

# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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Photo by Ms. Janell Harwell

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## **EDITORIAL STAFF**

*934th Airlift Wing commander*  
**Col. James J. Muscatell Jr.**

*Chief of Public Affairs*  
**Lt. Col. Margaret McGlinn**

*NCOIC/Editor*  
**Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams**

*Staff writers*  
**Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson**  
**Staff Sgt. Jennifer A. Johnson**  
**Senior Airman Curtis Holden**

*Photographers*  
**Staff Sgt. John Herrick**  
**Staff Sgt. Josh Nason**

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The *Viking Flyer* is mailed to reservists' homes. Copies of the *Viking Flyer* are also available at various locations on base.

All photos are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The deadline for all submissions is the Sunday of the UTA one month prior to publication.

## ***Aeromedical Staging***

**Tech. Sgt. Charles Nowicki** retired. His accomplishments and dedication to duty will be remembered by those who worked with him.

**Master Sgt. Roxanna Steffen** and **Tech. Sgt. Charles Nowicki** were awarded their Meritorious Service Medals.

The physical exam section kept on top of physicals and dental exams during the UTA.

The immunization section gave out 719 flu shots. Currently, the base is about 74 percent immunized for the flu.

## ***Civil Engineer***

The squadron said good-bye to **Senior Master Sgt. Patti Amos** who retired after 33 years of service.

We welcomed the following individuals into our fold: **Staff Sgt. William Ross**, **Senior Airman Tanya Hill**, **Senior Airman Brandy Reda**, **Senior Airman Curtis Galvez**, **Airman 1st Class Adam Wick**, and **Airman 1st Class Deon Gibson**.

**Master Sgt. Kenny Boelter** was presented the Meritorious Service Medal.

**Senior Airman Tim Tabor** received a plaque for scoring 92 or above on his 5 level end of course test.

## ***Services***

Services would like to thank all of the squadrons who supplied us with their First Shirts and above to help serve lunch on Saturday of the December UTA. It was a great turnout and a lot of fun!

Services will be training on the January UTA and will not be serving meals. The Enlisted Club will be hosting the meals for that UTA.

The squadron welcomed new member **Staff Sgt. Andreas Regal** who re-joined us on the December UTA.

**2nd Lt. Dennis Davis**, **Tech. Sgt. Kristen Maloney** and **Senior Airman Joseph Cervantes** are currently on deployment to Dover Air Force Base, Del., assisting in mortuary affairs.

## ***Logistics Readiness***

**Capt. Daniel Johnson** received the Air Force Achievement Medal.

The following were awarded devices

for their Air Force Longevity Ribbon: **Tech. Sgt. Lynn Blackwell** (5th device), **Tech. Sgt. Scott Sippel** (4th device), **Master Sgt. James Mueller** (4th device), and **Tech. Sgt. Roxanne Daggins** (3rd device).

**Tech. Sgt. Blackwell** also received her 7th device for the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal.

The following LRS members passed their 5 Level CDC's: **Tech. Sgt. John Taylor**, **Senior Airman Diane Daniels**, **Senior Airman Kelly Jabas**, and **Staff Sgt. John Czech**.

**Senior Airman Brian Hoff** passed his 7-level CDC's.

## **Wing wins Air Force top environmental quality award**

The 934th Airlift Wing was awarded the Air Force-level General Thomas D. White Environmental Award for the Environmental Quality (Reserve Component) category recently.

"I am happy that the men and women of the 934th Airlift Wing are being recognized for their achievements and dedication to preserving the environment in which we live," said Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 934th Airlift Wing commander. "This is yet another top-notch recognition of Minnesota's citizen airmen."

The award will be formally presented to the wing in a ceremony at the Pentagon in May 2006.

## **On the Cover**

**Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to the awaiting crowd after his arrival via C-130 for the Children's Christmas Party held on base Dec. 3.**

**For photos of the Christmas activities during the December drill, see pages 8-9.**



# Vision with action - changing the world

By Roger C. Hanson  
Mission Support Group  
Acting commander

I once read a quotation that inspired me. It read, "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without Vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world. As we work towards a more secure, more peaceful tomorrow...look around. Behind us you'll see a proud, rich heritage and in front of us a limitless horizon." It's been my personal quote for over 10 years now.

A recent commentary by Gen. Moseley our new chief of staff stated that we have many major challenges facing our Air Force. Some of these challenges and tasks may be ones we've done before and others are ones we've never undertaken. We must continue our culture of excellence and triumph together to make the mission happen.

