duty as a crew chief of a B-100 fighter-bomber in Vietnam. "I really liked it...no, I was a crew chief. But yet I got out after four years. I did a lot of things after those four years. I went to New York and worked as a business there for a while. I went to Alaska and worked on an oil pipeline and even had my own electrical business there."

It was while he was working in the most northern

“I remember just how confused I was being raised in a home that was alcohol centered and in a home where there was no love and a lot of abuse. I just felt that strong need to help other people.” -- Chaplain Perry



spent two months on the

changed forever. “When I was 29 I got saved up in Alaska,” Perry said. “Someone had invited me to church but I remember saying, no, religion doesn’t work for me. This guy had told me he had gone to this church and it changed his life. So I went and he was right. My life was changed forever. I knew I’d never drink again or smoke again. When I got up to the altar, — I’d never considered this in my entire life—I hugged this pastor around the neck and told him I’ve got to go back into the military and tell people about this Jesus I’ve met. I remember just how confused I was being raised in a home that was alcohol centered and in a home where there was no love and a lot of abuse. I just felt that strong need to help other people. The pastor told me it would take eight years of

college, but you have to take that first step. Before I knew it college was over with. By the time I finished seminary and internships, I was too old for active duty, so I joined the reserves.”

Early in his ministerial career Perry and his family lived in a small Wisconsin town. It was here that Perry decided to join a nearby Army Guard unit in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He served as an Army chaplain for a short while before the 397th Engineers scooped him up. Perry was commissioned as an officer and the unit chaplain.

His life later took another turn as they moved to Washington state where his wife Ruth was from. He

stayed with the Army until he got word there was an opening in the air force. “I applied for the opening and got it,” said Perry. That was in 1990. Perry’s unit was later called for service in the Gulf War against Iraq, but to his dismay, two chaplains were activated from another unit. He was left behind. “It really hurt to see my unit go and I couldn’t. We ended up transferring to Minneapolis-St. Paul. I also became a Wing Chaplain at the Air Force Reserve in 1995 with the 934th Airlift Wing. Years later, as I heard things starting to heat up in Iraq, I called my higher headquarters at Warner Robbins AFB and talked to the guy in charge of deploying us and told him I just didn’t want it to happen again—to be left behind. If my unit goes I want to go with them,” he said.

“He called me the next day and told me about this opportunity in Saint Kitts. I really wanted to go where the troops were in harms way. You know, in a wartime situation, the troops don’t know if they’re going to be here one day till the next. So many uncertainties and so they need assurances they have peace with God. I found it.

Here in St. Kitts he’s found the opportunity to share his faith and express his support to the men and women who are helping build a health clinic and day care center on this small east Caribbean island in the West Indies. “The chaplain has been real good,” said Staff Sgt. Franc Chenet, videographer with 1st Combat Camera Squadron. “He’s helping to keep morale up with positive notes and making sure everyone knows what time the worship services are—whether they be Protestant or the Catholic one downtown.” Chenet said.

Numerous local ministers of varying denominations have asked Perry to deliver sermons to their congregation and Perry willingly

participates. Perry has also taken a role in the Civil Affairs’ project here in developing humanitarian assistance to the local orphanage. “His heart for support is shown by his input and work being developed in a program called “Sponsor a Kid” for the children living in the orphanage,” said Maj. Joe Lucena, U.S. Army Reserve. “I admire his motivational support along with his ideas for help,” said Lucena.

Perry was asked what was his proudest moment in the military has been and proceeded to reach back in the past to explain. “As I said earlier, both my parents were alcoholics while I was growing up,” said Perry. Later when he became a minister they attended a service in which Perry gave a sermon.

“They were both radically saved the first time they heard me preach. I was his pastor for years. I buried him in July 2001 at the brand new Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner, Wisconsin. So now that he’s there, I go up every Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day and participate in services up there. To me it’s awesome. That’s my proudest moment and I’ll do that for as long as I’m able to do it.” Perry said.

New Horizon’s Task Force Commander, Maj. Byron Love, 820th RED HORSE Squadron, Nellis AFB, N.V., commented on Perry’s service. “From what I’ve seen in my career, when you get a chaplain that’s really motivated and really led by the Lord, and eager to be out here like Chaplain Perry is, is an awesome thing. It’s very rare you see someone that’s quit their job back home, and because of their dedication and it’s their belief they want to be out here with the troops. He is volunteering to go to the desert. It’s a huge bonus for us to have him here with us,” said Love.



Air Force Reserve Command pararescuemen return with a pilot after successfully rescuing him during an April 8 mission at a forward-deployed location in southern Iraq. The reservists are with the 920th Rescue Wing from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. (Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo)

Reservists rescue troops during Iraqi operations

By Lt. Col. K.E. Warren
920th Rescue Wing

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. - Soon after U.S. forces rolled into downtown Baghdad, deployed Air Force reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing had saved the lives of at least 10 American troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to Col. Tim Tarchick, 920th RQW commander, members of the wing were involved in at least four combat search and rescue missions in Iraq as of April 8.

