

# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC) Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn. January 2010

Vol. 32, No. 1







By Col. Timothy E. Tarchick  
934th Airlift Wing commander

## Climbing to flight level 2010

I wanted to be the first to greet you in 2010 but I didn't want to write one of those typical "New Year, New You, New Resolutions" kind of commentaries I see every January. Mainly, because 2009 was not "typical" and 2010 won't be either. Still, there is something to be said for those "typical" commentaries as most of them summarize the year quite nicely. So I'll highlight some of our accomplishments:

- \* We won an AFRC Airman, Family Readiness Program of Year Award, a 22nd Air Force's Aerial Port Roundup Award, the Services Wartime Assessment Training Competition and the AFRC Air Transportation Unit of the Year Award, just to name a few of the many awards the wing has won.

- \* We contributed more than \$126 million to the Twin Cities are through contracts, jobs and other projects

- \* We have had more than 400 934th Airlift Wing personnel deployed throughout the year for operations such as Integrated CONUS Medical Operations Plan (ICMOP). Deployments for Coronet Oak, Joint Enterprise, Air Expeditionary Force and other mobilizations. We took 7 Higher Headquarter inspections.

- \* We have hosted more than 300 civilians on this base in the last year – they visited us simply to find out more about the wonderful jobs you do and trust me they are telling their friends how proud they are of you.

- \* We have seen an array of distinguished visitors -- the President of the United States, several generals and Tops In Blue (The Air Force's premiere entertainment group) -- venture through our gates.

While 2009 could be called "The

year of deployments", 2010 is shaping up as "The year of Inspections". We have a 22nd Air Force Staff Assistance Visit coming up in March and an Air Force Reserve Command Unit Compliance Inspection taking place in September. We still have about 70 people deployed and more than a dozen heading out the door as this issue of the Viking Flyer reaches your doorstep. All this on top of our normal mission of providing mission ready Airmen and tactical airlift - anytime, anywhere.

I'm actually glad that 2010 won't be a typical, normal, ho-hum year because 934th Airlift Wing Airmen are anything but "typical." In my almost four years here, I have one word to describe all of you – EXTRAORDINARY! You have proven yourselves time and again on tasks big and small, mundane and unique, short and long. You have done an outstanding job not only meeting expectations but exceeding them. And for that I am extremely proud of you. I know that I am saying "we" a lot but that's what today's Air Force Reserve is all about. "I" cannot make this base excellent without you. Together, "we" can make 2010 our best year yet.

That said, now is not the time to cross off Dec. 31 on the 2009 calendar, grab a cup of coffee, kick your feet up on the desk and coast through 2010. Oh no, now is the time to step up those expectations a notch, to be the best Air Force Reserve unit in the command. Now is the time to focus on the SAV and UCI. Now is the time to do more, push harder, do it safely, and climb higher than we have ever gone before. Now is the time to continue in our tradition of excellence.

Let me be the first to welcome you to 2010, the year of Extraordinary!

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### Wing commander's hotline:

612-713-1555

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

### IG/Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline

The primary responsibility of the IG is to sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations, and Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) programs characterized by objectivity, integrity and impartiality.

#### 934th AW FWA Hotline

(612) 713-1180

#### AFRC FWA Hotline

(800) 223-1784 extension 7-1513

#### SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline

(800) 538-8429

#### DoD FWA Hotline

(800) 424-9098

### On the cover

Maj. Jason Schroeder (right) and Master Sgt. James Courneya, 96th Airlift Squadron, help guide children aboard a C-130 for a flight to the "North Pole" during Operation Santa. See story on page 4. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

# Aeromedics FLEX muscle in Florida

Story and photos by Senior Airman Noah Johnson  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron converged with Florida agencies at Key West Naval Air Station for Florida Exercise Dec. 12.

Approximately 90 participants from disaster relief agencies engaged in the training, learning how to properly interact with the U.S. Military Air Evacuation System during an emergency.

The agencies being trained were Florida's Disaster Medical Assistance Team and the Florida Advanced Surgical and Transport Team.

The training included flight line safety, the circle of safety (safe distance around the aircraft), patient packaging, proper litter carrying procedures, and loading and unloading patients and military aircraft (enplaning and deplaning).

"I think it is crucial training for us, as a military, to have this training and interface with the civilian sector," says Capt. Adam Hohman, a flight nurse with the 934th AES. "Humanitarian operations are becoming increasingly common and complex."

As a means to combat the growing threat of national disasters, government agencies are stepping up inter-agency efforts, such as this, to maximize response power.

"Having the opportunity to train civilians on our capabilities and how we operate in and around the aircraft is vital to safely interact with them in the event of a real world disaster," says Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Cassidy, "They brought a strong mix of experience to the table, which allowed us to learn from them how they operate and what their capabilities are as well. It was a huge success."



Capt. Adam Hohman (left) of the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron describes the proper use of medical support equipment to Florida Advanced Surgical and Transport Team members Dr. Joe Scott (center) and Dr. Michael Ksychi.



Members of the Florida Advanced Surgical and Transport Team Sally Noriega (left) and George Delgado (back) remove a patient from a patient evacuation vehicle with the help of fellow FAST Team members.