We've had many challenges in 2005 and everyone again stepped up to the plate as a team and should be incredibly proud of their accomplishments.

No matter how long the road was we never lost focus. Many people had to rearrange family lifestyles that help play integral roles in support of our national defense and many natural disasters and relief efforts.

The 2005 Combined Federal Campaign contributions raised over \$21,000 through payroll deduction and one time cash/check donations. That is fantastic and shows how people who give of themselves and their generosity that benefit millions of people locally and nationally through CFC.

Many base employees again got together and volunteered their time to

help build a Habitat-for-Humanity home and I also do not want to forget the annual Paint-A-Thon volunteers. It is incredible how we triumph together to make it things happen.

The BRAC 2005 is being called an important milestone in restructuring DOD's domestic bases. After months of study and data collection, it has become



law and the 934th Airlift Wing flag remains standing tall, but there will be significant challenges for many military installations as they implement base closures and realignment at other DOD locations.

So what is head of us for 2006? First of all I want to take this opportunity to welcome Lt. Col. Nancy J. Brooks as our new Mission Support Group commander. She is coming from Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa., and will be joining us in February to help carry out our culture of excellence.

Lt. Col. Brooks provides leadership and management oversight presently at the 913th Airlift Wing as the Mission Support Group commander. Let's all join in and give her the good old fashion Minnesota welcome when she arrives.

Even though our budget is getting tighter it seems we are still lucky to have exemplary congressional and civil engineering support when it comes to new base facilities.

This year alone we will see a new main entrance to the base and communications building addition completed sometime around summer.

Also, ground breakings will take place this spring for the new Security Forces building, expansion of our base Fitness Center and the base firing range.

Another item that we will be focusing on this year will be the new National Security Personnel System which is a historic milestone in the Federal civilian personnel management system and will be implemented across the Air Force.

The purpose and design with the NSPS will give us a unique opportunity to attract, retain and reward the civilian work force so we can continue to meet the Air Force mission.

With this being only January and the crystal ball just starting to glow, I see deployments and a Unit Compliance Inspection in your future. Before you know it they will be here, so now is the time to prepare, as we face challenges that we may have never undertaken before.

I want to take this time to congratulate the units and individuals for the awards and recognition they received. There were many in 2005, which shows that, "Vision with action does change the world."

Let us not forget our family, friends and civilian employers that support us, whether it be day-to-day here at work, or long term overseas.

## Wing Commander's Hotline

The hotline provides wing members with a direct link to the wing commander to relay kudos, concerns or suggestions on wing matters.

To reach the hotline, call (612) 713-4685. Remember to leave your name and telephone number.

Before relaying problems, be sure to use your chain of command or call the responsible agency first so it can have the chance to help you.





# PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

## Human Resources Development Council works to make positive change in lives of wing members during drill weekends

By Col. Steve DeWerff  
934th Airlift Wing  
Vice Commander

The 934th Airlift Wing has a very vibrant and energetic Human Resources Development Council working for you here on base. The HRDC meets every unit training assembly to discuss issues that affect everyone on base, regardless of rank, sex, religion or national origin. Our goal is to create opportunities for all reservists.

We are always looking for new members who want to contribute. Currently we have about 24 participants in our group meetings but we have room for more and would like to see at least one additional member from each of our 15 squadrons/flights join in and participate. We meet in an open forum at the Wing Conference room at 9 a.m. every Sunday of the UTA and we discuss any



issues that impact the lives of our reservists. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, talk to your supervisor or commander about joining us on a regular basis.

What have we done for you? We held an Airmen's panel last spring and an

NCO's panel during the summer to find out what the 934th Airlift Wing was doing good or bad, and what we could do to make life better for you, our members. We took inputs about the dining facility meals and made suggestions to services about better meal choices for our health conscious members. Since those changes have been implemented the Services Squadron has seen a 30 percent increase in meals served over the UTA's.

We took your inputs about providing food for our Chicago Shuttle passengers and now we keep the Services Club open longer and provide a variety of meals later on Friday nights before the UTA. Plus, now all Chicago shuttle members are guaranteed a room on base if they make reservations before arriving on the airplane.

We heard the need for a change in lodging for our newcomers to the wing. So now all reservists reporting to lodging for their first UTA will be lodged on base instead of being sent off base where they don't know the area.

We have heard loud and clear the problem with too much to do on UTA's, with duties that don't include your primary job. We have sent that message to 22nd Air Force and Air Force Reserve Headquarters. Gen. Bradley is working that issue with the AFRC Air Staff as I write this.

