

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

October 2008 Vol. 30, No. 9

Viking vigilance goes to the desert





Have I told you lately?

By Chief Master Sgt. Jan Dalton
934th Airlift Wing command chief

...what an honor and privilege it is to be the Command Chief of the 934th Airlift Wing? Have I told you lately how proud I am of you, and that saying good-bye feels a bit like a mom sending her kids off to the first day of school? I've avoided using the "mom" analogy during my term as Command Chief, but as I write this, the "mom" thing seems fitting.

You're all so important to me, and I want the best and brightest future for each and every one of you. Here comes some mom talk (I won't tell you to brush your teeth or clean your plates), be aggressive about seeking the training you need and then become the best at what you do. Complete your Professional Military Education at the earliest opportunity. If you have not already completed your Community College of the Air Force degree, get it done! Keep a "living document" on your computer desktop, and record your accomplishments each UTA. Write out four or five bullets – this will help you and your supervisor immensely when it comes time to write your EPR. Get some exercise. The new fitness pro-

gram is here to stay, and your score ("does not meet standards") can now negatively impact your EPR or OPR. Don't let that happen to you!

I have one set of instructions for my replacement: Take care of the Airmen. Continue what I have enjoyed doing so much these past few years:

1. take care of the Airmen
2. take care of the Airmen
3. take care of the Airmen

Airmen, my request to you is equally simple: take care of each other. Support one another, share what you learn, mentor and lead by example. Share in each other's accomplishments and achievements. None of us got where we are without help, so thank those who have helped you.

So as I close, I must admit that I am not the only "mom" bidding farewell: you're also the mom - the "collective mom" saying good-bye because on some level, you raised *me* to be your Command Chief with your profound insight and keen sense of leadership. You cleverly guided me in the direction I needed to go

(I'm sure it was the equivalent of attaching a wind sail to an ocean liner sometimes, but you kept me on course). Have I told you lately, this has been the greatest education of my military career, and there is no other mentor better than you? Thank you for skillfully teaching me all that you did. You taught me patience (and I've been stubbornly

"None of us got where we are without help, so thank those who have helped you"

impatient at times), so this feat was not easy either. You've taught me to understand both sides of every story. You've taught me how to be a better Airman. And, you've taught me to smile more. I'd often walk about, deep in thought or perplexed about a situation, and I heard you tell me to smile. I heard you, and thank you! I'm smiling.

VIKING FLYER

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office (U.S. Air Force Reserve Command), Minneapolis-St.

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On the cover

Col. Mark Vijums (left) and Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing vice commander and commander, bid farewell to 934th operations and maintenance Airmen headed for Southwest Asia. For more, see page 5. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Edmond)

Global War on Terror

Be aware of elicitation

By Special Agent Nicole Goodwin
934th Office of Special Investigations

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations sponsors the Eagle Eyes program, a program Air Force officials consider a key piece in the service's antiterrorism strategy.

Activity that should be reported can be classified into seven categories: acquiring supplies

- dry runs
- deploying assets
- surveillance
- tests of security
- suspicious person out of place
- elicitation

Terrorist operations are preceded by precursor events that people need to recognize and report. Terrorist acts don't just happen – they are carefully planned and rehearsed many times in advance. Criminals and criminal organizations operate in much the same way.

Elicitation is simply one more way terrorists attempt to gain exploitable information about us. Terrorists want knowledge about you, your co-workers, the technology we use, military logistics, our communications, potential strengths and weaknesses, military operations and military procedures.

Elicitation is defined as "to draw out or to bring forth." Skilled operatives are good at what they do. They are subtle and highly trained in the art of conversation.

They are good at deceiving you into providing information under false pretenses. Conversational elicitation is non-threatening and easy to disguise. Seemingly casual conversations at airports, restaurants, smoking areas, and bus stops may be attempts to draw information from you. Your dilemma is that you never know if your conversation is being used casually to pass the time of day or if it is being used to gather information.