Christine Kepler, emergency manager of the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, explains the capabilities of their patient evacuation vehicles to Master Sgt. Zac Johnson, 934th AES.



## Civil Engineers

Provided by Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

Congrats to Tech. Sgt Donald Doose, Staff Sgt. Joseph Hillstrom, Senior Airmen Jason Nelson and Jonathan Davidson who all received well deserved recognition for scoring above 90 on their Career Development Course tests.

Congrats to Staff Sgt. Matthew Heiman received "Honor Guard member of the quarter".

Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher received a letter of appreciation from 477th Support Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, for her efforts during annual tour in June.

## Aeromedical Evacuation

Provided by Staff Sgt. Michelle O'Dean

Welcome to the new first sergeant, Master Sgt. Kelly Kay, and a new flight nurse 2nd Lt. Sean Smith.

Happy December birthdays to Capt. Rick Weiss, Senior Airman Bethany Beyer, Staff Sgts. Mary Wetterstrand and Rory Leib, 1st Lt. William Fliesher, Tech. Sgt. Winter Shaler, Capt. Ann Selimos and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Knowles.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Anthony Leavitt and Senior Airman-Whitney Mayes on the birth of their new babies.

Farewell to 2nd Lt. Amanda Piersak has been given the opportunity to take a civilian nursing position at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany starting in January and will be transferring to Charleston AFB to continue flying with the 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Farewell to 1st Lt William Fleischer will be working in Security Forces and commuting to Texas.

## We're online!

934th Airlift Wing Official Public Website:

[www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil)

Join the 934th Airlift Wing Group on Facebook



2nd Lt. Amanda Piersak, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, gives a dog tag to a child on the way to the "North Pole" during Operation Santa. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

# OPERATION SANTA

## *Tradition preserved by wing members*

By Master Sgt. Paul Zadach  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For more than a decade, children from Eau Claire, Wis. have been treated to a special trip, flying to the "North Pole" to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves during the 934th Airlift Wing's "Operation Santa." But this year, that tradition almost came to an end.

Master Sgt. Jim Courneya, 96th Airlift Squadron, had participated in many Operation Santa missions throughout the years courtesy of the 96th AS and the AT&T Telephone Pioneers in Wisconsin where they "flew" special needs children and their brothers and sisters to Santa's home.

Earlier this year, Sergeant Courneya started making some phone calls to Gloria Grabowski, an AT&T employee and Telephone Pioneer member who was the chief organizer for the previous events. However, he found that she had been laid off from her job and no longer lived in Wisconsin. He persevered and was able to track her down in Texas.

When he finally got in touch with her in early November, she said, "Jim, I used to start organizing the event in August, and since I lost my job and moved away, I haven't put anything together. I just don't think there is any way we can have the event this year."

"We have people here at the 934th who can put this together, there is still time to get it going," said Sergeant Courneya.

Grabowski responded, "You really want this to happen don't you?"

"Yes," said Sergeant Courneya, and he enlisted the help of some Airmen Elves to make it happen.

934th members were quick to donate gifts, wrap presents, obtain necessary approvals and put Operation Santa together in less than a month to continue the tradition. Grabowski and her husband returned to Wisconsin to once again join 934th members in the Operation Santa mission.

Santa never quits, and neither does the 934th Airlift Wing.

# Civic leaders share impressions of Air Force



An RC-135 pulls up to the boom of a KC-135 for air refueling.



Brent Newman surveys the view from the C-130 cockpit. (Air Force Photos/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



Civic leaders return from an orientation flight aboard an HH 60 Pavehawk at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

**Editors note:** Each year the 934th Airlift Wing conducts a tour for civic leaders to give them a first hand look at the 934th AW and the Air Force Reserve. The two day trip takes them to a Reserve base outside Minnesota for a chance to see other units in the Air Force Reserve Command. Two members of this year's tour share their experiences here. To read their full stories go to [www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil).

**By Brent Newman**

*Captain, California Highway Patrol*

To put my firsthand account of the 2009 Civic Leader Tour in words is a daunting challenge. It was the ultimate “WOW” experience.

A warm reception followed by the 934th AW mission briefing provided us with an insightful overview of the operations. Before I knew it we were airborne on the C-130 and excited for what lie ahead. It seemed a bit odd to have an extended holding pattern around the Minneapolis metro area but I thought, “Perhaps this was part of the tour.” Moments later we were landing back at the base due to an apparent engine issue. In an impressive display of recover and redeploy less than 30 minutes later we were on another C-130 and headed towards Tucson.

Our arrival was greeted by warm weather and a warmer reception and mission briefing by the 943rd Rescue Group. The base tour exposed us to a small but intricate dose of the Rescue Group life. Seeing the equipment firsthand and meeting the Pararescue Jumpers was a profound experience. I’m still trying to figure out how to convince my wife that Night Vision Goggles should be a “family necessity”. It might help if I could wipe the permanent smile off my face from the HH-60 flight. So much experienced over a short time it’s still sinking in. The Boneyard was both intriguing and somber as one contemplates life’s journey of not only the machine but the men and women who were behind it.

**By John Hurst**

*The Toro Company*

Most on the tour had an outdated view of the “weekend warrior,” rather than today’s professional fighting airman. It became apparent that most of these dedicated men and women have families, full-time jobs outside the USAFR, and still contribute many hours in service of our country.

We wrapped up our morning with a static display and tour of an A-10 on the flight line. We then bused to a waiting KC-135, which lifted off late morning en route back to Minneapolis. While somewhere over the heartland, we practice refueled an RC-135 with student pilots on board. The RC-135 was able to connect and disconnect for nearly 45 minutes, giving everyone on the tour a chance to lay down in the boomer box and watch in awe as the RC-135 danced under our aircraft. The view is awesome!

We landed back at cloudy Minneapolis a little after 1600 hours. To a person, we were all immensely grateful for the experience of a lifetime. Most importantly, and I mean this with all sincerity, we were all left with hearts of gratitude for the men and women of the Air Force Reserve who risk and sacrifice greatly to secure our liberty.



# VIKING VOICES

*What is your goal for the new year?*



**Staff Sgt. Howard Glockzin**  
27th Aerial Port Squadron  
*"I would like to complete my degree in aviation science operations."*



**Senior Airman Yakini Branch-Ibura**  
934th Services Squadron  
*"I want to focus on improving every aspect of my life."*



**Master Sgt. Rodney Kuczala**  
27th Aerial Port Squadron  
*"I want to finish remodeling my basement."*



**Staff Sgt. Lorrie Woebeking**  
27th Aerial Port Squadron  
*"I want to do an internship as a health care administrator."*



## Deployed dining

(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Michelle Klabunde, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; Minnesota National Guard member 2nd Lt. Tiffany Van Den Broeke, and Staff Sgt. MacKenzie Schroeder, 934th ASTS, enjoy a meal with Congressman Erik Paulsen, (3rd District Minn.) at their deployed location in Southwest Asia. The congressman spent time touring facilities and talking with deployed military members. (Courtesy Photo)

## UTA Dates

<u>Month</u>	<u>934th</u>	<u>133rd</u>	<u>Navy. Marines</u>
Jan.	9-10	23-24	9-10/23-24
Feb.	6-7	20-21	6-7/20-21
Mar.	6-7	20-21	13-14/27-28
Apr.	10-11	17-18	10-11/24-25
May.	1-2	22-23	1-2/22-23
Jun.	5-6	12-13	12-13
July	10-11	17-18	10-11/24-25
Aug.	7-8	21-22	14-15/28-29
Sep.	18-19	11-12	11-12/18-19

For information on Army training dates call ext. 3127.

## Promotions to:

Chief Master Sgt. Steven Orwig	LRS
Master Sgt. Brian Knutson	CES
Tech. Sgt. Curt Richter	CF
Tech Sgt. Rachel Snook	AES
Staff Sgt. Matthew Heiman	CES
Staff Sgt. Stephanie Hensen	ASTS
Senior Airman James Cotter	MXS
Senior Airman Bryan Lachica	MOF
Airman 1st Class Stephanie Graybill	MSF
Airman Regann Thrasher	AES
Airman Matthew Satterlie	CES

## Sergeants Upp&Adam

*By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson*







Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Stierlen, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron receives his retirement plaque from Col. Mike Ochs, 934th Mission Support Group commander, Nov. 7. Sergeant Stierlen retired with more than 26 years service.



Staff Sgt. Garrett Weston, 934th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is presented the Civil Engineer Emergency Management Outstanding Program Award by Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron (left) and Col. Mike Ochs, 934th Mission Support Group commander.



Tech. Sgt. John McEliece is congratulated on his retirement Nov. 7 by Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing Commander. Sergeant McEliece retired with more than 29 years of service. (Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Noah Johnson)



Master Sgt. Donald Johnson, 934th Operations Group, receives the Meritorious Service Medal citation from Col. Ron Wilt, 934th Operations Group commander, at his retirement ceremony Nov. 7. Sergeant Johnson retired with more than 26 years service.



Tech. Sgt. Scott Novak, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, receives the Meritorious Service Medal citation from Lt. Col. Les Canarr, 934th CES commander, Nov. 7 at his retirement ceremony. Sergeant Novak retired with more than 22 years of service.



Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, receives the 934th Base Honor Guard Member of the Year Award from Lt. Col. Les Canarr, 934th CES commander. Sergeant Johnson performed 24 military honor funerals and five color guard details last year. He has been a member since 2002 and also performs as a bugler.

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*December to remember*



The Air Force performing group "Tops in Blue" entertained a full house of military and civilian fans during their show in Burnsville, Minnesota, Dec. 5. The group performed their first Minnesota show in more than seven years at the Burnsville Performing Arts Center. "The Tops in Blue have over 90 shows on their schedule this year, and we feel very fortunate as we are the only Air Force Reserve wing to host the tour," said Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander. "The show was fantastic, we hope they can come back next year." Tops in Blue presents shows around the world for the Air Force with a legacy of over fifty years of entertaining the troops. (Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss)