

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

July 2007 Vol. 29, No. 7

Snapshots from Volk Field





Wing rises to challenges beyond exercises

By Col. Allan L. Swartzmiller
934th Operations Group Commander

Many 934 AW personnel have just completed their AEF tours and are finally enjoying their upper Midwest summers. One of the rules I learned after my first winter here in Minneapolis is, “thou shalt not squander the summer”. Good timing on our latest AEF cycle to bring our people home just in time to enjoy it fully.

The last several months have been challenging for both those who deployed and also for those who stayed behind. I recently spoke with Master Sgt. Shane Lohmann, our Operations Group Stan/Eval Aeromedical Technician. He has just returned from Balad AB, Iraq and shared this experience with me.

“Capt. Adam Hohman, Master Sgt. Albert Anderson and I were alerted for a Bravo alert mission with a CCATT (Critical Care Air Transport Team) to transport a patient to Germany. We were originally told that we would have only one patient who had an aortic dissection and had coded 3 times prior to the flight. The patient would not have a chance if he stayed at Balad. A C-17 was flown in and as we were configuring the plane for the flight, we were informed that we would also receive a fresh tracheotomy patient. While now preparing for both patients, another mission was returning from Tikrit and the JPMRC (Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center) added three more patients with various non life-threatening injuries.

About one hour into the flight, the CCATT patient with the aortic dissection started to have problems. His blood pressure was dropping to dangerous levels, so the nurse started injecting epinephrine to help him. During the next hour three doses of epinephrine and one dose of atropine were given, but the patient’s condition continued to decline to the point where the medications were ineffective and there was no shockable heart rhythm. The physician on board made the decision to begin ACLS (advanced cardiac life support) procedures.

When the code began, I started to go to the patient

because I was responsible to do chest compressions during the emergency. As I passed the patient with the tracheotomy, he woke up, could not breathe and was trying to pull his trach out thinking that would help. I grabbed his hands and looked at his Oxygen stats and noticed that they were dropping to the high 70s and they should be in the 90s. I could not let go for fear of him tearing the trach out completely. Soon the respiratory tech and loadmaster were able to assist me. Then we were able to suction and bag the patient until the respiratory tech could get the ventilator hooked up and the nurse was able to give some medications to calm him. His O2 stats returned to normal and he made it to Germany without further complications. This whole event lasted approximately 1 hour, all while the CCATT, Sergeant Anderson and Captain Hohman were working the code on the patient with the aortic dissection. Tragically, the patient was pronounced dead and appropriate procedures were followed.

I will say that it is a mission that I will never forget; at



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) 713-1115. Remember to leave your name and telephone number.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline
Report suspected occurrences of Fraud, Waste and Abuse to the FWA hotline at (612) 713-1180.

UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88th	Navy/Marines
Aug	4-5, 18-19	4-5, 18-19	4-5	11-12, 25-26
Sep	8-9, 22-23	8-9	8-9	8-9, 22-23

Visit the 934th Airlift Wing website at www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil for the most up-to-date news about the 934th and Air Force Reserve!



one point Sergeant Anderson and I looked at each other and could not do anything to help the other, because of the situations we were in."

Sergeant Lohmann was one of 28 Aeromedical Evacuation personnel deployed for AEF 5/6 and one of 42 in our wing deployed to Balad AB, Iraq. His experience is a solemn reminder of the sacrifices our Soldiers and Airmen are making on a daily basis and the dedication, team play and professionalism it takes to accomplish our mission.

Running an Airlift Wing also takes team effort and when a significant portion of that team is deployed or otherwise committed to the Global War on Terrorism, priorities must be adjusted. One of our priorities that wasn't adjusted is our ongoing preparations for the Operational Readiness Inspection. Over the last several months the wing has planned and prepared with the 910 AW to excel during Exercise READINESS SAFEGUARD at Volk Field, Wisc. and we continue to do so for the follow-on ORE at Gulfport, Miss. From the cadre debrief at Volk Field, Minneapolis did an outstanding job! Our Security Forces teams proved impervious to all threats and our Emergency Operations Center had the base back up and running within minimum time after scud attacks. Congratulations to all who

made that happen. Believe me, I don't like MOPP 4 any more than you!

