

# VIKING FLYER



934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn.

February 2006

Vol. 28, No.02



**APS responds  
to the need**



## **EDITORIAL STAFF**

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

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

*Editor*  
**MSgt. Paul Zadach**

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

*Staff writers*  
**Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson**

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

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. The content of the *Viking Flyer* is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office (U.S. Air Force Reserve Command), Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Joint Air Reserve Station, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100. For more information, call (612) 713-1217.

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.

## **Security Forces**

Security Forces welcomes four personnel. They are **Staff Sgts. Ronald Blackledge, Craig A. Schuh, Charles J. Smisek, and Airman 1st Class Lance W. Rusert.**

Congratulations to **Airman 1st Class Ryan M. St. John, Joshua E. Goetze, and Samuel J. Klein**, who were all promoted to Senior Airman.

**Senior Airman Kevin R Graf and Ryan M. St. John** were recognized as Distinguished Graduates from the USAF Security Forces Academy.

**Senior Airman Andrew G. Halldin** was selected for the MEO Officer position vacancy under the deserving airman commissioning program.

**1st Lieutenant Leo Moreno** received the AFRC Outstanding Full-time Security Forces Company Grade Officer of the Year award for 2005.

**Master Sgt. Donald W. Scott** was selected as the 934 AW First Sergeant of the Year for 2005.

Congratulations to 934 Security Force members **Staff Sgt. Christian A. Hermanson** and **Senior Airman Angela M. Ramirez** on their engagement.

## **Aerial Port Squadron**

**Maj. Susan L. Maki** will be joining the unit from the 934th Command Post and **Senior Master Sgt. Robert Cluka** will be taking a chief master sgt. position with the Logistic Readiness Squadron. Two new personnel joined the 27 APS; **Airman 1st Class Chris Bornertun** and **Airman Basic Jasmine Ewing.**

At the 27 APS Christmas party, approximately \$2,200 was raised after expenses for local charities. For the upcoming Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB, the 27 APS will be sending two different teams of personnel, a Stair Case Truck, and a 10K Adverse Terrain Forklift on a C-5. Additionally, the 27 APS has several members currently deployed to Ali Al-Salem AB, Kuwait, Manas AB, Kyrgystan and Incirlik AB, Turkey.

Master Sgt. Stephen W. Lindberg finished his MSM (Master of Science in Management)--Master's in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch University--Edina, Mn. Campus Dec. 12

with a GPA of 3.83.

**Staff Sgt. James Kiecksee** was awarded a wing coin from **Colonel Muscatell** for his role in creating an operational plan for a 27 APS exercise completed over the November Ancillary Training weekend. Staff Sgt. Jesse Werner, Senior Airman Roger Falnes, Senior Airman Dave Montanez, and A1C Joshua McGuire were all promoted during the January UTA.

## **Civil Engineer Squadron**

We said farewell to TSgt Jeffrey Sommerfield who retired after 22 years of service to his country. TSgt James Palo deployed to Bolling AFB for 140 days to assist the Roads and Grounds department. We added some more warriors to CE: TSgt Thomas Junker (HVAC), SrA Kyle Bode (Fire Dept), AMN James Schultz (Electric), AB John Staub (Power Pro)

## **Services**

The Services Squadron held their bi-annual retirement, promotions and awards ceremony hosted by the "20-year Club" on the January UTA. The following people received unit awards: Master Sgt. Kenneth Krueger, Senior NCO of the Year; Tech. Sgt. Scott Braski, NCO of the Year Senior Airman Michael Hotter, Airman of the Year. Other awards were handed out as well, including awards to the group that returned from their 120-day deployment to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan. Meritorious Service Medals to Senior Master Sgt. Michael McGuire, Master Sgt. Ruth Duffy, and many other awards.

Also Congratulations to the following unit members who were promoted:

Tech. Sgt Dennis Shaw, Senior Master Sgt Michael McGuire, and Chief Master Sgt Lee Traxler-Siehnadel.

## **On the Cover**

**Col. James J. Muscatell, 934th Airlift Wing commander, visits with a reservist and his family before an Aerial Port Squadron Deployment in January. For more see page 5.**

*Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach*

# Every part counts in the Air Force puzzle

By Capt. Julie Wokaty-Kozma  
777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron  
1/5/2006 - ALI BASE, Iraq —

Descending into Baghdad, my C-130 Hercules crew prepares for landing.

The copilot coordinates with air traffic control while the navigator ensures we follow desired ground track to the field. The flight engineer runs checklists and the loadmasters scan for threats. We keep our speed up as long as possible, configure close to the airfield and the plane settles onto the runway.