We know you hate wasting all day getting a physical. Colonel Llambes and the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron are now providing physicals on Fridays before the UTA to reduce the waiting time during Saturday physicals. The 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

**See People Pg 7**

## VA prescription co-pays increase slightly

Co-payments for outpatient medicines prescribed through Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities will rise by \$1, for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs effective on Jan. 1, 2006, the first change in VA prescription drug co-payments in four years.

"Through sound management practices, efficient pharmacy operations and price negotiations that put veterans first, VA has been able to contain prescription drug costs," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, noting that co-payments paid by veterans will still be lower than similar expenses in the private sector.

The increase to \$8 from \$7 for a 30-

day supply of prescription drugs is required by federal law, which bases VA's co-payments for outpatient prescriptions on increases in the Medical Consumer Price Index.

The \$1 increase will not affect veterans who have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a 50 percent or greater disability. Also known as "Priority Group 1" veterans, these patients will see no change in their current prescription drug benefit, Nicholson said.

Other veterans with less pronounced service-connected ailments – those classified as Priority Groups 2 through 6 – will see their prescription drug co-pays rise by \$1, but their annual out-of-pocket

expenses for VA medicine will remain capped. The new cap will rise to \$960 per year, up \$120 from the previous level. This means veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 will pay no more than \$960 annually for VA outpatient medicine.

Veterans who have no injury or illness related in any way to their prior military service – referred to as Priority Groups 7 and 8 – will also see their co-payments increase, but there is no cap on annual payments for outpatient medicine.

Not all prescription drugs will be subject to the \$1 increase.

For a list of outpatient medications not subject to co-payments, or for more information, visit <http://www.va.gov>.



# AIR FORCE MUSEUM TO DISPLAY DISNEY MILITARY ART

By Mr. Rob Bardua  
National Museum of the  
U.S. Air Force Public Affairs

DAYTON, Ohio

(AFP) — From “Donald Duck” to “Jiminy Cricket,” a special exhibit that showcases more than 50 of Walt Disney’s original World War II insignia designs opened Dec. 13 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

The exhibit, entitled “Disney Pins on Wings,” will include the original Walt Disney Productions insignia designs and selected examples of Disney influenced materials from the museum’s own collection.

Included among these items will be World War II flight jackets with Disney designed insignia and original Desert Storm inspired nose-art sections from six B-52G



Photo courtesy of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

**This patch, featuring Walt Disney characters Jiminy Cricket and Dumbo, was created by Walt Disney for the 183rd Aeromedical Transport Squadron in World War II, and is now one of 50 original artifacts in the museum’s collection.**

Stratofortresses.

“This exhibit will be the largest collection of original Walt Disney insignia artworks ever placed on public display,”

museum senior curator Terry Aitken said.

He said although most of the items featured will be from U.S. Army Air Force units, examples from other service branches will be included, too.

Swamped with requests from the military and war industry during World War II to use the world-famous Disney characters in creating distinctive unit insignia, the Disney Studio had set up a special five-man crew of artists

to meet the demand for the designs, said Disney archivist, David R. Smith. He wrote the foreword for the book

“Disney Dons Dogtags.”

“They meant a lot to the men who were fighting,” Walt Disney was quoted as saying. “How could you turn them down?”

Mr. Smith said the insignia are a contribution to the war effort, done over a five-year period. The Disney Studio created 1,200 different insignias for bombing squadrons, naval vessels, training schools, chaplains’ corps, women’s units and even Allied units.

Of those, Donald Duck appeared in more than 200 designs with his famous temper fitting him perfectly for militant postures.

The exhibit will run through June 11. Admission is free.

For more information, visit the National Museum of the Air Force Web site at [www.wpafb.af.mil/museum](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum).



## Mission

Deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests - to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace



## Air Force releases new mission statement

The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

“Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges,” Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. “Our mission is our guiding compass, and it must be clearer than ever before.”

The mission statement defines the “where and what” the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis: *The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.*



# Wing members make 'North Pole' special

Story and Photos by  
Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson  
Staff Writer

On a cold, bitter and snowy morning Dec. 3, volunteers from SBC Communications in Eau Claire, Wis. and the 934th Airlift Wing went beyond the call of duty to warm up the holidays for 24 members of the community and their families to take a "flight to the North Pole."