Be aware of some common

techniques such as: appealing to your ego or flattery ("You must have an important job in the military."), expressions of mutual interest ("You work with computers; so do I."), appeals to your patriotism ("You must be so proud to serve the best country in the world. Do your missions take you to other interesting countries?"), deliberate false statements ("Everyone knows that 2,000 U.S. military members work here."), assumed knowledge ("Since you have a mass casualty exercise once a month"), unsolicited contract offers ("I'm in the supply business and my company wants to put in a bid, but first I need to know..."), and statements of sympathy ("The separation from family caused by deployments must be difficult.").

Technology has brought elicitation to a whole new level. Fax, mail and especially the Internet are all effective ways of conducting mass elicitation operations. The Internet is a vast mechanism that provides almost limitless options for elicitation. Operatives are just as skilled in the virtual world as the real world in gathering information from you. They use chat rooms, e-mail and news groups, just to name a few.

Finally, remember that you are not the only target for elicitation. Operatives know that you may not share the information they want with them, but you do with family and friends and that makes them targets too. They are in a unique position to possess information that is exploitable. No matter whom you are talking to, always keep force protection in mind when the topic is your job or the military.

If you have an incident to report, immediately call the Law Enforcement Desk 24 hours a day at commercial phone number (612)-713-1102, or contact AFOSI during duty hours at DSN: 783-1077 or at commercial phone number (612)-713-1077. Security Forces will contact the resident agent when they are not in the office.



Steve Lindberg receives his retirement certificate from Col. Nancy Brooks, 934th Mission Support Group commander, after retiring from the contracting office with 32 years civil service. He was also a reservist with the 27th Aerial Port Squadron. (Courtesy photo)



Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Philippi, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, receives his retirement certificate from Lt. Col. John Fitter, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. Sergeant Philippi retired with 28 years of service. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch)



Lt. Col. Tim Purcell, 934th chief of safety, (right) receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



Staff Sergeant Cassandra Carter, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Joint Base/Balad, Iraq, is presented the Tuskegee Airman of the Week award by Col. Sal Nodjomian (left) and Command Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski. Sergeant Carter is assigned to the 934th Mission Support Group here. (Courtesy photo)



Col. Mark Vijums, 934th Airlift Wing vice commander, has his new eagles pinned on by his wife Robin and mother Aija. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach).



Michelle Ingraham, 934th anti terrorism officer, receives a plaque from the a Marine contingent recognizing her support during the Republican National Convention. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Josh Nason)

934th members answer the call

During the week of Sept. 6, the 934th deployed operations and maintenance personnel to Southwest Asia and Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron members to Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. to support hurricane Ike rescue efforts. The Aeromedics responded from six states within hours of notification and deployed 20 members who volunteered for the trip. (Air Force photos/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)



Members of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron carry a litter aboard a C-130 aircraft before leaving on a hurricane relief mission.



A 96th Airlift Squadron member and his family talk with reporters about the deployment.



934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron members secure cargo and supplies aboard a C-130 before departing to support Hurricane Ike victims.



A 96th Airlift Squadron member talks with Connie Haddeland, congressional liaison for Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

AT HOME ON THE RANGE

Maintainer shoots top score with AF team

By Master Sgt. Paul Zadach
934 AW Public Affairs

With fall in the air, a lot of hunters will be going out to the target range to zero in their rifles for the season. Shooting at 100 yards is typical, maybe 150 or 200 maximum, and most use a telescopic scope at those long ranges. Master Sgt. Matthew Griffin, 934th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Accountable Systems Officer, aims for a 6 inch target

at 600 yards and one not much bigger than that at 1,000 yards. His shots rip through the black circles with amazing regularity using only an iron sight. But that's why he qualified for the Air Force Shooting Team this year, the only Reservist to do so.

Sergeant Griffin didn't simply make the shooting team. At the shooting competition at Camp Perry, Ohio, in July, he shot the best individual score of any Air Force member (Active, Guard or Reserve) which earned him the Lt. Paul J. Roberts memorial trophy, the only reservist ever to receive this award. This was Griffin's first year with the Air

Force team, and only his second year of serious competitive shooting. "I was always interested in shooting when I was young, and used to enjoy going out plinking with my .22," he said. "A couple of years ago I started reading about competition shooting on the internet, and then I talked to one of my uncles who had been a competition shooter back in the 60s. I bought one of his target rifles and started practicing and

then shooting in competitions at a local club in Elk River. I thought, hey, I can do this, I really enjoy it."