Through all the maneuvering, coordinating and flying I have a sense of déjà vu — with a twist. I've done all this before, but never with this group of people. It's the same, yet different.

I arrived at Ali Base the last week in December and soon set out on my first Operation Iraqi Freedom mission in more than a year. While it was far from my first time flying in combat, it was my first time flying in combat with this crew. In fact, it was my first time flying with this crew — ever.

I knew little more about them than their name, rank and crew position. This will change over the duration of the deployment, of course. But one might wonder: What enables a crew of people who haven't flown together

before to successfully maneuver an aircraft to accomplish a combat mission?

I believe the answer boils down to the professional integrity of the crewmembers and the support Airmen on the ground. This professional integrity comes from knowing your job, performing your duties to the best of



your ability and constantly striving to improve your skills.

From my perspective as a C-130 pilot, I know that each crewmember is trained in specific duties and must be able to perform those duties proficiently. The training and checklists are standardized. Everybody knows what to expect and what's expected from them, regardless of whether they've flown together or not.

Each piece of the puzzle is important, unique and irreplaceable.

My part of the puzzle (and yours) fits into the overall puzzle: Each Air Force Specialty Code having its own

unique pieces and each AFSC irreplaceable to the total mission. Professional integrity allows us to trust that others are doing their jobs correctly, and to accept their product as flawless. I count on the professional integrity of maintenance Airmen, intel Airmen and air terminal operations center Airmen in my job — to name a few. Being able to

trust in their abilities and integrity saves crucial time in a combat zone. This trust is vital to mission accomplishment.

Professional integrity also involves challenging yourself to stay at the top of your game and never growing complacent. The enemy and their weapons are constantly changing. Every Airman must stay ahead of these changes to win the war. Staying in the books and keeping up to speed on latest tactics, techniques and procedures

keeps our skills sharp and up to date.

Knowing that you work hard to be your best at your job and trusting others to do the same, that's the professional integrity that allows us to show up in a combat zone and complete a mission with people we have never worked with. It distinguishes professional warfighters from ordinary citizens.

No matter how your duties fit into the puzzle, you are vital to the Air Force mission. Wherever your piece of the puzzle fits, work hard to bring the entire picture together for mission accomplishment.

## 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.



# SARC *A new alternative for reporting sexual assaults*

## 934 AW Public Affairs

Military members assigned to or visiting the 934th Airlift Wing who are the victims of sexual assault on base or while on duty now have the option of making a confidential report and receiving medical assistance without initiating a military investigation.

A new Department of Defense policy allows the establishment of sexual assault response coordinators at all military installations, including Air Force Reserve Command bases like the 934 AW.

"SARC is a brand new position in the Air Force Reserve and provides a new alternative means for victims and their advocates to report and deal with sexual assaults and rapes that occur on base or while the military member is on duty in a confidential manner," said Eli Pollinger, the newly hired 934 AW SARC representative.

The Air Force reported 456 sexual assaults in 2004 either committed by or against its members. Officials estimate more than 80 percent of the sexual assaults go unreported and that one in three women and one in six men will be

sexually victimized during their lifetime.

"This new system will provide the victims services, confidentiality and empowerment to make their own decisions about what they want to do," said Mr. Pollinger.

Either the victims themselves or their advocates can contact the SARC. A process is then set in motion to gather information and contact medical and counseling services to support the victims while they decide whether they want to pursue legal options," he explained.

Mr. Pollinger emphasized that sexual assault and rape reports received by him and other SARC's do not prompt military investigations or notifications to commanders.

Here at the 934th, committees and a panel including wing and unit leaders, a psychologist and medical professionals were assembled to study and establish policies regarding sexual assault and rape issues on base, he added.

"We used a multi-disciplinary team approach and tapped numerous resources to establish the SARC

position on base," said Mr. Pollinger.

"We are going to have a voluntary staff of advocates who can help victims through this process by standing with them and/or referring them to hospital personnel, counselors and other caregivers."

Mr. Pollinger, who has extensive experience working at Veterans Administration hospitals and in the private sector, said people should be concerned about sexual assaults and rapes at the 934 AW because they undermine the mission of the Air Force.

"It's a criminal offense that can have tragic results for the victim and the perpetrator. We want to make it very easy for the victim and very tough for the perpetrator. There is zero tolerance against sexual assault and rape in the Air Force Reserve."

All wing military members are strongly encouraged to report rapes and sexual assaults to Mr. Pollinger at the Chapel, Ext. 1220. Mr. Pollinger can also be contacted via his e-mail address at: [eli.pollinger@minneapolis.af.mil](mailto:eli.pollinger@minneapolis.af.mil).