SBC Communications Volunteer Gloria Grabowski, project leader, has brought together members of the local Army Reserve 397th Engineering Battalion and the 934th Airlift Wing to show these "special people" a special day.

"The joy it brings to these children is priceless," said Ms. Grabowski.

The volunteers and the Reservists involved have been working together for eight years, according to Chief Master Sgt. Tom Foss, 96th Airlift Squadron loadmaster. Chief Foss has taken part in all but one of those years, he explained.

"I do this every year because these children have special needs and they are special," said Chief Foss.

The children and their families are



**Senior Airman Michelle Odean, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, shares a passenger's excitement during the flight.**

brought in mostly by word of mouth, explained Ms. Grabowski. Letters are sent out and telephone calls made to schools and churches in the area to see if parents or educators would like to send developmentally disabled children to the event.

For most of the aircrew, this was

their first experience with what is known as "Operation Santa."

During the course of the morning, the aircrew flew to Eau Claire's airport where they met the volunteers and the families. After a short briefing, the

**See North Pole Pg 12**

## What are your New Years resolutions for 2006?

Photos by Senior Airman Curtis Holden



Staff Sgt. Chantell Chase,  
934th Maintenance Squadron  
Crew chief

***"To be able to manage my time better and spend more quality time with my family and schoolwork."***



Capt. Jennifer Morgan,  
934th Aeromedical Staging Sqdn  
Immunizations officer

***"To be more involved with my family including my husband, parents, brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces."***



Tech. Sgt. William Muller,  
934th Maintenance Squadron  
Communications/navigation

***"My New Year's resolution is not to make any New Year's resolutions."***



Staff Sgt. Amber Meyer,  
934th Maintenance Squadron  
Inspection dock mechanic

***"To work out more, spend more time with family, start a Bible study with friends of mine, and prepare myself better to spread the good news."***



# Security Forces host CAP color guard competition

**Story and photo by  
Tech. Sgt Tom Theis  
934th Security Forces Sqdn**

The 934th Security Forces Squadron hosted the 2005 Minnesota Wing Color Guard Competition on Nov. 12, 2005.

Facilities made available for the activity included the Wing Headquarters' flag pole at bldg 760; Security Forces buildings where indoor presentations, written and quiz bowl activities occurred, and the parking lot west of building 760 which was used as a 90' by 60' "drill pad" for standard drill and inspections.

Four metro Civil Air Patrol squadrons - Anoka Squadron; North Hennepin Squadron; Valley Squadron and Viking Squadron - competed for First Place honors, which include representing the Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol at various CAP, community and sporting events until next year's competition.

Competition events included a written test, run, drill, indoor posting and retrieving, raising and lowering the flag on a flagpole, uniform inspection, and quiz bowl. Individual recognition was awarded to the highest points received on the written test, fastest run and Outstanding Cadet of the Competition Award.

The First Place team awards for individual events went to the Anoka Squadron for Indoor Presentation; Outdoor Presentation; Quiz Bowl, Standard Drill and the mile Run.

The North Hennepin Squadron was presented the first place award for the uniform inspection and Valley Squadron for the overall written test.

Approximately fifty five CAP members and their guests and Air Force members attended and/or officiated at this year's competition.

Air Force participants



**Civil Air Patrol cadets prepare to raise the American flag during the Nov. 12 color guard competition.**

included Tech Sgt. Tom Theis, 934th Security Forces Squadron, Master Sgt. Pat Matson, Civil Air Patrol Reserve Assistance Program, and Lt. Col. Joe Dale, commander of the MN CAP Reserve Assistance Program.

After all the individual and team points were tallied, the First Place award was

presented to the Anoka Squadron by the Col. Stephen Miller, commander of the Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol. The Second Place award was presented to the North Hennepin Squadron.

The Anoka Squadron Color Guard team will now compete at the Region and National-level competitions.

## People from Pg 4

is moving into their new building in December, the ASTS will now expand into the AES building, providing more space and reducing the waiting time for physicals as well. There will also be a dedicated new drug testing area, which will reduce the stand around time for those randomly selected to participate in the Air Force Urinalysis program.

Maj. Erredge and his staff have started a Newcomers Flight that starts on the January UTA. Master Sgt. Tammy Besser will run the



program for the MPE. All newcomers to the base will now spend their first two UTA's in the newcomer's flight program.

When they return to their units after two UTA's they will have completed all required ground training and initial instruction so that they can concentrate on learning their real jobs in their AFSC's with their units. No more piece meal training requirements throughout the year like in the past. We will utilize those folks who are doing the split training option to help with the newcomers program, giving them some rewarding work, instead of sitting around the orderly room every UTA.