To be selected for the Air Force team, Griffin had to submit certified scores from match shooting competitions and also a resume of his experience. "It was really an honor to be selected and to compete at that level," he said. The Air Force was among 75 teams made up of military and civilian rifle teams. The Air Force team placed 22nd overall, which was a respectable showing considering some of the teams such as the Army are fully funded teams that practice every day. The competition consists of high power rifle "across the course" and high power rifle long range shooting. Across the course is done at 200 yard slow fire standing unsupported, 200 yard sitting rapid fire, 300 yard prone rapid fire, and 600 yard prone slow fire. For across the course, Griffin uses his highly modified AR-15. The rifle is a civilian version of the M-16 and looks just like one, except for the silver stainless steel free floating barrel, modified rear sight, and match trigger. No one would want to carry it around in combat as it weighs in at over 17 pounds—nearly three times as much as an M-16. The reason for the added weight is to give it stability during recoil. Griffin likes shooting from the 600 yard mark the most. "I really like the precision aspect of shooting. I load my own rounds and take into account powder composition, bullet weight and barrel harmonics. At long ranges, minute variations make a big difference."

At the 1,000 yard mark, things really start to get dicey. At this range, he uses a custom built bolt action rifle built from the ground up to his specifications, but even then, some things are unpredictable. Griffin chuckles as he reflects on his experience at the match in Ohio. "Wind calculations are crucial at this range, and when I was shooting, I had the predominate wind coming straight at me, which is the worst because wind direction is never consistent. Just as I would get adjusted and ready to squeeze off a shot, the wind would change at the last second, I would re-adjust and it would change in the other direction, it was changing every

Continued on next page



Master Sgt. Matt Griffin takes aim with his AR-15 competition rifle. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Josh Nason)

Force team, and only his second year of serious competitive shooting. "I was always interested in shooting when I was young, and used to enjoy going out plinking with my .22," he said. "A couple of years ago I started reading about competition shooting on the internet, and then I talked to one of my uncles who had been a competition shooter back in the 60s. I bought one of his target rifles and started practicing and



Master Sgt. Griffin receives the Lt. Paul J. Roberts memorial trophy from CMP board member Judith Legerski, at Camp Perry, Ohio. (Courtesy photo)

Continued from previous page

30 seconds. Then when the next shooter came up, the wind direction stayed fairly steady for eight minutes. But that's how long range shooting is, it's very precise, but there's still some things that just turn out to be dumb luck."

It took a lot more than luck, however, for Griffin to also win the Daniel Boone Gold Medal for excellence in competition. By winning this, he earned 10 points in the Civilian Marksmanship Program. For outstanding accomplishments in shooting, the CMP awards points towards the Distinguished Rifleman's Badge. Thirty points are needed to finally be awarded the badge. The DRB is the most coveted award in competition shooting and only about 1800 people have earned it in more than 100 years of shooting competition. Griffin was also awarded a bronze medal from the Air Force for his first 10 points. The Air Force awards a silver medal at 20 points and finally the DRB at 30 points. Griffin has been invited back next year to compete on the Air Force Team and has his sights set on the DRB. "I'm hoping to pick up some points at events between now and next year and possibly another 10 at the 2009 event," he said.

For Griffin, this doesn't appear to be a long shot.



Sergeant Griffin with his competition rifles, Roberts trophy, and bronze medal. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Josh Nason)



In the spotlight

Tech. Sgt. Paul Ives, 934th chaplain assistant, carries the Air Force colors as part of the Joint Service Color Guard to open the Republican National Convention in St. Paul Sept. 4. The color guard included members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, all from the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)

Airman takes fishing to the

TREME

EX -

By Staff Sgt. Josh Moshier
934 AW Public Affairs

Many people who live in the upper Midwest fill their summer days fishing. For most, this means leisurely casting from shore or boat and occasionally reeling in a keeper pan fish, bass or walleye.