For the November ORE at Gulfport (and the ORI next year), we will be required to prove our abilities in delivering heavy equipment platforms, airdrop containers and airborne personnel to minimum sized drop zones. We'll need to demonstrate we can land and takeoff safely on semi-prepared surfaces and finally air transport and care for our injured warfighters. Because of the ATSO focus of READINESS SAFEGUARD, we only were able to fly a few sorties and that, quite candidly, was disappointing. However, that is far from coming away with nothing or wasting your time. I can promise that more emphasis will be put on flying employment sorties in November than what we saw at Volk last month. General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "The value of planning is not in the plan, but in the planning." Having gone through the motions of putting together this deployment, we are better prepared for the next one.

We now know what the ICC and EOC does, we have a better plan for the SOC and what its primary and alternate responsibilities are. Our Aeromedical Evacuation Operations Team has a better understanding of its roles and responsibilities and how to work with the SOC and EOC. We have met our

counterparts in the 910 AW and even learned a little more about our own strengths and weaknesses. With that we are in a much better position to plan for the next ORE and ORI in Gulfport.

To all our personnel, regardless if you have deployed to the AOR, supported the GWOT from the CONUS or helped prepare for the ORI, thanks for all you do. It takes teamwork, professionalism and a whole lot of dedication to be a Reservist these days.



*Have a safe
and happy 4th
of July Holiday!*

VIKING FLYER

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.

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.



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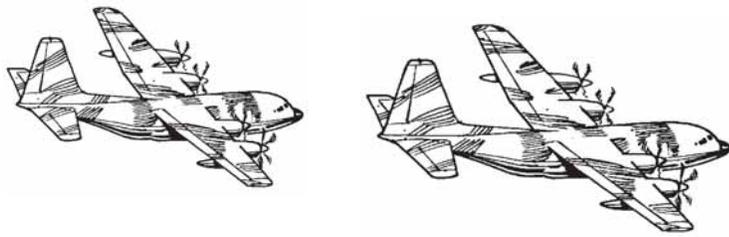


Courtesy photos

On the cover

Images from the Volk Field, Wisc. deployment in May. See story on page 8.





Around the pattern



Courtesy photo

From left, Lt. Col. Eric Brandes, 934th Maintenance Group commander, passes the 934th Maintenance Squadron flag to Maj. Erik Sutcliffe marking his assumption of command of the squadron from outgoing commander Lt. Col. Maureen Banavige



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams

Chief Master Sgt. Jan Dalton, 934 AW Command Chief, and Retired Chief Kenny McGraw congratulate Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Knowles on becoming the first chief for the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.



Photo by Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

Col. Al Swartzmiller (left) presents Lt. Col. Doug Trogstad with his retirement certificate.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams

Maj. Michael Deselich, representing the 27 Aerial Port Squadron Commander, presents Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tratar with his retirement display case.



Major Deselich presents Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Johnson with his retirement display case as his wife Tekla looks on.



Major Deselich presents Master Sgt. Thomas Hanley with his retirement display case.



Col. Judith Marchetti accepts command of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron from Col. Tim Tarchick, 934 AW Commander during the June UTA.

Photo by Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett

No one could avoid the water as the rain soaked the annual Wing golf tournament Saturday evening. The winners were:

- Longest Drive**
Celeste Culberth
- Marty Maher**
- Longest Putt**
Mike Bauch
- Ronna Puck**
- Closest to the Pin**
D. Girrard
- Cheryl Grady**
- Winning Team**
Don Fletcher
- Greg Koury**
- Andy Robinson**
- Mike Bauch**



Photo by Alisa Hall



Honorary Commanders pose with their military commander counterparts after the Honorary Commander induction ceremony. The Honorary Commanders program gives local civilian leaders a chance to learn about the 934th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve and share their knowledge and experiences with others in the community.

Photo by Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett

Mission of mercy

After 20 years, 934th Airman remembers mission, reunites with heart patient

By Lt. Col. Mike Johnson
934OG Deputy Commander

I was invited to participate in a most unusual reunion that was held on May 15. It was a reunion celebrating a heart transplant for an infant that occurred more than 20 years ago. That infant's name is Andrew De La Pena, a college student at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and he is now 21 years old.

On December 23, 1986, I was serving with the North Dakota Air National Guard in Fargo, North Dakota as an F-4 Weapons Systems Officer (WSO). The F-4 was a two-seat fighter and I occupied the rear cockpit. On that particular night I was on air defense alert in Fargo at our alert facility. Our mission was to intercept and destroy any Soviet aircraft attempting to attack North America. We kept two F-4's along with crews and maintenance personnel to man the aircraft 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. On this particular night though, we were called to do something none of us had ever dreamed of.

That night Fargo residents, Steve and Karen McCann, made a decision that saved a life. Tragically, their infant son, Michael had died of unknown causes. The McCann's courageously decided to donate their son's organs. Meanwhile, at the Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto, California, five month old Andrew De La Pena was dying from a heart disease that had already claimed the life of his older sister. A heart transplant was his only chance. When Michael McCann's name made the donor list, an organ harvest team from the Stanford Medical Center flew to Fargo in a business jet to harvest Michael's heart for Andrew. At this time heart transplants for infants were rare. The record for a heart being out of a body in 1986 was four hours. They were looking at five if everything went well. It didn't. After the surgery in Fargo to harvest the



Andrew De La Pena and Lt. Col. Mike Johnson at the reunion.

heart, the medical team (one surgeon and two nurses) boarded their jet for the trip back to California. Unfortunately, one of the engines wouldn't start. They tried numerous times to start the engine but it would not start. There were no other business jets available.

The medical team from Stanford would not accept defeat. There were few options. It was suggested that they call the governor of North Dakota, George Sinner, and see if he could come up with a jet. They got the governor out of bed and he suggested a business jet from the University of North Dakota Aviation Department in Grand Forks, but it was decided that would take too long. The governor then decided to see if we at the NDANG could help. He contacted the State Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Alexander P. MacDonald who in turn called my group commander Col. Wallace Hegg. (We were groups back then and not wings in the ANG), Colonel Hegg called our Operations Dispatch Center (ODC) who then called the alert facility.

The pilot I was crewed with that night was 1st Lt. Robert Becklund. Bob answered the call from our ODC and got everyone out of bed. It was decided that Bob and I would fly the heart to Hill AFB, UT to meet with a Stanford jet who would then take it the rest of the way. The F-4 was a gas guzzling airplane and could not make it all the way to the west coast without refueling and there were no tankers available for air refueling so we had to stop at Hill. The Stanford medical team was escorted into the alert facility. The surgeon told us that time was critical...that this heart was going to be out of a body longer than it should. The surgeon handed me the cooler that contained the heart; it was much larger than I expected. Bob and I climbed onboard and settled into our cockpits.

I strapped in, grabbed the cooler and instantly realized we had a problem. The F-4 had dual flight controls. In other words, it had a control stick and throttles in the rear cockpit so it could be flown from the back. No matter how I moved the

cooler, it interfered with the control stick. We discussed using a travel pod or removing the rear stick, but all of those would take too much time. There was a baby dying in California and we were out of time. I jumped out of the aircraft and placed the cooler on my seat and got the cooler strapped in. I then told Bob he would have to make the trip himself. We got Bob airborne quickly and he was on his way. After he launched we made a few phone calls to Minneapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), Hill AFB, and the Stanford Medical Center just to make

sure everyone was aware of what was happening. The Stanford jet never made it to Hill, so after refueling at Hill, Bob flew the heart to NAS Moffett, CA where Stanford medical personnel were waiting.

We never heard much after that, other than the surgery had been a success and the baby was alive. The identities of donor and recipient families are carefully guarded. So we didn't get anymore information. I have to admit, after all these years I had kind of forgotten about it. Until a few months ago when Col. Robert

Becklund, now Wing Commander of the NDANG, contacted me and asked if I would like to take part in a reunion of all the participants from that night. I obviously said yes.

This past May 15, I drove to Fargo and participated in a very special reunion. The donor family, the McCann's, courageously attended, as did the entire De La Pena family. Former governor, George Sinner, General MacDonald and Colonel Hegg were also there. Those of us on alert that night were also in attendance as well as one of the nurses from Stanford and other people from the medical community and invited guests. It was a very emotional experience. The heart was actually out for more than seven hours.

I played a very small part in this entire experience. However, I really wanted to meet Andrew and his family. Andrew thanked me for quickly deciding to jump out of my seat and place his heart where I was supposed to be sitting. It was very humbling and emotional to meet Andrew's parents. They too expressed their gratitude.

It was amazing to meet this young man. He is an excellent student, been on the swim team, and water polo team. He has acted and modeled in California and will be studying abroad this summer somewhere in the Himalaya Mountains. Andrew is making the most of this tremendous gift. And myself, I feel very special and privileged to have taken part in that night long ago and in this very special reunion.



Courtesy photo
The alert crew, Guard officers and medical staff who made the transplant a success stand in front of an F-4 Phantom jet. The "Happy Hooligans" on the tail denotes the nickname of the Guard flying squadron.



Future aviators

Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing Commander, talks with students about aviation and opportunities in the Air Force Reserve. The students are part of the Aviation Career Education camp sponsored by the FAA and MNDOT. The students spend a week visiting aviation facilities, receive classroom instruction and fly aboard a C-130 aircraft.

Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Volk deployment shows wing on right track

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach
934 AW Public Affairs

The Volk Field deployment, also known as Operational Readiness Training Program 4, or READINESS SAFE-GUARD, always seemed as though it was something off in the distant future. Then suddenly, it was here.

There was plenty of preparation and hard work getting ready for the exercise, but once it started, the pace quickened and people transitioned to warfighting mode. They focused on the mission, and were on their way back home with a sense of relief, satisfaction and accomplishment that at least the first big hurdle in the ORI process was over.

More than 400 members of the 934th deployed to Volk Field and teamed up with their counterparts from the 910 AW, Youngstown ARB, Ohio. The two units combined to form the 922d Air Expeditionary Wing and were tested on the Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) with the emphasis being on operating.

"I knew we would do o.k. in the exercise because of the training we started working on five month's ago," said Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing Commander. "We actually did better than I expected. The CADRE said that on a scale of one to ten, we were in the seven to eight range. I was expecting maybe the four to five range, since we had not done this for a couple of years, but I was happy to see that as the 922 AEW we did better than o.k. A big part of this was the positive attitude everyone took towards the exercise. I commend everyone for taking this seriously and doing their best throughout the week."

"One of the high points that comes to mind in the initial response was the Base Operations Support people doing a great job of getting us out on time. The aircraft performance was impressive. We did not have any major glitches getting out of town. Some high points of the employment phase that stuck out to me were the quality of leadership at all levels and the decision making. I saw good communication, people reacting quickly to situations, responding appropriately and making good decisions."

While Volk Field was a huge step forward in the process of preparing for the Operational Readiness Inspection in April of 2008, there is one more step before the real deal. The Operational Readiness Exercise is that next hurdle which will be November in Gulfport, Miss. again together with the 910 AW.

"ORTP4 helped us identify some of the things we need to work on before the ORE and ORI," said Colonel Tarchick. "We need to tighten up the initial response and redeployment phases, and refine the process of changing shifts in and out to make sure people from the first shift don't get stuck working into the second shift and vice versa. We also



Security Forces receive an early morning brief at Volk Field.

need to work on some of the personnel accountability issues, knowing where everyone is at all times."

One of the key differences between Volk Field and Gulfport will be that the 934 and 910 AWs will design their own scenario for Gulfport whereas at Volk the scenario was developed entirely by CADRE. "This will give us a chance to fly our airplanes more and get the operations people more involved," said the colonel. "Also, one other difference will be that there is no "non-play" area there. No matter where you are at Gulfport, you are always subject to the exercise scenario."

In terms of preparing for the ORI, Colonel Tarchick says the wing is exactly where it needs to be. "We've worked hard, we got through the Volk, and we're compiling lessons learned to work on for the future. Right now, I want people to relax and enjoy the summer. We don't have a July UTA, so now is the time to spend some time with family and friends and think about other things besides the ORI. We'll start to have meetings again in August and start to ramp up for Gulfport in the fall."

"We've already done 80-90 percent of the things we will be tested on, we just need to tweak them a little for Gulfport. I know this has been a long process with a lot of effort put forth by everyone in the Wing. I thank everyone for getting us to where we are and for their continuing positive attitude. I hope everyone enjoys the well deserved time to relax this summer."



Anthrax vaccine again mandatory for some deployers

Mandatory-- Anthrax vaccination is mandatory for uniformed personnel, emergency essential and comparable U.S. government civilian employees and contractors deployed (or deploying within 60 days) to U.S. CENTCOM or Korea areas of responsibility (AOR) for 15 or more consecutive days. Also for certain uniformed personnel assigned to special units (such as forward deployed forces) and units with biodefense-related missions.

Voluntary-- Anthrax vaccination is voluntary for uniformed and civilian personnel no longer deployed to U.S. CENTCOM or Korea who have had at least one dose of anthrax vaccine and want to continue. Also for U.S. government civilian employees and contractors (not in the mandatory group) and family members of DoD personnel in U.S. CENTCOM or Korea for 15 or more consecutive days.