Lastly, we continue to send qualified candidates to seminars such as the

command HRDC workshop, the Women in Aviation, Tuskegee Airmen, and League of United Latin American Citizens conventions.

We use these convention opportunities to help provide information to all of our wing members. This past family day picnic, the HRDC council sponsored an "ALLOFUS" booth at the picnic and we shared information relating to everyone of race, sex or religion.

We will be sponsoring another round of Airmen and NCO panels in the coming year to solicit your input on how to make the wing a better place to be.

If you feel you have a voice that needs to be heard or a contribution to make, see your commander and volunteer to be on the panel, or stop by the Wing Commanders conference room at 9 a.m. on Sunday of our UTA. Hope to see you there.





# Christmas comes early for



Photo by Ms. Janell Harwell

With Mrs. Claus looking on, Santa shakes hands with children attending the Children's Christmas party Dec. 3.



Tessa Huber, daughter of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Huber, poses with a doll she received at the Children's Christmas party. The 934th Military Airlift Squadron provided all the gifts for the children of wing members.



Photo by TSgt. Jeffrey Williams

Chief Tim Donnay dons his Hawaiian gear during a unit party.



Photo by Ms. Janell Harwell

Melija Vijums hugs the new teddy bear she received at the Children's Christmas party.



Right: Sam Erickson, son of Maj. Mike Erickson, 96th Airlift Squadron, is all smiles as he goes down the children's inflatable slide in the hangar Dec. 3.





# r wing members, children



Photo by Ms. Janell Harwell  
**Polas Huber, 934th**  
he received at the  
ary Affairs Council  
members.



Photo by TSgt. Jeffrey Williams



Photo by Ms. Janell Harwell

**Senior Airman Kyle Sunne, Staff Sgt. David Barrett, Senior Airman Adam Webster and Airman 1st Class David Krause, all from the 934th Maintenance Squadron, serve as Santa's helpers by passing out the toys to the children during the Children's Christmas party Dec. 3.**



Photo by SrA Michael Hotter

**Commanders and First Sergeants served the noon meal on the Saturday of the December drill. Left to right: MSgt. Sherill Beecher, 934 AW/MSF First Sgt., Maj. Rick Erredge, 934th Military Personnel Flight commander, Lt. Col. Jeff Higgins, 934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, Col. James Muscatell, 934th Airlift Wing commander, were among those who worked the serving line.**

# Managing the traffic flow:

## *A simple way to help everyone start the UTA on the right foot*

**By Maj. Theodore Ruminsky and Staff Sgt. Christian Hermanson  
934th Security Forces Squadron**

The 934th Security Forces Squadron would like to remind everyone of some tactics, techniques, and procedures to make your unit training assembly base entry experience as positive as security requirements allow. It is in all of our best interests to move you as quickly and safely as possible onto the installation.

During UTA weekends, the Earhart Avenue gate usually opens between 6:15 - 6:30 a.m. to relieve traffic pressure off of the main gate. Due to security requirements, it is necessary to close the Earhart gate as soon as traffic flow decreases to a level the main gate can manage. Our objective is to expedite all *authorized* traffic onto the installation.

Occasionally, the directions you are given may result in a slight additional delay, real or perceived, to you and your vehicle. It can be tough to swallow when you are “next” in the “short line” when the sentry directs you to the “long line.” It feels like getting sent to the penalty box for an infraction you didn’t commit. However, by “taking one for the team” you are ensuring the smooth and safe flow of traffic. Stopping to argue your point will only serve to raise tensions and

make the traffic conditions worse.

For the record, if the patrolman directing traffic motions for you to go down to the main gate, you are *obligated* to follow the sentry’s directions – you must go down to the main gate. For those in military status, not following the directions of a posted sentry is a violation of the U.C.M.J. Article 92 (2) “Failure to Obey Order or Regulation.” For those in civilian status, a DD Form 1805, US District Court Violation Notice, can result in a fine and/or a trip down to Federal court under the Assimilative Crimes Act, for violation of MN Statute 169.02s2, Fail to Obey Lawful Order of Police.

In the interest of expediting entry, we will not write vehicle or personal passes at the Earhart gate. If you need any type of pass you must use the main gate and report to the visitor center. **The Earhart gate should only be used by personnel that meet all requirements for entry onto the installation.**

Personnel and vehicles have separate requirements for entry. For vehicles, the installation entry requirements are a valid DD Form 2220, base decal or an AF Form 75 Vehicle Pass. For personnel, the installation entry requirements are a valid military ID card or an AF Form 75

Visitor Pass that is accompanied by a valid government issued photo ID, i.e. - Your Drivers License.

Furthermore, please anticipate traffic congestion and arrive early. If you get through quickly, you’ll have time for a cup of coffee with your friends. If traffic is a bear, you’ll still make it to sign-in on time. It is not the fault of security forces if you do not arrive early enough to ensure you can get through the gate in time. At least, that excuse will never fly in this unit.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in further delays for yourself and those in queue behind you. Our sentries are posted to keep you and our warfighting assets safe and secure. They are standing out in the weather, in the dark, in the midst of traffic and exhaust fumes, in order to do their duty. This time of year, especially, conditions are not ideal.

So, please arrive in plenty of time to get through the gate traffic, be considerate of others (including the cops), watch your speed as you come around the curve on the frontage road, follow the directions of the sentries, and have your ID out ready to be inspected before you arrive at the gate. Let’s all start our UTA’s off on the right foot.

## Lodging to use automation, streamlines reservation process

**By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson  
Staff Writer**

In an effort to streamline the reservation and cancellation process through North Country Lodge, military personnel are required to use the Automatic Lodging Reservation System beginning in February.

The new reservation system will specifically be used for unit training assembly and active duty traveling on orders reservations, said Tamara Davis, North Country Lodge general manager.

Ms. Davis added that it’s important people use the system for UTA and ADT

reservations and cancellations. Otherwise, they may be responsible for the expense of the hotel stay.

To make a reservation, people can call 1-800-872-3235. Once they are connected to the base’s telephone line, they should dial either 1-5631, 1-5632, 1-5633, or 1-5634.

People will then be required to put in their social security number and a PIN number, Ms. Davis said, adding that the first time someone calls the reservation line their PIN will be the last four digits of their social security number.

From there, people should follow

the prompts given by the computer system. Once they complete the reservation process, they will get their hotel name and confirmation number, which will be given on a first come, first serve basis.

Ms. Davis said the new system is state-of-the-art and will save time and money for the unit, adding that people can make their reservations three months in advance.

“Eight active-duty bases currently use the system and it works great,” she said. “It is quiet efficient and will alleviate a large amount of no-shows.”





# ENTERTAINERS VISIT, END TOUR HERE

**John Popper, Cheerleaders and Trick Pony visit base Dec. 2 at conclusion of Air Force Reserve Command sponsored tour**

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams, 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



*John Popper, lead vocalist for Blues Traveler, walks off the KC-10 aircraft.*



*Master Sgt. Michael Duffy, 96th Airlift Squadron, receives an autographed card from Kristi, a New England Patriots cheerleader.*



*Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher, 934th Communications Flight, and Master Sgt. Alisa Malszycki, 934th Mission Support Group, have their photo taken with the band, Trick Pony, Dec. 2. From left: Ira Dean (bass guitar), Sergeant Fisher, Heidi Newfield (vocals), Sergeant Malszycki, and Keith Burns (acoustic guitar).*

**North Pole from Pg 6**



**Chief Master Sgt. Tom Foss, loadmaster, listens to a passenger aboard the Santa Express bound for the 'North Pole' Dec. 3.**

children were brought aboard the C-130 and taxied around the flightline on an imaginary trip to the North Pole.

Once the aircraft finished its journey, the children were escorted back to the airport where they were greeted by Santa and Mrs. Claus, and elves.

Gifts were provided to the children through an adopt-a-child program set up at SBC Communications by Ms. Grabowski. Members of the 934th Airlift Wing also donated toys and activity books to the children.

During the "flight," the aircrew walked around to the children and allowed them to try on helmets and headsets.

"This is very important event to these kids," said Maj. Tom O'Reilly, pilot. Eleven members for three different squadrons helped out during the event.

"For some reason God made them as they are to remind us of their innocence, kindness and appreciation for every kind deed given to them," said Chief Foss. "The parents are also so grateful, some with tears in their eyes because we at the 934th Airlift Wing gave some special time to their child. Some of these children pass away during the year. Some parents continue to show up for the event and say thank you again for the gift we gave."

"It puts things into perspective for us who have healthy children, for us to reflect how God has blessed us, something we sometimes take for granted," he reflected.