Senior Airman Eddie Pietron isn't much different, except his idea of fishing is more along the lines of the Discovery Channel's *Deadliest Catch* than a day on the pontoon.

Airman Pietron, a medical technician with the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, spends roughly six weeks of every year – from the last week of June through the first week of August – with his parents and two younger brothers as a commercial fisherman in the Bering Sea. It's an annual journey he's been making with his family most of his life.

"I started learning salmon fishing when I was real young," Airman Pietron said. "I got my first permit when I was 12 years old, became a crewman at 15, and by the time I was 19 and my brother was 18, it was just our family in the skiffs."

The birth of the Pietron family tradition began more than 30 years ago when Airman Pietron's mother and father, Roger and Sue, moved to Alaska to work on the Trans-Alaska pipeline. When the pipeline's construction was finished, the



The crew place set nets in the Bering Sea where they think the salmon will be. (Courtesy Photo)

couple moved back to Minnesota to purchase land in Cushing, a tiny town just north of Little Falls. Shortly thereafter, the couple returned to Alaska to look for more work and were introduced to commercial fishing.

"My dad tells the story best," Airman Pietron said. "On the plane ride (from Anchorage to Bristol Bay, he noticed all these guys who were flying in from all over the U.S., and they were decked out in flashy jewelry and clothes. After they'd been in Dillingham for a couple hours, dad was walking by a pier and saw these exact same guys. Now they were wearing old work coveralls and waiting for their brand new 32ft fishing boats to be unloaded from a container ship that had just arrived from Seattle. He knew they were making money."

After working for other boat owners for three years,

Roger took the plunge and went into business for himself. Thirty-plus years later, the family business is running strong. With two 24 ft. fishing skiffs and three permits, the family nets an average of just over 100,000 pounds of salmon during the species' spawning season each year. But it's not an easy life.

The Pietrons practice a style of fishing called set net, which essentially means they determine the best spot to catch fish based on the current and tide before they anchor their nets and pull in their catch. At the end of each day, the family retreats to their camp – a cabin with no access to electricity or running water near the tiny town of Pilot Point, Alaska, on the Alaska Peninsula. Their transportation is limited to three-wheel all terrain vehicles. Since salmon fishing is tightly regulated there, they wait by the radio each day for an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game letting them know when they can start and when they must finish. And that's all before taking into consideration the



With the rewards of a successful day are (from left) Airman Peitron's brother Andrew J. Pietron, Airman Eddie Pietron, Trevor J. Miller (close family friend and Alaska native), Jeff Lutgen (6 year return employee), youngest brother Luke V. Pietron. (Courtesy Photo)

Fishing continued on page 11

Referrals are key recruiting strategy

20 percent of annual enlistments come from referrals--still more are needed

By Master Sgt Kerry Bartlett
934 AW Public Affairs

Let's face it; many of us probably dreaded the recruiting process. Uncertain trust, fueled by myths and rumors of being shipped off to war before the ink was dry, made for cautious conversation but when it was all said and done, everything actually turned out ok. Portrayed as silver-tongued devils, recruiters often get a bad rap.

Air Force Reserve recruiting, particularly here at the 934 AW, is an honest business. Building trust and rapport with applicants and unit members is the most successful

recruiting strategy, said Senior Master Sgt. Brent Traicoff, recruiter NCOIC for the 934 AW.

"Word of mouth referrals are the best," said Tech. Sgt. Wendy Albee, 934 AW recruiter. Recruiting is not about getting an enlistment, Traicoff added, it's more about building relationships. We see the people we enlist at the UTAs and could potentially deploy with them, so establishing a solid relationship is key, he added.

Aside from building a solid relationship, Air Force recruiting uses a system called IMPACT, an acronym which identifies the recruiting process: Investigate, meet, probe, apply and convince describe five of the six steps in the recruiting process. Of

course, the most vital step is to *convince* the applicant to join. This is best accomplished through testimonials and referrals while connecting our program to the wants and needs of interested people, Sergeant Traicoff said.