# AFRC vice commander retires

by 1st Lt. Mattie Fuller  
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

12/23/2005-ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, will retire in a ceremony Jan. 11 after 37 years of service.

Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, former commander of AFRC's 10th Air Force, becomes vice commander and assumes responsibility for the daily operation of the headquarters.

"The past year has been extremely busy for our command," said General Tanzi. "Reservists have really stepped up to the plate. They've volunteered for deploy-

ments around the world, in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as in our own backyard during the hurricane relief efforts. It has been my privilege to serve with them."

General Tanzi began his military career in the Ohio Air National Guard in 1968, earning his pilot wings in 1970 at Reese AFB, Texas. As a command pilot, he accumulated more than 4,500 hours in the F-100, F-105, F-4, A-10 and F-16 and has flown combat missions over Iraq for Operation Provide Comfort II.

During his career, the general has had numerous supervisory and command positions at the squadron, group, wing and numbered air force levels.

This assignment closes out General Tanzi's second tour at AFRC headquarters. He served as the director of plans and programs from February 1999 to March 2002.

General Tanzi is a graduate of Ohio State University, where he earned his master of science degree in education. He also earned his bachelor of science degree in the same program at the State University of New York, Cortland.



Maj. Gen. Tanzi



# APS deploys overseas again

By Tech Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams

934 AW Public Affairs

th

Twenty-four members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron deployed to Southwest Asia last month for yet another mission in the squadron's storied history since Sept. 11, 2001.

Set to last for a total of a year, the voluntary deployment by unit members involves three rotations of similar size and duration to a location in the Central Command area-of-responsibility, where the members will be working passenger and cargo transportation issues.

This will be the first deployment for many of the younger members, including Senior Airman Robert McDonough, air terminal operations specialist, who has been in the Air Force for nearly four years.

"Other people have volunteered and gone on AEF rotations," Airman McDonough said. "I figured it's time to jump in and do it, so I can gain the experience to bring back to the unit."

He is looking forward to the challenges of his first

deployment, along with gaining the hands-on experience and teamwork building that comes from working in a deployed environment.

Despite the positive outlook Airman McDonough has, he still has a bit of anxiety and apprehension, especially with leaving a wife and two young children behind.

"My wife is pretty positive, but it will be a challenge," he said. "I'm just ready to get it done so I can get back to my family."

Still, he feels, the mission has benefits.

"The anxiety and apprehension is there, but it's part of being there. It will be nice to see what we have in front of us. You won't really learn the real world mission unless you're touching it," he said.

Not only does this give younger airmen a chance to prove their meddle, Airman McDonough believes this gives some of the seasoned members a deserved break.

"Others have done their AEF tours," he said. "If someone doesn't volunteer they'll be tasked again. We need to share the load."



*Left, goodbyes and best wishes are exchanged before the deployment. Above, Lt. Col. Craig Bogan, 27th Aerial Port Squadron commander, talks with his troops aboard the commercial airliner that would shortly start them on their journey.*

*Photos by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach*

## Reserve benefits from 2006 defense authorization

BY: Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act signed into law Jan. 6 provides new or enhanced benefits for National Guard and Reserve members, a senior defense official said.

President George W. Bush signed the legislation Jan. 6, providing a variety of benefits designed to bring reserve-component compensation more on par with what the active component receives, Chuck Witschonke, the DOD's deputy director for compensation, said.

The package provides other benefits that affect all forces, both active and reserve, including better overall compensation and improved quality of life, while promoting overall recruiting and retention, he said.

The law also provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

— Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to

active duty for more than 30 days, versus the previous 140-day requirement;

— Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to active duty, based on specific guidelines to be established within the next six months;

— Accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000 for enlistment in the Selected Reserve, and an increase for officers for service in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;

— A bonus of up to \$100,000 for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit; and

— Extension of eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized the new law does not guarantee that all servicemembers will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives

defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

One big change in the new law is a provision that shortens the duty time before a reserve-component member qualifies for the full housing allowance. Reserve and Guard members called to active duty for more than 30 days will now get the full allowance, just as active-component troops do, Mr. Witschonke said.

Another benefit, the critical-skills retention bonus, will be "a very good tool" in helping keep members with important experience and training in the force and in maintaining readiness in high-priority units, Mr. Witschonke said.

The 2006 authorization act also increases recruiting bonuses for the Reserve and Guard, Mr. Witschonke said. The new law authorizes accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000, to be offered as needed by the services, he said.

**Continued on next page**

## What are your plans for Valentines Day?

Photos by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson



Master Sgt. Ben Burgeson  
934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

**"I'm going to spend it with my girlfriend. We'll probably go out to dinner and a movie."**



Senior Airman Kristi Heil  
934th Security Forces Squadron

**"I'm going to spend it with the love of my life... my daughter"**



Tech. Sgt. Shane Graham  
934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**"Probably go to Stillwater to the Zephyr Station and get flowers and be romantic."**



Staff Sgt. Jessica Studemann  
27th Aerial Port Squadron

**"I will be in class that night but maybe I'll go out afterward."**



### 2006 Reserve Pay for Four Drills Years of Service

	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-8	1,102.80	1,138.92	1,162.88	1,169.60	1,199.48	1,249.48	1,261.08	1,308.56	1,322.16	1,363.04	1,422.16	1,476.72	1,513.16	1,513.16	1,513.16
O-7	916.36	958.92	978.64	994.28	1,022.64	1,050.60	1,083.00	1,115.32	1,147.72	1,249.48	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,342.20
O-6	679.20	746.16	795.12	795.12	798.12	832.36	836.88	836.88	884.44	968.52	1,017.88	1,067.20	1,095.28	1,123.68	1,178.84
O-5	566.20	637.82	682.00	690.28	717.80	734.32	770.56	797.16	831.48	884.08	909.08	933.84	961.92	961.92	961.92
O-4	488.52	565.52	603.24	611.68	646.68	684.24	730.96	767.44	792.72	807.24	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68
O-3	429.52	486.92	525.56	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76
O-2	371.08	422.68	486.80	503.24	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60
O-1	322.16	335.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28
O-3E	-	-	-	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	709.12	724.60	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72
O-2E	-	-	-	503.24	513.60	529.96	557.52	578.88	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76
O-1E	-	-	-	405.28	432.84	448.80	465.16	481.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	536.28	548.44	563.76	581.80	599.92	629.04	653.64	679.60	719.20
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	439.00	458.44	470.44	484.84	500.44	528.60	542.88	567.16	580.64	613.80
E-7	305.16	333.08	345.84	362.76	375.92	398.60	411.32	424.04	446.72	458.08	468.84	475.44	497.68	512.08	548.48
E-6	263.96	290.40	303.24	315.68	328.68	358.00	369.40	382.04	393.16	397.08	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80
E-5	241.88	258.04	270.48	283.28	303.16	320.28	332.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88
E-4	221.72	233.08	245.68	258.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12
E-3	200.16	212.76	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60
E-2	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32
E-1	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80

E-1 with less than four months: \$157.08

## Benefits

### *Continued from page 6*

For reserve-component members who experience pay cuts when called to active duty, the new provision for income replacement will help reduce the strain military service places on the family, he said.

“It can be difficult for a family that has been living on a certain income to now have less money, particularly at a time when they’re stressed by a change in their lifestyle” due to a military deployment, Mr. Witschonke said.

The income-replacement program won’t be instituted for six months, in accordance with the law. At that time, specific guidelines and qualifications will be issued, he said. This authority will end in December 2008.

These enhancements in reserve-component pay and benefits are particularly critical during the global war on terror, when members of the Guard and Reserve are playing a major role in U.S. national defense, he said.

More information about pay and benefits is posted on the DOD’s military compensation Web site at [www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/](http://www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/).

### Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) sponsored events for 2006:

**Women in Aviation convention, Nashville, TN  
23-25 Mar 06**

**League of United Latin American Citizens  
(LULAC), Milwaukee, WI 26 Jun – 1 Jul 06**

**Tuskegee Airman International convention,  
Phoenix, AZ 1-4 Aug 06**

**HRDC Workshop, Colorado Springs, CO 23-25  
Oct 06**

**The second annual Airmen’s panel, March  
UTA**

**The second annual NCO panel, May UTA  
Speaker’s Brown Bag lunch, TBD**

**For more information contact Colonel Rudin  
at ext 1298. Remember, TDYs are unit  
funded.**

# Dignity, honor, respect

## Mortuary Affairs returns from humbling experience at Dover

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams  
934 AW Public Affairs

“No amount of video, powerpoints or briefings can prepare you for the sights and smells of the experience,” a calm yet resolute 2 Lt. Dennis Davis said while explaining his most recent assignment. “It was by far the most difficult thing in my career, but it will be the most honorable and rewarding experience.”



Photo by William M. Plate Jr.

***The Atrium at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, Dover Air Force Base, Delaware gives visitors, as well as workers, a place to rest and relax peacefully.***

From the tragic losses on the battlefields in distant lands, to their final resting places all across our country, fallen warriors from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom arrive in a small east coast city to receive their last uniforms and decorations before going home.