*Courtesy photo*

**Staff Sgt. John Herrick, 934th Communications Flight visual information, receives license plate US129, bearing the image of the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, from Bruce Anderson, a 934th Airlift Wing Master Sgt. who also serves as a State Representative, and Col. Joe Kelly, Minnesota Army National Guard chief of staff, last month.**

## New GWOT license plates available

**Story by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

The new Global War on Terror license plates are now available for Minnesota veterans, through the Driver and Vehicle Services branch of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Four types of plates are available: Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Freedom Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and Global War on Terror Service Medal.

There is a one-time surcharge of \$23.50 for the plate, which is authorized for use on motorcycles in addition to cars and trucks, and a copy of the applicant's DD-214 stating service in each of the qualifying campaign must be included with the application. The plates transfer with the owner, as long as the regular tab fee is paid each year.

If you qualify, you can stop by your local Driver and Vehicle Service branch to apply, or visit the DVS Web site at [www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/index.htm](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/index.htm).



*Photo by CMSgt. Michael Dressen*

### Together Again

**Thirty-five retirees from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron were reunited at the squadron's annual Christmas party in December.**





**Gallant Unit Citation**



In March 2004, the Secretary of the Air Force approved the Gallant Unit Citation (GUC) to recognize organizations for outstanding heroism in combat.

Awarded to Air Force Active Duty, Reserve and Guard units for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The GUC requires a lesser degree of gallantry, determination and esprit de corps than that required for the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC).

Nevertheless, the unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing its mission so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same conflict.

The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Silver Star which is awarded for gallantry and heroism of high degrees including risk of life in action.

The GUC award will normally be earned by units that have participated in single or successive actions covering relatively brief time spans. Only on rare occasions will a unit larger than a group qualify for GUC.

Although units larger than a group may submit, it will be extremely rare that a large organization will receive the GUC due to the degree of valor required. Extended periods of combat duty or participation in a large number of operational missions, either air or ground, is not sufficient.

The GUC ribbon shall be worn immediately before the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA). Subsequent awards will be denoted by Oak Leaf Clusters.

**Promotions and Decorations**

**Meritorious Service Medal**

Senior Master Sgt. Patti Amos 934th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Air Force Commendation Medal**

Tech. Sgt. Julie Carie 934th Civil Engineer Squadron  
 Tech. Sgt. Steven Robinson 934th Airlift Wing  
 SSgt. Nathan Dillner 934th Airlift Wing

**Retirement Ceremonies**

**SMSgt. John Skarhus**

Jan. 7 - 2:30 p.m.  
 Bldg. 821, Blue Room  
 POC: 2nd Lt. Christine Dale, 1956

**SMSgt Michael Gilbert**

Jan. 7 - 3 p.m.  
 Bldg. 821, Blue Room  
 POC: 2nd Lt. Christine Dale, 1956

**Maj. David Hanten**

Jan. 8 - 3 p.m.  
 Bldg. 760, TNET Room  
 POC: Capt. Julie Hamiel, 1202

**TSgt. Jeffrey Sommerfield**

Jan. 7 - 4 p.m.  
 Bldg. 802, Fire Barn,  
 POC: SMSgt. Timothy Tamlyn, 1953

**UTA Schedule**

**Fiscal Year 2006**

**Feb. 4-5**

**Mar. 4-5**

**Apr. 1-2**

**May 6-7**

**June 3-4**

**July 15-16**

**Aug. 5-6**

**Sep. 9-10**

**SERGEANTS UPP & ADAM**



By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

# Activities



## VIKING VIBES



### Chill Out Lounge & Pizza

During January and February, buy one large pizza, get a medium pizza for half price. Offer valid on dine in and take out.

Salads, pasta, meatball sub, hot dog, burger, chicken sandwich and tenders, shrimp basket, walleye fingers and fries are also available.

Call (612) 713-1672.

### Bingo at the Services Club

Every Friday. Social hour 4 to 6 p.m. Games start at 5:15 p.m. Free appetizers. For more information, call (612) 713-3670.

### Boss & Buddy Day

Jan. 26 & Feb. 23 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Services Club

Bosses, bring your staff to the club, relax, play pool and wind down with drink specials and free appetizers.

Stay for Happy Hour starting at 4:30 p.m. Discounts on all drinks.

### Monday Night Football

The Officers' Club is open on Mondays for Monday Night Football.

The lounge opens at 4 p.m.

### Super Bowl Sunday

Feb. 5 at both clubs.

Bring your friends, join in the fun and cheer on your team! Lounge opens at noon. Free pizza at half time for members, \$3 for non-members. Specials offered on pitchers of beer.

### Mug Nights

Tuesdays at the Officers' Club and Thursdays at the Services Club - 4 p.m.

Order a custom-made mug from the bartender. Choose from a wide variety of designs. Until it arrives, bring in a mug of your choice.

Enjoy tap beer for \$1.75 (up to 20 oz.) and brat, sauerkraut and potato salad for \$3.50. Lounge menu also available.

### Birthday special

Club members receive a \$15 certificate from the club on their birthday.

Offer good only during the month of the club member's birthday.

Check with the hostess or duty manager, or call (612) 713-3670.

### Outdoor Recreation rentals

Check out all the great things you can rent from Outdoor Recreation.

Choose from a wide variety of winter sports equipment, including snow shoes, toboggans, ice fishing gear and snow tubes.

An array of party equipment is also available, including tables, chairs and chocolate fountains.

Call (612) 713-1496.

### Lodging needs help with recycling program

The North Country Lodge is accepting donations of clean, unripped, dry paper bags with handles.

The bags will be placed in guest rooms, so guests can put their recyclables in them.

Bags can be given anytime to the clerk at the front desk.

Lodging is also looking for a catchy name for the recycling program.

Anyone with ideas can call (612) 713-1978.

### Recreational Sports

A three-on-three basketball league will be starting on Jan. 9. Teams may sign up through Jan. 8, the Sunday of the UTA weekend. Registration is free.

Tournament will

begin Jan. 22.

For more information about health and fitness activities, call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496.

### Officers Spouses Club

**January 2006.** ... No OSC luncheon. Stay inside and stay warm and cozy. Enjoy your Snowbird vacations!

**February 16, 2006,** 11:30am, Spring Fling Bingo. Bring your magical Bingo spirits and karma. Please RSVP to Jan Olson (952) 831-2438 or Roberta Gronemann (763) 494-3517

#### Special Activities:

**Tuesday Bridge:** 2nd & 3rd Tuesday each month at 10 a.m. Call Germaine Reuterdahl for more details at (952) 881-0107

**Evening Bridge:** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month at 7pm. Call Diane Lerohl (952) 935-4467 or Roberta Gronemann (763) 494-3517

#### NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

If you are the spouse of a U.S. Armed Forces officer and a member in good standing at the Officer's Club, you may be eligible for membership in this group.. Call Lee Claar at (952) 831-5252 for more information.

## This month in Flying Viking history 2001



The wing announced it's Airman of the Year honors for 2000.

**SrA Daniel Mellesmoen**

Outstanding Airman

**TSgt. Kenneth Olson**

NCO of the Year

**SMSgt. David Angerman**

Senior NCO of the Year

**MSgt. Joseph Brinza**

First Sergeant of the Year

**SSgt. Shawn Conway** was

named the AFRC Outstanding Reserve Firefighter for 2000.





## Did you know?

2006 marks the 50th anniversary of the C-130's storied service history.

There were 219 C-130A's on the initial order, and the first planes were delivered in December 1956.

The first of the 134 "B" models entered service in May 1959, and the "E" model was introduced in August 1962.



Air Force Photo



### **Discount tickets/coupons**

To purchase tickets for Camp Snoopy, Underwater Adventures, Minnesota Zoo, Minnesota Children's Museum and Chanhassen Dinner Theater, call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496. Discount cards for the zoo and IMAX theater are also available.

### **Three-on-three basketball**

Teams have until Jan. 8 to sign up for the three-on-three basketball league. For more information, call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496.

### **Fitness center hours**

5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays

5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays

Closed on federal holidays

### **Travel**

**Armed Forces Vacation Club** offers time share units. Cost is \$264 per week.

Go to [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com).

Use AFVC MLPS-ST. P AFRB Installation #333. Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation program receives cash when installation number is used.

**Air Force Travel** - [www.aftravelonline.com](http://www.aftravelonline.com)

**Shades of Green Resort, Disney World** - [www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com)



### **Bring Your Valentine!**

#### **Valentine's Day Dinner for Two**

Feb. 14 - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Officers' Club  
Menu includes: Salad, New York Steak & Shrimp Scampi, Potatoes, Vegetable, Special Dessert and a complimentary glass of wine.

Musical entertainment 6 to 10 p.m.

Members: \$24.95

Non-members: \$26.95

Call (612) 713-3678 for reservations.

Reservations required.

**934th Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs Office  
760 Military Highway  
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100**

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