In fact, referrals from unit members account for the greatest percentage of annual enlistments, Sergeant Traicoff added. Staff Sgt. Craig Dunbar said he also receives referrals from seven Air Force active duty recruiters from around the region. We really help each other a lot, he said. For example, if I have someone that wants full-

time service, I will send that person to the active duty recruiter and vice versa, he said. It's about doing the right thing for the applicant he added.

"We are not arm benders", said Sergeant Albee.

For parents, the number one concern is whether their son or daughter will get the training and the job wanted and not become a permanent member on the sandbag detail, said Dunbar.

We currently have openings in Services, Security Forces, Loadmasters, Maintenance and Transportation, Traicoff said. Sandbag duty is filled, he quipped.

The irony of the best recruiting tactic is that it is not really a tactic at all. It is simply relationship building and referrals. That's how we fill 100% of our wartime mission on a voluntary basis with the highest quality people, said Sergeant Traicoff.



Staff Sgt. Craig Dunbar, 934th Airlift Wing recruiter, explains the features of a C-130 aircraft to Dan Nelson, a member of the Richfield Optimist Club who was out for a tour of the installation. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)

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AIR FORCE RESERVE

Role of first shirt tough to define

By Capt. S.J. Brown
934 AW Public Affairs

Concierge of the Air Force?
He's a financial advisor
He's a real estate agent
He's a guidance counselor
He's a marriage counselor
He's a jack-of-all-trades

Air Force Gardener?
She knows when to prune
She knows when to water
She knows when to plant
She knows when to wait
She knows when to weed

These two individuals are part of an elite team in the Air Force, a "special forces" of sorts. So special they get to wear a French Lozenge (diamond) on their sleeve. So special that they receive the respect of practically everyone on the unit for which they serve from the lowest ranking airman to the commander.

There is a price for being "special." A price for being called "First Sergeant" and it is a price these two gladly pay. The price? Privacy. It's true, first sergeants are not paid extra for their service nor are they rewarded in rank acceleration. What they do, and they do a lot, they do for the sheer love of it. So, faint-hearted master sergeant selects through chief master sergeants need not apply.

"If anyone wants to go into this for the money, they will be disappointed," said Master Sgt. Don Scott, 934th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant. "It's not about the money or the prestige, it's about helping people."

"You have to have the heart to do this job," echoed Senior Master Sgt. Vicky Kuntz, 934th Operations Support Flight 1st Sergeant. "This isn't the type of job where you just go to work everyday and do the same old thing day in and day out. Things change, situations change because the bulk of our work is working with human beings not things."

These two agree, the work of an Air Force first sergeant is hard but exhilarating. It is demanding but rewarding. It is

sometimes heart-breaking but more often heart warming. True, they say, they do give up little luxuries like privacy (they get called at all hours of the night) and career progression (a first sergeant usually stays in the career field for the rest of their career progression) but the rewards they receive when they help someone sort out a problem like getting out of debt, finding a marriage counselor, buying a new home or going back to college, is more than worth the little sacrifices they make.

"To have someone come into your office at their wits end and not know what to do, then you guide them to appropriate sources and get them the help they need," said Sergeant Scott. "That is worth more than a dollar amount. That is what is exiting about the job, I never know what each day will bring, it is not the same thing day after day."

"What I love about the job is the opportunity to learn about people," said Sergeant Kuntz, who is an avid gardener. "Like gardening, you have to know which plants need watering or sunlight more than the others or which ones need shade and dryer soil. So, as a first sergeant, you have to know which Airmen need discipline in different ways, which ones need a little extra push toward that college degree, which ones need that extra dose of encouragement and which ones would rather be left alone."