As one of his first experiences as a newly commissioned officer, Lieutenant Davis along with Tech. Sgt. Kristen Maloney, Senior Airman Joseph Cervantes and Senior Airman Robert Schaaf of the 934th Services Squadron deployed to the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base, Del., to process the remains of fallen warriors from today’s battlefield, including those of civilian contractors. The four squadron members had tours of various lengths that began in Sept. 2005 and concluded around Christmas. “The Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs holds an extraordinary life experience and is filled with great emotion,” said Sergeant Maloney. “We

are the last hand in fulfilling honor to our fallen comrades’ glory before returning home to family and to their final resting place. It’s a priceless and heroic mission to complete and holds the highest praise of importance.”

“You can never be prepared,” Lt. Davis said. “We do what we can, but until you’re there the first morning, you just have to do it. We process the remains of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. It’s what we do there. But

everything we do is done with the thread of dignity, honor and respect.”

Lieutenant Davis has seen a lot of things in his six-year military career. After spending four years active duty as a gunners mate with the Navy, he joined the 934th Security Forces Squadron in April 2003 before receiving a Deserving Airman selection in July 2004. He was commissioned as a new 2nd Lieutenant in the 934th Services Squadron in February 2005.

Those three words – dignity, honor and respect. They can sum up practically anybody’s service career, but for those who served at the Carson Center, the meaning has a connotation that few others can understand.

As an operations officer, Lt. Davis was responsible for the organization of “dignified transfer ceremonies,” when the flag-draped transfer cases were carried off the aircraft.

“I’ll never forget getting on an aircraft and there were 17. As we were checking the flags, occasionally we would find one that was dirty. Each time we worked a ‘dignity transfer,’ we made sure we had extra flags to replace the dirty ones out of respect, regardless of how someone died,” he said.

“One transfer is just as bad as 17. It means that someone died,” he continued. “You can be out on the flightline for two hours during a transfer. It gives you time to think about how this is one of the last times a fallen warrior will be saluted and dignified in that way.”

Lieutenant Davis said October 2005 was the fourth deadliest month in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He arrived in Dover Oct. 1 and started working the next day. His team

***Continued on next page***



## Dignity

Continued from page 8

processed 10 people that day, and he worked over 300 cases during the next three months.

“We’ve been at war. The biggest thing is that we are not in the desert and being shot at,” he said. “A lot of the kids were proud to wear the uniform and proud to serve. Seeing that makes me want to carry on for them because they made that sacrifice.”

Occasionally something will happen to a member of the staff to create a connection between those who are serving and those who have fallen. Lt. Davis was no exception.

“One time I was asked by a Marine officer to tie a neckerchief for a Navy casualty, since I was prior Navy,” he said. “I hadn’t tied one in 14 years. To know I did that, and that it will remain forever, was quite emotional. While we did that for everyone, that experience was a connection for me.”

During his downtime, Lieutenant Davis organized a trip to Washington, D.C., which included a visit to the White House where he and 30 others from the Carson Center met privately with Vice President Cheney. He also took a day trip to New York City. The trips and maintaining a sense of humor served as coping mechanisms during the time he was separated from his family.

“The experience was a reality check. It put things into perspective. I got to come home to my family. They came home but will never be with family again,” he said.

“If similar sights, smells and sounds make me emotional,



Photo by William M. Plate Jr.

**The Wall of Fallen Heroes greets each visitor as they walk into the impressive Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, Dover AFB, Delaware. Each tragedy is engraved into the glass for remembrance of the date and number fallen heroes.**

at least I have emotions.”

While working at the Carson Center was tough, it was still rewarding.

“The highlight of the trip was doing my job due to the honorable nature of that job, tough though it may be,” Lt. Davis said. “Knowing that you helped pay respect to someone who made the ultimate sacrifice, and just knowing that you are paying respect by getting the fallen warrior back home to the family as quickly as we can, it’s an honor to be part of that process.”

Other members of the 934th Services Squadron’s Port Mortuary team have served at the Carson Center previously. Members of the team were there in 2000 to assist with the processing of remains from the V-22 Osprey crash and the U.S.S. Cole bombing, in 2001 after the Sept. 11 attacks and in 2003 after the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart on reentry. This is also the second tour of duty at the Port Mortuary for 934 Services squadron members in support of OIF/OEF.

## Delivering the ‘J’

**Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, sits in in the cockpit before takeoff in a new C-130J Hercules from the Lockheed-Martin facility in Marietta, Ga. General Bradley helped ferry the Herc from Marietta to the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. The flight took about one hour**

U.S. Air Force Photo



# Mortuary staff visits D.C., others can do same

By 2nd Lt. Nicole Langley  
436th AW Public Affairs

Thirty-two members of the Port Mortuary staff had an opportunity to visit the nation's capital Nov. 16 and 17, where they saw the White House, Pentagon, Capitol and Arlington National Cemetery.