Q. I'm in the Reserves or National Guard. If I have an adverse event, can I go to a military hospital or clinic? Adverse events after military-directed vaccinations are in "line-of-duty" (LOD). Some Reserve Component (RC) members may seek medical care from their private physicians, while others may seek medical care at a local military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF). Those who seek treatment for an adverse event related to an official immunization will be treated. Any necessary line-of-duty (LOD) documents shall be completed after the person is treated. If you see a NON-military provider, be sure to notify your commander for the proper paperwork for an LOD or Notice of Eligibility determination. Evaluation or treatment will not be denied or delayed, pending a line-of-duty determination. For civilian health services outside a military Medical Treatment Facility call: **888.MHS.MMSO (888.647.6676).**

For information about vaccine or policy,

Military Vaccine (MILVAX) Agency:

Websites: www.anthrax.mil or www.vaccines.mil

E-Mail: vaccines@amedd.army.mil

Toll-Free: 877.GET.VACC

For medical advice about your vaccination,

DoD Vaccine Clinical Call Center:

Toll-Free: 866.210.6469

For clinical consultation or exemption assistance,

DoD Vaccine Healthcare Centers: www.vhinfo.org

To Civilian Healthcare Providers: If a Reservist or Active Duty

Service Member presents to you for a condition that may be an

adverse event caused by a military vaccination, please provide

appropriate care. For authorization and payment, contact the

Military Treatment Facility (MTF) where the member is enrolled,

OR contact the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO, 888-

647-6676) if not enrolled to an MTF.

VIKING VOICES

What do you have planned for the 4th?



"Camping on July 4th, and working here on my annual tour."

**Tech. Sgt. Robin Brewster,
MSF Commander Support
Staff**



"Going to a celebration with friends from church watching fireworks in downtown Minneapolis. My girlfriend's brother is returning from Iraq that week so we will be celebrating that as well."

**Senior Airman Brandon Lancaster
934th Services Squadron**



"I'll be going to a ballgame and watching fireworks."

**Tech. Sgt. Todd Littfin,
934th Financial Management**



"I'll be heading for the cabin."

Senior Airman Matthew Buse, 934th Maintenance Squadron.



Productivity robes

From left, Col. Nancy Brooks, Col. Al Swartzmiller, Lt. Col. Eric Brandes and Col. Tim Tarchick try out the new robes which are now a free amenity to business suite guests at the North Country Lodge here. The robes are also available for other guests for a fee. The robes are said to provide wearers the potential for added comfort and productivity. Users of the robes must, however, furnish their own Blackberries.

Photo by Tammy Davis





Employers Day September 8, 2007

934th Airlift Wing reservists with civilian employers can thank their bosses for their support during the past year through a special event.

Employers' Day 2007 will be held Sept. 8. Activities start at 7 a.m. and end around 1 p.m. They include briefings with the 934th Airlift Wing commander and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve officials, along with a mock mobility line and a C-130 orientation flight. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Nominating their employers for Employers' Day is one way reservists can say thanks to those who help support their military career. It is also an opportunity to introduce their employer to the Air Force Reserve. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to employers who participate in this event.

Space is limited. Reservists who want to nominate their employer should complete a nomination form. **Completed forms must be received by the Public Affairs office by August 1. Please print clearly using black ink.** Forms can also be mailed to the 934 AW/PA, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100 or faxed to (612) 713-1229.

Nominees will receive an official invitation and additional information. Please provide the correct spelling for all names and official titles. Each reservist may submit **ONLY ONE** employer or supervisor. Federal civil service employees of military organizations are not eligible for nomination. Reservists may not nominate family members, even if they are legitimate employers, or anyone who has flown with the wing for any reason.

Reservist Information

Rank/Name _____ Unit _____ Duty Phone _____

Home address _____ Home email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home phone: _____ Civilian workphone _____ **SSAN _____

Employer's Information

Employer's full name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

Employer's job title/position _____ email address _____

Company Name _____ **SSAN _____

Business address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Business phone: _____ Home phone _____

Emergency contact Name/relationship _____ Phone _____

I acknowledge that I am responsible for notifying my military supervisor if my employer will attend and I will be on duty status Sept. 8. In addition, I certify that my employer has not participated in any other Employers' Day.

Reservist Signature _____ Date _____

**** PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:** INFORMATION REQUESTED IS AFFECTED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974. AUTHORITY FOR REQUESTING THIS INFORMATION FROM YOU IS TITLE 10, U.S. CODE, SECTION 8012 (SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, POWERS AND DUTIES DELEGATED) AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 9397 (NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR FEDERAL ACCOUNTS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL PERSONS). THE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO MANIFEST PASSENGERS FOR THE C-130 FLIGHT. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS USED TO MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT. DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY. HOWEVER, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DENIED BOARDING FOR THE FLIGHT WITHOUT THE REQUESTED INFORMATION.





Viking Vibes



Texas Hold 'Em

The Services Club will host a Texas Hold 'Em tournament Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. No fees to play. There will be prizes for winners.

Karaoke

It's Karaoke Night at the Services Club lounge Aug. 4 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Take your friends and have a fun evening singing your favorite songs without having to listen to those American Idol judges afterward!

Catering

Both the Officers' Club and Services Club offer catering services for special events, such as birthday parties, graduation parties, bridal showers, weddings, anniversaries, baby showers, promotions, retirements, awards banquets, meetings, workshops and conferences.

Both clubs are open to all ranks and military branches. Various room sizes are available to accommodate up to 200 guests. Call the clubs' catering professionals at the Officers' Club at (612) 767-1960 ext. 202 or the Services Club at (612) 713-1674.

OSC news

Thank you all for your generous support at the April Style Show.

See you at the next luncheon September 20th.

Summer Bridge is on.

Tuesday Bridge: 2nd and 3rd Tuesday each month at 10am. Please call Germaine Reuterdaahl at 952-881-0107 for more details.

Evening Bridge: 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at 7 pm. Please call Roberta Gronemann at 763-494-3517 or Diane Lerohl at 952-935-4467

New members and guests are always welcome. The annual membership dues are only \$20. Please contact Lee

Burritos

The Officers' Club offers Burrito and Beverage Nights every Tuesday at the lounge. Enjoy a burrito and a beverage (beer, soda, or well drink) for \$8.95.

Discounts

The base Information, Tickets and Travel office offers discounted tickets and coupons for area attractions, including Valleyfair Amusement Park, the Park at Mall of America, Underwater Adventures, Minnesota Zoo, the Renaissance Fair and more. ITT is located in the fitness center. For more details, call (612) 713-1496.

Hog roast

The Flower and Garden Club will host its annual Hog Roast Aug. 21 at the Officers' Club. Enjoy roast pork, sauerkraut, fresh corn, potatoes, applesauce and rolls. For tickets and more information, call Call Trudye Bremner at (952) 941-3527.

Riding Vikings

The Riding Vikings will host a bike a ride at Rice Lake/Elm Creek Trail July 21. Start time is at 8:30 a.m. Refreshments available. Riders meet at Basswood Park parking lot. The event is open to all ranks in all military branches and all level of riders. For more information or to register, call Ronna Puck at (612) 713-1665. Basswood Park is located at 15234 65th Place North, Maple Grove. Helmets are required for all riders.

DVD rental

Rent the latest movies at the DVD rental kiosk at North Country Lodge for \$1.49 per movie per day. Renters do not have to be a Lodging guest. Anyone on base can rent a movie. The kiosk is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Gift Ideas

Need to buy a gift? Shop at the North Country Lodge. Choose from wing polo shirts and T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, bear and moose slippers, figurines and more.

Books needed

The North Country Lodge needs books for adults, teens and children for its guest library. Lodging guests can borrow books from the library anytime during their stay. Drop off new or gently used books at front desk from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, call Tammy Davis at (612) 713-1978.

Lodging hours

The North Country Lodge's new holiday operating hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

VA website available to help reservists

Reservists and veterans can get approval information on education programs offered by colleges and universities, flight schools, correspondence schools, non college degree and on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs as well as licensing and certification programs on the VA web site called the Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS). The WEAMS site is accessible from the GI BILL website: <http://gibill.va.gov/>.



Wing roundup

27 APS

It was a bitter-sweet annual promotion party for the Aerial Port Squadron during the July UTA as the squadron said goodbye to three retiring senior NCOs: Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Tratar, Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Johnson, and Master Sgt. Thomas Hanley. Chief Tratar highlights a 31 year military career with 27 years of dedicated service to the 27 APS. All the honored retirees received Meritorious Service Medals along with letters of congratulations and thanks from Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty during the retirement ceremony. The squadron thanks these gentlemen for their cumulative 50 years of service to the Aerial Port; they will be missed.

Tech. Sgt. William Patterson, Staff Sgt. Lindsay Lande, and Staff Sgt. Jesse Werner were recognized for their service efforts on recent deployments to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan by receiving Air Force Achievement Medals.

SVS

The Services Squadron is happy to announce the safe return of Staff Sgt. Regal, Staff Sgt. Cervantes, and Senior Airman Eagan from their deployment. Also returning from the Mortuary is Captain Elrod, Chief Traxler-Siehdnel, and Staff Sgt. Harrington. Along with the above Mortuary deployments, Staff Sgt. Pangal and Master Sgt. Smith recently returned from the Joint Personal Effects Depot, located in Maryland. They worked very closely with Army Personnel processing personal belongings of deceased military individuals.