"As the functional manager of First Sergeants on the installation, I have witnessed, first hand, the importance of the First Sergeant position," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Jan Dalton. "Their value is enormous - to both squadron commander and the Airmen. Their abilities and roles are far reaching: they are full-time leaders who serve as ambassador, counselor, career coach, admin expert, dress and appearance specialist, task master, master of ceremonies, and guardian of family care plans. They jockey from promotion to retirement ceremony on pace, on point and they get it right every time. Duties and challenges change from day to day (UTA to UTA) for the First Sergeant, but one thing does not change with the 934th Airlift Wing First Sergeants: they are in the business of helping our Airmen - a job they take very seriously!" Currently, there are five positions open within the 934 AW for first sergeants. Perhaps you have what it takes to be in the business of helping Airmen. Call Command Chief Jan Dalton to find out if you could change the life of Airmen in a squadron here.



Vets visit

Capt. John Drain, 934th Maintenance Squadron shows veterans from the Minnesota Veterans Home around a 934th C-130. Members of the 934th Airlift wing hosted the vets for an afternoon of lunch, conversation and tours. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach).



What's happening during the UTA



The UTA calendar has moved to the 934th Website.
Go to www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil and click on "October UTA calendar"

Fishing

Continued from page 8

dangers presented on the open sea.

"The physical work can be really demanding," Airman Pietron said. "You've got to haul the nets in by hand regularly to pick out the fish, and that takes three of us by itself. Then, when the swells are large, you're getting thrown back and forth across the skiff, and you've just got to hang on and pick out the fish as quick as possible

between swells. When the weather is working against you, it can be the most miserable work imaginable."

Even delivering their payload is a daunting experience.

"We deliver the salmon to a large crab fishing boat while we're still out at sea," Airman Pietron said. "So we're out in the middle of the ocean in this tiny little skiff, and we're sitting right next to this massive crab boat. The whole time, they're grabbing the salmon with a giant crane that could take

you out by itself, and when the weather is bad, the 800 lb. bags of salmon can get to swinging around."

At the end of the day, however, the experience makes it all worth it.

"There are days when the whole bay is glass calm," Airman Pietron said. "You're working in a T-shirt on a nice day, you throw the net in the water, and for 15 feet you see nothing but fins and heads. And you know for every fish you see, you might be looking at a \$5 bill."

Ca\$e lot \$ale

Oct. 3-4

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Items will be displayed in Building 862. Place orders and pay in this building then proceed to Building 865 to pick-up items.

This sale is open to anyone authorized to shop in an Armed Forces Commissary.

UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88th	Navy/Marines
October	4-5	4-5	18-19	11-12
November	1-2	1-2	1-2	15-16
December	6-7	6-7	6-7	13-14
January 2009	10-11	TBA	10-11	10-11
February 2009	7-8	TBA	7-8	21-22
March 2009	7-8	TBA	7-8	14-15
April 2009	4-5	TBA	4-5	18-19
May 2009	2-3	TBA	2-3	16-17
June 2009	6-7	TBA	6-7	13-14
July 2009	11-12	TBA	TBA	18-19

SERGEANTS UPP & ADAM



SERGEANTS UPP AND ADAM'S SERE TRAINING CAME IN HANDY DURING "BASE CLEAN UP DAY."

Civil Engineers

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Chief Master Sgt. Randy Polansky, Senior Master Sgt. Sonja Fisher, and Master Sgt. John Kline received the Meritorious Service Medal. Lt. Col. Les Canarr and Master Sgt. John Kline received the Air Force Achievement Medal.

We bid farewell to our long time friend and mentor, Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Philippi (Utilities) who retired after 28 plus years. His service began with the Army in 1969-71, which included a free, all expense paid trip to Vietnam. After a break in service he joined the National Guard in 1982 and eventually the 934th in 1988 until his retirement. We'll miss you Kenny.

Airman Kimberly Kazle was promoted to airman 1st class. Master Sgt. James Lockwood and Staff Sgt. Justin Kevelin (Fire) received certificates of appreciation from the 156th Airlift Wing, Muniz Air National Guard, for their support of Operation Coronet Oak. CE welcomed the following newcomers: Staff Sgt. Katie Hughes (EM), Senior Airman Set Jurrens (Engineering), Senior Airman Jason Nelson (Fire), Airman 1st Class Adam Paulson (CE Ops), and Airman 1st Class Brady Voges (CE Ops).