The trip for the staff, including Air Force personnel, spouses, and liaisons from the Army and Marine Corps, was planned for two separate days, so part of the staff could attend each day and still keep things running efficiently at the mortuary.

The 436th Services Squadron mortuary operations officer, 2nd Lt. Dennis Davis, explained that he wanted to coordinate this trip as a way of boosting morale and getting a much-needed thank you to those who work tirelessly to carry out the mortuary's mission.

"I wanted to give the troops an opportunity that they wouldn't otherwise get, probably," Lieutenant Davis said.

Although the extent of what individuals can see during a Washington, D.C. trip does depend on the availability and flexibility of the nation's leaders, planning in advance can result in a trip with similar highlights as the mortuary staff's trip.

Both days the group received a White House tour, including a visit to the West Wing to meet Vice President Richard B. Cheney.

In addition, the groups received a private "meet-and-greet" with Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota and Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, as well as with staffers from the offices of several other senators.

A reservist from Minnesota, Lieutenant Davis made initial contact with Sen. Coleman from his home state. According to Lieutenant Davis, after that initial request, Sen. Coleman's office basically arranged everything for them, including a tour of the capitol building, guided by staffers from the



*Courtesy photo*

**2nd Lt. Dennis Davis, 934 SVS, shakes hands with Vice President Dick Cheney in Washington D.C.**

senator's office. While there, they also had the opportunity to see the senate in session.

After organizing the trip, Lieutenant Davis is knowledgeable on how to plan this type of event and offers wisdom to pass on to other units on base that might be interested in doing the same.

"It was such a great experience. I'd like others to do this," Lieutenant Davis said.

According to the Lieutenant, the first step in organizing this type of event should be to make contact with the White House office of scheduling one to two months in advance of the trip, by faxing a letter of purpose, with all of the details and information.

The fax number for the president's scheduling office is 202-456-6208 and the vice president's number is 202-456-2971.

Their offices recommend that the letter of purpose be as thorough as possible, fully explaining the group's reasons for wanting to visit, exactly who the group is and what they do, potential questions they would like to

ask the president or vice president and their desired dates to visit.

According to the president's office of scheduling, a group has a better chance of being accepted for a meeting if their request is extremely thorough and detailed and if their request is made well in advance.

Once a date is scheduled for a White House tour and possible meet-and-greet with the president or vice president, Lieutenant Davis recommended contacting a senator to schedule a visit to the Capitol.

Lieutenant Davis said it is a good idea to have the person organizing the trip contact a senator whom they're a constituent of, so that that senator's office can help organize the visit.

Lieutenant Davis said that a similar letter of purpose should be sent to the senator's office, also containing the home state and city of each group member, so that other senators can be alerted of their visiting constituents.

Anyone on base can plan a trip like this to Washington, D.C.

Lieutenant Davis can be reached at [dennis.davis@minneapolis.af.mil](mailto:dennis.davis@minneapolis.af.mil).



# New program ensures dental readiness

**By Master Sgt. Paul Zadach  
934 AW Public Affairs**

AEF rotations, Fit to Fight, worldwide qualified; all are terms that have recently come to define today's mobile combat-ready Air Force Reserve. An area of readiness that is being looked at more and more closely by AFRC leaders is dental readiness.

During the first Gulf war, it was discovered that a significant number of Reservists arrived at deployed locations in need of serious dental care. These conditions prevented the Reservists from performing their wartime missions and decreased the readiness levels of the deployed units. "Many people were aware that they had dental issues that needed attention before they deployed, but were under the mistaken assumption that there would be dental clinics and providers available to treat these conditions at their deployed locations," said Lt. Col. Neil Anderson, 934 AW chief of dental services.

As a result of these findings, Air Force Reserve Command looked at

ways to correct the problem without significantly increasing the workload of Reserve dentists and technicians. The program that has evolved requires reservists to receive a dental examination every year and goes in to effect Feb. 1. Every third year, the Reservist is seen by an Air Force Reserve dentist in conjunction with their long physical. In the two years in between, Reservists must have DOD form 2813, Active Duty/Reserve Forces Dental Examination, completed by their civilian dentist within a six month window prior to their birthday.

Reservists will not be given dental exams by Reserve dentists during short physicals. The form must be turned in within the six month window to the Dental Clinic or can be faxed to 612-713-1149. The form provides an assessment of the Reservist's dental health to the unit and is used to determine the Reservist's status for worldwide deployments.