Newly promoted individuals in our Squadron are as follows: Senior Airman Cervantes to Staff Sgt., Senior Airman Dufresne to Staff Sgt., (promoted while at Volk Field) and lastly Tech. Sgt. Smith to Master Sgt. Congrats everyone, keep up the momentum. These recently promoted individuals will be recognized at the induction ceremony to be held on Saturday Aug. 4 in the Navy Auditorium.

SFS

The 934 SFS welcomes new members **Tech. Sgt. Theodore Mazza** who joins us from Milwaukee and **Senior Airman Pedro Gonzalez** who joins us after 4 years active duty in the Marine Corps.

Congratulations to **Airman 1st Class Benjamin Orr** on his recent promotion to Senior Airman

Congratulations to **Technical Sgt. Randy Chesick** on his recent retirement.

Senior Airman Robert J. Beidler and **Airman First Class Jesse Kupka** successfully completed Combat Arms Instructor School at Lackland AFB.

MXS

TACC missions for the 139 day activated folks of MXS continue to proceed at a breakneck pace. Most recently they assisted Army paratroopers and our MedEvac brethren. Master Sgt. Scott Lewis recently returned after a well received six month mission to Baghdad where he trained Iraqi Air Force members in the ways of repair & reclamation of their new C-130 aircraft.

Former MXS Commander Colonel Toby Hammer celebrated the Memorial Day weekend by lending his assistance as keynote speaker at the Greenwood Cemetery in support of American Legion Post #121 in River Falls, Wisc.

Congrats to Tech. Sgt. Steve Rosera & Senior Airman Chris Berens of the Fabrication Branch on passing their 5-level end of course tests.

MXS is retiring two of its finest; Master Sgt. Rich Reinhart is retiring after 36 years of outstanding service to his country, the last 20+ to the 934 AW in general and the Iso Dock specifically. Master Sgt. Blake Andrist is closing out a 24 year career as a B-52 & C-130 Crew Chief, QA Inspector, and Sheet Metal Mechanic. Blake has moved on to a new challenge running the service department at a recently opened Toyota dealership in Rochester. A few more MXS members are transitioning out of the unit: Tech. Sgt. Clint Wittlief, Senior Airman Ben Wilkes and Senior Airman Brice Gray of the propulsion section are moving on.

Clint will be pursuing his passion for plumbing while Ben goes with our hopes for his safety and success to the 34th Military Police Battalion in Stillwater, MN. Brice will be staying with the 934th, he's accepted a slot in the Transportation Squadron as a vehicle maintainer. Tech. Sgt. Joe Neisen is departing the Metals Technology section to pursue an engineering degree thru the U of M as well as spending more time with his young 'uns. Our good friends in the MOF welcome two new members to our crack Orderly Room crew: Senior Airman Lori Sorn, formerly of the active duty world in Germany and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Longsine from the 440th in Milwaukee. Jeff will be accompanied by his wife and kids, including his most recent addition, William. The NDI shop is happy to welcome Tech. Sgt. Kathy Pierce, formerly of the Duluth ANG where she worked in the medical equipment repair field. She comes to us after a brief break in service looking forward to the challenge of a new AFSC. Kathy and her husband Tim are the proud parents of three young ladies, Sydney, Tiffany, and Roni. Stop the presses!! These reporters have just learned that confirmed bachelor Tech. Sgt. Denny McClain of the propulsion section has found Miss Right, her name is Cindy and she comes with a rock solid reputation for tolerating the straight forward views of Mr. McClain as well as the ability to dish it out. Speaking of marriages, SRA Amanda Hinch of the Avionics section got hitched June 2 to some lucky fella in Las Vegas and Senior Airman Jake Diener of the propulsion section will be married before this paper hits the street. Congratulations to all. Our fine fuel shop folks would like to welcome Senior Airman Kyle Mader to their shop. Kyle comes to us from a recent stint with the US Marine Corps that included two tours in Iraq. His service in Iraq included several decorations including two Purple Hearts; we look forward to learning from his experiences. It is with great sadness and hope that the MXS squadron witnessed the change of command ceremony over the June

Wing roundup

UTA. Our beloved commander Lt Col Moe Banavige is leaving us to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. For several years now, in our estimation, she has been the finest example of an officer on this base. Her departure has saddened us greatly but we knew she had other worlds to conquer and we anxiously await her return to the Twin Cities. Maj. Eric Sutcliffe, formerly of the 934 APS, will be our new commander, he comes highly recommended and so far has impressed us all, we welcome him with anticipation that he will live up to the high standards that have been set by his predecessor.

96AS

Our Minnesota summer is upon us. The May ORTP4 is a distant memory and the upcoming ORE is, well it's next fall! Packed in and around squadron functions such as "Swartzstock 2007" and the "Boat Party" is our primary mission to stay trained. The flying is relentless!

We continue to support CONUS AMC missions by having a crew on the road at all times. This tasked crew primarily supports the Basic Airborne Course (BAC) at Ft Benning Ga. and In Country Movement of Patients (ICMOP) which can be a coast to coast aeromedical mission. Soon, a hand-picked crew will represent the USAF C-130 community at the annual Royal Air International Tattoo airshow in England.

The 96 AS welcomes the following newcomers: Lt. Col. Jim Nowak, Maj Rolf Breen, Master Sgt. Mark Blank and Master Sgt. Paula Trestwick from Milwaukee. Master Sgt. Dave Eubanks from the MN ANG.

The Flying Vikings also say farewell to former squadron members Col. Jorge "Doc" Llambes and Lt. Col. Doug Trogstad. We wish you luck and enjoyment in your well deserved retirement!

Aircrew hiring continues in 96 AS. If you are interested in a flying position or would like some information regarding the following duties, please feel free to contact the following individuals:

PILOTS-

joel.loomis@minneapolis.af.mil

NAVIGATORS-

Kenneth.rogers@minneapolis.mil

FLIGHT ENGINEERS-

mark.hartnett@minneapolis.af.mil

LOADMASTERS-

thomas.foss@minneapolis.af.mil

AMXS

We were able to rapidly generate two aircraft in conjunction with operation silver flag on short notice for Colonel Brooks and the CE squadron.

Master Sgt. David Strande, Tech. Sgt. Dennis Maddox, and Staff Sgt. Chantell Chase were noted as superior performers for the ORE for an aircraft egress event in which they demonstrated their ability to respond to an aircraft fire.

Airman 1st Class Steve Prinsen received an excellent score on his fit to flight test.

Congratulations to the two new additions to the aircraft maintenance family. Captain Stout and his wife had a son, Noah Robert on April 21, weighing 7 1/2 lbs. Tech. Sgt. Shirley Rhea gave birth to Brayden Michael on April 27 weighing in at a whopping 9 lbs. 7 oz.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Kenneth McIntosh on his recent graduation from Carlson School of Business with a triple major and a 3.7 GPA.

Senior Master Sgt. Donald Fletcher, Master Sgt. Greg Koury, Master Sgt. Michael Bauch, and Tech. Sgt. Andy Robinson won first place in the 934th annual golf tourney with five under par. Mike also was awarded for the longest putt.



Speed limit increases

The speed limit on base entering and departing the main gate in front of the Navy Building has been increased from 10 to 15 miles per hour. The speed limit immediately adjacent to the gate remains at 10 mph.





Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

Tuskegee Airman visit

Tuskegee Airmen Lt. Col. Hiram Mann (left) and Col. Charles McGee pose with Col. Tim Tarchick (far left) Chief Master Sgt. Steven Campos, MN Air National Guard, and Col. Steve DeWerff. The two Airmen were in town for a fund raiser to restore a P-51 Mustang like the ones they flew in WW II to flying condition.

Mann completed combat training at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in 1944 and was assigned as a fighter pilot with the 100th fighter squadron in Italy. He retired from the Air Force in 1963. He is the co-author of the book "Forever Dreaming", published in 1998.

Col. McGee received his commission in 1943 at TAAF and went on to serve his country for 30 years as a command pilot with over 6,100 flight hours. He holds the record for the highest three-war total of combat missions of any U.S. pilot in Air Force history - 409 missions.

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

**Maj. Michael P. Deselich
Maj. Elizabeth A. Lindeke
Maj. Brian R. Petersen
Maj. Theodore S. Ruminsky**

AF Commendation Medal

**Maj. Jerome M. Hall
CMSgt. Randy S. Polansky
Tech. Sgt. Paul R. Long
Tech. Sgt. Kurtis J. Sneide
Staff Sgt. Lesley K. Carhart
Staff Sgt. Bruce A. Sherwood**

AF Achievement Medal

**Tech. Sgt. Michael W. Finstrom
SrA Timothy W. Tabor**

Joint Service Achievement Medal

**Tech. Sgt James F. Decker
SrA Bruce A. Sherwood**





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