Communications Flight

Provided by Tech. Sgt. Chritian Krug, Unit Public Affairs Representative

One of the major accomplishments CS members achieved during the September UTA was to provide support for the annual Military Ball.

Congratulations to Maj. David Carpentier on being awarded the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Curt Richter for receiving a 934th Airlift Wing Commander's Coin and ORI Outstanding Performer award.

Logistic Readiness

Provided by Tech. Sgt. Mark Oldenburg, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Congratulations to Chief Robert Cluka on his promotion to the position of Command Chief for the 934th Airlift Wing.

Congratulations to Technical Sergeant Jason Virkus who was awarded the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding non-combat achievement.

Welcome aboard to the following new arrivals to the LRS Squadron: Staff Sergeant Frank Soul; who was Navy active duty and will be assigned to Vehicle Maintenance; Senior Airman Zachary Glunn who was Air Force active duty at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.; Senior Airman Jessie Nantkes who was Air Force active duty at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska and will be assigned to Fuels; and Airman First Class Alfredo Arroyo who will be assigned to Vehicle Operations.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Jessica Schaffer, who passed her 5-Skill Level for Vehicle Maintenance with an 83 percent.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Matthew Countryman, who graduated Airman Leadership School with an 81 percent.

Welcome back to Senior Master Sergeant Jeff Nyhus and Master Sergeant Barbara Arwood from their TDY to Nellis AFB, Nev. in support of an Air Expeditionary Force back-fill.

Bon voyage to Master Sgt. Arwood, who will do a turn around TDY to Southwest Asia for 30 days.

Master Sergeant Jon Schmidt is TDY to Maxwell AFB, Ala. attending First Sergeant Academy.

Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Kelly McLean for being promoted to Senior Airman.

Farewell to Technical Sgt. Tara Cranford, who is departing for the 403rd LRS at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Maintenance

By Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Bystedt, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Justin Bonnell on being awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal.

The son of AGE Chief, Master Sgt. John B. Quinlan, and the grandson of former Flight Line Chief, John W. Quinlan, recently won his jump wings at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Amanda Beyer of the Avionics Section, on the birth of daughter, Abigale Marie, born Aug. 8.

Congratulations to the newest promotees, A1C Kishan Manning, Technical Sgts. Tony Haider and Adam Peterson, and Master Sgts. Mike Pierce and Jim Mazurek.

Farewell to Technical Sgt. Bryan Back of the Repair and Reclamation shop, who has called it a career after 21 years.

Military Personnel Flight

Provided by Staff Sgt. Cory Upmeyer, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Congratulations to Maj. Erika Cashin for receiving an Air Force Meritorious Service Medal for command achievement at the Dallas/Fort Worth Naval Air Station, Texas.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Blue Uniform wear on Mondays

Effective Sept. 8, all non-bargaining unit ARTS and traditional Reservists performing duty on base on any given Monday will wear the blue uniform. If the individual normally performs duty in an office, behind a desk, then the blue uniform is required. If the individual normally performs their duty outside an office work area, (e.g. normally CE working a project outside, a maintainer working on the flight-line, a flyer performing flight duties), the ABUs/BDUs or a flight suit are acceptable. Additionally, and due to safety concerns of snow and ice, blue uniforms are not required from Dec. 1 to May 1 of each year.

Breast cancer awareness walk

The American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk will be held Oct. 11 at Lake Nokomis.

To join the 934th Airlift Wing team, contact Capt. S.J. Brown at sabra.brown@minneapolis.af.mil no later than Oct. 4 as T-shirts must be ordered no later than Oct 5.

Veteran's Read-A-Loud

The 934th Airlift Wing will be supporting a Minnesota Veteran's Home Read-A-Loud program. The program will require volunteers to donate one hour each month (each UTA Saturday evening) reading to bed-ridden, speech-challenged veterans at the nearby Veteran's Home. A background check and one-hour training is required for each volunteer.

To volunteer, call the 934th Public Affairs office at ext. 1217.