"It is highly recommended that reservists have the form completed as early as possible in the six month

window," said Colonel Anderson.

"This way, if there are problems, there will be time to correct them and turn in a form that indicates the Reservist is in good dental health." If a Reservist does not turn in the form by their birth date they will be placed on a profile placing them on a no-pay, no points status. If the form is turned in showing major problems causing the Reservist to lose world wide qualification, they will still be able to participate locally but will not be able to deploy or attend schools until the problem is corrected.

"The six month window is the most important thing to remember," added Colonel Anderson. "If you visit the dentist a few weeks earlier than six months before your birthday, the visit won't count."

For those who don't have dental insurance, it is available at a very reasonable cost through the Tricare program. The program also covers orthodontics as well. To learn more about the insurance and to enroll online visit [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com). Forms are also available at the dental clinic.

## Transition Assistance Program available

A tuition assistance workshop will be held January 11th and 12th Room 220, 5905 34th Ave So, Air Force Reserve Base in the Navy and Marine Reserve Center. Workshop starts 8:15 AM and ends 4:30 PM both days.

Feb 9th and 10th the workshop will be held at the Education Center at Camp Ripley. Workshop starts 8:15 AM and ends 4:30 PM both days.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Workshops are being offered to the returning veterans and their spouses. Participants will learn how to write effective resumes and cover letters, proper interviewing techniques, and the most current methods for successful job searches. Information will be provided on current labor market conditions, assessing individual skills and competencies, information regarding licensing and certification requirements, and local contact information on veteran's benefits.

Dress is Casual. Rank is left at the door.

Prior registration is required. Class is limited to 25 participants. Return this information to Dean Eichelberger via e-mail at [dean.eichelberger@state.mn.us](mailto:dean.eichelberger@state.mn.us) or by calling 320-231-5174 ext 7520. You can also mail this to Willmar WorkForce Center, 2200 23rd St. NE Suite 2040, Willmar, MN 56201.

Registration Information for

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Commander: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





Photo by Staff Sgt. John Herrick

## Vijums to lead flying squadron

*Lt. Col. Mark Vijums, (right) 96th Airlift Squadron commander, speaks to his new troops after assuming command from Lt. Col. Robert Ross during the January UTA. Colonel Ross took command of the 96 AS in June 2004 during the current Operation Enduring Freedom and was deployed almost immediately to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait to command the 386th Air Expeditionary Squadron. Colonel Ross will be retiring in March of this year.*

*The ceremony was presided over by Lt. Col. Allan Swartzmiller, 934th Operations Group commander. Colonel Vijums had commanded the 934 OSF and had brought about several positive changes to the flight.*

## Air Force declares F-22A operational

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. - The Air Force's most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials here announced Thursday.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor's proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force. It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander, "If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us."

"F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal," General Keys said. "The Raptor's cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats."

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between Air Force organizations and the service's industry partners over the past 25 years. The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics develop-

ment at Nellis AFB, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and deployability here.

"The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years from today," General Keys said. "Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force. To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop (joint direct attack munitions), fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work (close air support) with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge."

"As I told (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. (T. Michael) Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing air dominance for the joint force. Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands. After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it, I am confident that the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air," General Keys said.



# 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**

## Firing Range off limits

The 934th Airlift Wing firing range, located on Fort Snelling grounds, is off limits to unauthorized people. Trespassing is illegal and dangerous. For additional information, contact 934th Combat Arms, Master Sgt. Gamboni at 612-713-1815



# Promotions and Decorations

## Air Medal

Capt. Jeffery N. Prochnow

## Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. David Olafson	934th Operations Support Flight
Maj. Peter Draheim	934th Operations Support Flight
Maj. David N. Hanten	934th Airlift Wing
Senior Master Sgt. Michael L. Gilbert	934th Operations Group
Senior Master Sgt. John L. Skarhus	934th Operations Group
Master Sgt. Steven P. Priebe	934th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Master Sgt. Paul J. McCann	934th Airlift Wing
Master Sgt. Roxanne L. Steffen	934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Jeffery H. Sommerfield	934th Civil Engineer Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Charles B. Nowicki	934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

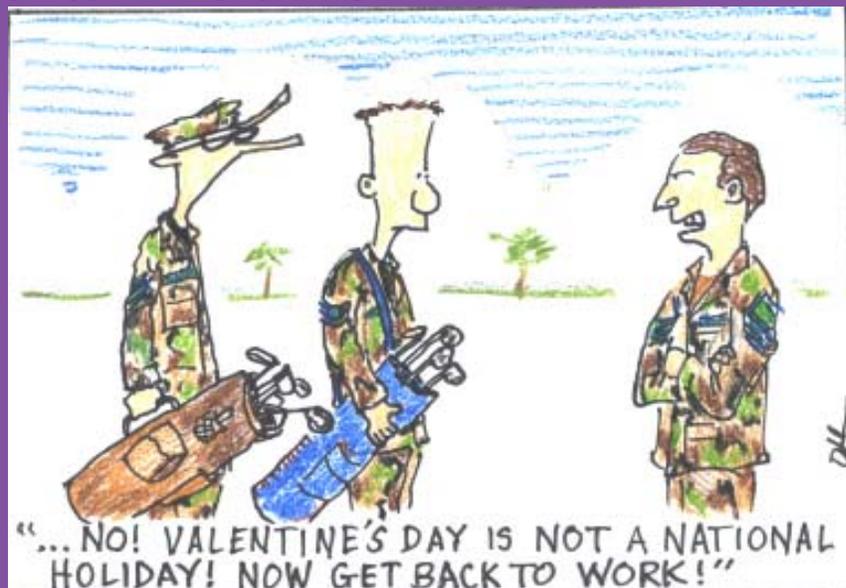
## Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Robert E. Jackson Jr.	934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Tech St. Jody K. Knight	934th Airlift Wing
Tech Sgt. Scott A. Lewis	934th Maintenance Operations Flight
Tech Sgt. Stephen L. Tainter	934th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Michael C. Bauch	934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Troy B. Huna	934th Maintenance Operations Flight
Tech. Sgt. Julie Carie	934th Civil Engineer Squadron
Tech Sgt. Steven Robinson	934th Airlift Wing
Staff Sgt. Thomas Murphy	934th Airlift Wing
Staff Sgt. Nathan Dillner	934th Airlift Wing
Staff Sergeant Rodney A. Schaffer	934th Airlift Wing
Staff Sergeant James A. Rudh	934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

## Air Force Achievement Medal

Lieutenant Colonel Selina E. Petaros	934th Mission Support Group
Captain Daniel M. Johnson	934th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Staff Sergeant Anna M. Barlett	934th Airlift Wing
Staff Sgt. Jonah P. Scarset	96th Airlift Squadron

## SERGEANTS UPP & ADAM



By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

## Activities



# VIKING VIBES



### Chill Out Lounge & Pizza

Throughout February, buy 1 large pizza, get a medium pizza for half price. Offer valid on dine in and take out. Call (612) 713-1672.

### Valentine's Day dinner for two

Feb. 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Officers' Club

Menu includes:

Salad

6 oz. N.Y. steak & shrimp scampi

Potatoes

Vegetable

Special dessert

Complimentary glass of wine

Musical entertainment from 6 to 10 p.m.

Members \$24.95, Non-members \$27.95

Reservations required. Call (612) 713-3678.

### Boss & Buddy Day

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

Bosses, bring your staff to the club, relax, and enjoy drink specials and free appetizers.

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

### Club bars

The Services Club bar is open 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

The Officers' Club bar is open 11:30 a.m. Fridays.

### Mug nights

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

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.

### Bingo at the Services Club

Every Friday starting at 5:15 p.m.

Social hour is from 4 to 6 p.m.

Enjoy free appetizers.

For more information, call (612) 713-3670.

### Birthday special

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

This offer good is 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 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.

### Fitness Center personal

### training

Meet your fitness goals in 2006 with a little help from certified personal trainers at the Fitness Center!

Designed to help individuals achieve their goals safely and with faster results, the center's personal training program features one-on-one sessions.

Trainers will help individuals develop a personalized exercise and nutrition program that will decrease their body fat, increase energy level, improve eating habits and build muscle strength.

Several price packages are available. Call (612) 713-1496.

### Officers Spouses Club

**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 Reuter Dahl 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.

**Viking Flyer deadline is Sunday of the UTA prior to month of publication.**



## Did you know?



Air Force Reserve Command aviators will soon be wearing the Attenuating Custom Communications Earpiece System, or ACCES. The custom fit earpieces help to reduce noise by 40 decibels and provides clearer radio communication in the cockpit. The Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, developed ACCES when Air Force maintenance crews reported problems communicating with each other and with pilots when jet engines were in high-power settings. (U.S. Air Force photo)

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.

### **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)

## **Super Bowl Sunday**

**Feb. 5 at the Officers' & Services clubs**  
**Bring your friends and cheer on your team!**

**Lounge opens at noon.**

**Free pizza at half time for members**

**Non-members \$3**

**Specials offered on pitchers of beer.**



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

**PRST STANDARD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**Helmer Printing**

**To the family of:**