"We've been at the tip of the spear on missions involving the extractions of two groups of Marines, an Air Force A-10 pilot and two U.S. Army special operations soldiers," Tarchick said. "It's likely our HC-130 and HH-60 crews have been involved in more saves, but the official word hasn't filtered to us over here yet."

In addition to reservists from Patrick, members of the deployed Air Force Reserve Command contingent include rescue personnel from Portland International Airport, Ore.

Their latest rescue involved flying behind enemy lines to retrieve

and extract an A-10 Thunderbolt pilot who ejected from his airplane after it was hit while flying a close air support mission over western Baghdad April 8. He was recovered and flown back to a coalition base, uninjured.

The previous day 920th RQW members braved severe weather conditions to come to the aid of two Army troops. The soldiers were critically wounded and needed help about five miles south of Baghdad. The deployed 920th RQW team worked with Air Force and Army special operations forces to locate them and transfer them to a hospital in Kuwait, where it was determined that they have a 95 percent chance of survival.

Two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and two A-10 Thunderbolt airplanes launched from an air base in southern Iraq and an HC-130 refueler launched from another air base in the region. Additionally, U.S. Army helicopters from another nearby base were put on alert in case backup firepower was needed during the evacuation.

As the team flew to the evacuation site, the Pave Hawk aircrews learned the soldiers were in critical condition. They coordinated with a special operations MC-130E Combat Talon I to meet them at An Najaf, 75 miles south of Baghdad, and to set up a patient transfer from the helicopters to the airplane. The MC-130E had a flight surgeon and two medical technicians on board to treat and stabilize the wounded en route to an advanced medical facility.

Everyone involved in the operation was able to overcome the blowing sand and dust, which allowed about a half-mile of visibility and a flying ceiling of only 3,500 feet.

The Air Force reservists rescued two groups of people in late March. A total of seven Marines were pinned down behind enemy lines in what Tarchick described as lengthy, complicated and dangerous missions.

"I talked to one of our pilots after one of the missions," Tarchick said. "He was tired but full of pride and happy that they got those Marines out. His adrenaline was still pumping." (AFRC News Service)

Coping with activation

Family of AES troop discuss difficulties of separation

SSgt Troy Novak
Staff writer

"Sam, wanna chicken nugget?" She throws it across the room and it lands on the high chair. Sam shows his teeth in a big grin before biting into his dinner.

Judy Brock and her three kids, ages five, three, and two, think nothing of food flying across the kitchen. To them this is normal. It's their every day life.

Ever since her husband Don was deployed on Jan. 3, 2002 and most recently Apr. 3, 2003, her life has been full of changes. Judy is lucky to be an officer's wife. It allows her to stay at home with the children during this difficult time and be both parents without financial restraints.

It's not easy being both parents and taking her husband's place. "Nick latches on to any man that walks in the house," she says.

He needs that male figure in his life, and it's hard for him to not have his dad around. Judy is thankful that at least this time around Nick, as well as Natalie and Sam understand that their dad *will* come back and that it is less confusing to them.

But, that isn't to say his absence is any easier this year.

Don missed Easter and Sam's first birthday party last year, and unfortunately will miss Easter again this year. Special occasions are always hard on families apart, but there are also the everyday milestones, like Sam's expanding vocabulary and Natalie's excitement as kindergarten approaches, that are hard on a family. Family vacations may have to be rearranged and phone calls and e-mails take the place of kisses and hugs goodnight until he returns.

Her three-year-old Nick idolizes

Don. He sleeps with photocopied pictures of his dad every evening. Judy says when they get too crumpled from being held all night she just makes a new copy for him the next day.

Natalie, the oldest at age five, probably understands the most, but it's still hard. Judy sleeps with Natalie most nights now. She says it's nice to wake up with somebody, being it can get very lonely without him.

That isn't to say her life is uneventful. Her day starts early and with three kids it goes quickly. Judy says that she is so happy when she gets to talk to Don. But, if it's towards the end of the night, she is completely exhausted during his phone call home.

Judy says she's very fortunate to have her entire family within a close distance. She's lucky to have seven brothers and sisters to help with the babysitting and household maintenance.

Judy is grateful that it's spring. It's much easier to get out of the house when the weather is nice and the kids can play.

He has told her that after these last two deployments he may be ready to retire after his twenty years are up. Judy hopes this is true, but she also knows how much he loves the military. She just hopes he remembers how important his presence is in his children's life.

Judy has kept the floors swept, the beds made, and the children clean. The only thing different that stands out to those who know Don, are the tears that show through on the American flag.

It's still waving in the wind, as proud as ever, but it's a constant reminder to those who love him that

AES

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prepared. That's when our knowledge and experience really comes into play."

In one such situation, Anderson described, the crew was able to pick up a heart patient as well as get in and out of a hostile situation in less than 10 minutes.

"Sometimes we are going into areas that most people are trying to get out of," Vandenberg said, adding that the chance to save someone's life is worth any dangers they may encounter.

"One of the coolest things about our job is the respect you get from the ground troops when they know that you are going to get one of their own to safety," the master sergeant said, adding that the look of relief on the patient's face is also rewarding.

Even though the crew may be put in harm's way, Anderson said that he gets a sense of gratification knowing that he is serving his country and making a difference.

"I know that I may have to give my life and not make it home," he said, "but I've never regretted one day I've spent in the military."

they are missing a piece of their family.

The flag will once again be mended and on perfect display when Don comes home free from harm.

That flag is a symbol of what their family has given up for the rest of the world and it is a constant reminder to be thankful to people who do such honorable jobs in time of need.

Officer's Club (612) 713-3678

Sundays: Closed.

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

Dinner: Wednesday -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. Lounge menu available from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tues- Fri, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sat

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

Tuesdays: Dining room closed. Lounge menu available 11-8:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: May 7 - Pork Chop, May 14 - NY Steak/Herb butter, May 21 - Beef Tenderloin W/Blue Cheese, May 28 - Pork Medallion W/Green Pepper Corn

Thursdays: May 1 - Calf Liver W/ Onions & Bacon, May 8 - Top Sirloin, May 15 - Chicken Cordon Bleu

Fridays: May 2 - Fresh Halibut, May 9 - Shrimp Scampi, May 16 - Beef Medallion W/Wild Mushrooms, May 23 - Blanched Cat Fish Fillet, May 30 - Seafood Buffet (RSVP).

Saturdays: May 3 - Pork Loin Roast W/Rosemary, May 10 - Prime Rib for 2, May 17 - Lobster Special (RSVP), May 24 - Prime Rib for 2, May 31 - Crab Legs.

Special events: May 20 - 2-4-1 Special, May 11 - Mothers Day Buffet, May 30 Seafood Buffet.

Enlisted Club (612) 713-1655

Call Bingo every Friday night from 5 to 7 p.m. Bonanza Bingo is available during lounge hours.

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Closed

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

Dinner: Friday night only from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Open until 9 p.m. on UTA Friday. Dinner available at Officers Club Wed-Sat.

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.

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

Fridays: Evening Specials; May 2 - Chicken Stir Fry, May 9 - Lemon Chicken, May 16 - Fried Shrimp, May 23 - Pepper Steak, May 30 - Seafood Platter

Saturdays/Sunday: Navy "A" & "B" Open for lunch from 11-12:30 p.m. on May 3 & 4, May 17 & 18.

North Country Lodge

Reservations: Call 1-888-AF-Lodge or (612) 726-9440. Web page <http://www.afrc.af.mil/934aw/Lodgingweb/lodging.htm>

Lodgings New Initiatives

☛ Monday - Friday, 7, 9 11 a.m. shuttle rides to the airport (there is a minimal fee). Began April 7.

☛ Express check out at the front desk, envelopes are located next to the key drop box. Fill in your address, seal your key inside and drop into the drop box and your receipt will be mailed to you.

☛ Need a return duty reservation? An easy to use reservation form for a guest checking out before we open or when there is a line. Basic information is provided to us and we make the reservation.

☛ Need a quick and easy Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner stop by the front desk and check out all of our **new** items for sale and we still offer fresh baked goods every Friday.

Fitness Center 612.713.1496**Hour of Operation:**

Monday-Thursday, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Weekends, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed May 23rd to May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

May UTA Activities:

In May, there will be a Fun Run/Walk around Lake Nokomis. The summer tennis ladder tournament will begin. The annual golf event will be held during the July UTA but teams must have entered by the June UTA. Please Call TSgt Stacy Campbell at ext. 1496 to register for these events or for more details.

The Air Force Cycling Program is in full swing at the fitness center. Earn water bottles, golf towels, caps, t-shirts, fanny packs, patches and much more. Register at the Fitness Center front desk.

In view of world events, ops tempo, and stop loss measures, the Air Force Services Agency is regrettably canceling the remainder of the 2003 Air Force Sports and Training Camps Program calendar. The calendar will be re-visited for possible continuation in approximately 90 days if world events warrant.

Outdoor recreation

Anyone wishing to rent a boat must have a Minnesota Watercraft Operator's Permit. The 39 minute Minnesota Boater's video and Boating and Water Safety test is available at the Fitness Center. Please call ext. 1496 for more information.

Discount camper rentals are available at Higgins Camper Rental & Sales. Call them at 651.702.5962, or check out www.higginscamperrentals.com

934th CES

Forty-five unit members deployed on Annual Tour to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, in late March and early April. Three major projects were completed working alongside our active duty counterparts. Numerous concrete pouring jobs were completed under the direction of MSgt Steve Nicolai. A 50x75 metal fabricated "Kirby" building was assembled under the direction of MSgt Bob Schabacker, and a 60-ton air conditioning chiller unit was installed at the Base Education Center under the direction of MSgt's Denny Geyen and Scott Leclair.

It was great seeing first hand how the various craftsmen trades worked together for the good of each project. Members from the unit's Electrical, Power Production, HVAC, Heavy Equipment, Structural, Utilities, Engineering and Readiness shops were all represented and worked well together. At the end-of-tour party, appreciation plaques were exchanged between the two units for a job well done.

MSgt Mike McGuire, unit ART, had the opportunity to speak at a local Minnetonka elementary school last month on the subject of courage. McGuire made his presentation in front of 450 school-age children and really enjoyed the experience.

The unit will officially begin its fitness walk next month to meet the annual fitness requirement. When last year's walk was all said and done, MSgt Doug Johnson received the fastest walker award with a time of 31:15. *(Submitted by MSgt. Mike McGuire)*

934th Comm Flight

The unit welcomed the following new member: MSgt Dan Rude.

SSgt Russell Robertson completed LDP.

Members of the unit Installed and configured new desktop computer sys-



Welcome Mr. Congressman...

photo by Allen Marshall

U.S. Congressman Jim Ramstad, representative for Congressional District 3, toured the 934th Airlift Wing April 16. Col. Gary Cook, 934th AW commander, showed the congressman facilities like the fitness center.

tems. Restored data and worked on restoring mission critical applications.

Some administrative members worked at the help desk and completed several CBT's during their annual tour held during the month. *(Submitted by SSgt. Christian Krug)*

934th Security Forces

Members of SF are slowly being demobilized at this time, and many of them are currently on terminal leave. Other SF activities for the April UTA were completing weapons qualifications, and attending LDP.

SSgt Doyle graduated from CATM School with an over-all score of 93 percent. AMN Bisch also graduated from CATM school scored 89 percent.

The following members of CATM received Achievement Medal's; TSgt Graddy, SSgt Doyle, SSgt Moore, SSgt Fisher, and SrA Halldin. SrA

Dustin Ator was awarded the AF Achievement medal. Michelle Ingrahm is the Civilian Employee of The Year. TSgt Tom Olson was nominated as the SF member of the quarter. SrA Hegner received an AF Achievement medal. *(Submitted by MSgt. Barry Haukoos)*

Wing Staff

TSgt Dawn Flipp scored above 90 percent at the Defense Equal Opportunity & Management Institute.

Jamie Christenson was promoted to SSgt and will be going TDY to Westover AFB, Mass. for 90 days.

SSgt Melissa Cogar, TSgt. Michael Finstrom and SSgt Todd Littfin all completed the residence 7-level course for financial management

Littfin has been activated for one year effective April 10. MSgt Gary Dorr is on a 90-day TDY. *(Submitted by SSgt. Nathan Dillner)*

Anyone wishing to find new ways to communicate or show support for America's deployed troops should visit the following Air Force web site:

http://www.af.mil/news/opscenter/troop_support.shtml

Band Strike Package



The 45-member Concert Band is one of the many bands that make up the Band of the Air Force Reserve. The Band of the Air Force Reserve has performed all over the world. It was the first band to perform in the former Soviet Union and it was the only foreign band to perform in the 15th celebration of the Victory in Europe Day Parade in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Band of the Air Force Reserve performs in Twin Cities

The Band of the Air Force Reserve is scheduled to perform at dozens of venues throughout the Twin City-area beginning May 1 and continuing through May 6.

The Band consists of 60 full-time professional musician who are assigned to at least three different musical ensembles. There is a 45-member concert band which plays classicla overtures, Souza marches Broadway show tunes as well as many others. There is also a nine-member pop music band -- Reserve Generation. Members of the 934th Airlift will have the opportunity to here Reserve Generation at the Hangar Party and Aircraft Birthday

celebration scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m., Saturday of the May UTA.

The Band also includes other ensembles like the Dixie Express, featuring New Orleans-flavored Jazz. There are brass and woodwind quintets specializing in chamber music. There is a Bagpipe band which performs in authentic Scottish attire. The Band also includes a Jazz ensemble and Southern Aire, a Celtic-style musical ensemble.

The different ensembles are playing throughout the Twin City area and venues ranging from a Minnesota Twins game to an open area at the Mayo Clinic. For more information, call the Public Affairs office at ext 1217.