Scholarship available

The Total Force Top 3/USAA is offering a scholarship to military members at the rank of E-9 or below or immediate family members of E-9a and below (i.e., daughter, son) – the military member must be a current member of the Air Force Reserve, Air Force Reserve Command, or a family member of the above. Various restrictions apply.

Congratulations to recent promotees

Staff Sgt. Erica Blackledge, 934 ASTS
Staff Sgt. Grace Bisch, 934 SFS
Staff Sgt. Justin Bonnel, 934 MXS
Staff Sgt. SrA Stacy Davis, 934 ASTS
Staff Sgt. David Hennick, 934 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Matthew Hulke, 934 ASTS
Staff Sgt. Paul Markus, 934 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Joshua Moshier, 934 AW
Master Sgt. James Mazurek, 934 MXS
Master Sgt. Theodore Mazza, 934 SFS
Master Sgt. Ian Owen, 934 AMXS
Master Sgt. John Cheney, 934 MOF

To apply, contact Master Sgts. Susan Corazon Cagnina at (478) 327-1676 or (800) 223-1784, ext. 7-1676, or Rod Hage at (800) 223-1784, ext. 7-1345.

Air Force Exceptional Innovator Award

The Air Force Exceptional Innovator Award recognizes one individual or group (no more than four members) who contributed to continual performance improvement through the Innovative Development Through Employee Awareness Program. Award eligibility and criteria are in AFI 38-401, Chapter 5.

Address questions and concerns to Chief Master Sgt. Mario Plocki at DSN 497-0300, (478) 327-0300, or e-mail him at mario.plocki@afrc.af.mil.

Volunteer with a Vet

Military volunteers are sought to spend Veteran's Day at White Bear Care Center for the center's annual Veteran's tribute. The event will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the main dining room of the center (located at 1891 Florence St., White Bear Lake, Minn.).

Contact Capt. S.J. Brown at ext. 1217 to volunteer.

Veterans History Project needs volunteers

The Veterans History Project collects and preserves the remembrances of American war veterans and civilian workers who supported them. These collections are archived at the Library of Congress and features remembrances of veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War (1990-1995), or Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present). Citizen civilians who actively supported war efforts (such as USO workers, instructors, volunteers, contractors, etc.) are also invited to share stories.

Log onto the website (www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html) to learn more.

Mandatory SERE training

SERE 100 and Total Force Awareness must be completed no later than Oct. 4. TFA and SERE 100 can be accessed through ADLS. Additionally, training components can be found at G drive:\\mspfs02\group\codeofconducttraining_level_B.

Americanism Youth Conference

The American Legion Auxiliary and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge will host this year's youth conference in Philadelphia, Pa., March 5-8. The conference is a chance for high school students in grade 10 through 12 to discuss current issues facing the nation. Applications are due by Dec. 1.

Applicants must type a 500-word essay on "Standing on the shoulders of giants -- How American veterans have shaped the world," be in good academic standing at their educational organization, be sponsored by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit or American Legion Post and show leadership potential through extra-curricular activities or community service.

To apply, call (317) 955-3845 or log onto www.legion-aux.org/Forms/index.aspx.

TEAM DAY

Maintainers capture trophy





Denny Day

Governor Tim Pawlenty (right) presents retired Air Force Brig. General and former 934th Airlift Wing member Denny Schulstad with a proclamation at the state capitol declaring Sept. 15 as “Denny Schulstad Day” in Minnesota. This proclamation is in recognition of General Schulstad’s outstanding volunteer service to the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve through his work with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Governor Pawlenty also awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service to the General and proclaimed the week of September 15-19 to be “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week” in the State. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)

VIKING VIGNETTE



ORI will never die! Above, C-117 flying boxcars taxi out for the 1960 ORI. The next ORI has been set for June 16-23, 2013. Get ready. (Courtesy Photo)



Military tradition

From right, Lt. Cols. Paul Peterson, Craig Trammel, Kenny Rogers and Nadine Rogers pay tribute to military POWs and MIAs at the Military Ball Sept. 6. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

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Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100**

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To the family of: