

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

December 2008 Vol. 30, No. 11





Change

By Col. Tim Tarchick
934th Airlift Wing commander

Well, it's over. After the longest campaign in history (more than 20 months), a president elect has been chosen. And while the president-elect's message was "change", that doesn't mean that all things must take a 180 degree turn. Some of the things we do here at the 934th Airlift Wing will always remain the same.

Most importantly, the one thing that will never change is our commitment to defend American's freedoms. I am blessed to work with a group of people who share the Air Force core values; **service before self, excellence in all we do and integrity first.** In fact, there isn't a more dedicated group of people in the AF than you. I truly believe and see that.

Although your support and service

is top-notch, there are always other areas we could "change." There is always room for improvement in our relationships with others. As public servants, we have been put in charge of much. And much is expected of us not only from the American citizens but from those whom we are in authority over.

This is a hard time of year for some of our brothers and sisters in uniform. Some of them are finding it hard to make ends meet in this economically stressful time. Some of them are worried about losing a civilian job around the holidays. Some are stressed about the financial hardships this country is currently going through.

It is our responsibility to look out for each other by being a good wingman. This season, let's look out for

our fellow man, especially our fellow Airman. For your fellow man: Volunteer at a local food shelter, donate a toy to Toys for Tots or donate coats to a homeless shelter. For your fellow Airmen: Make sure they know you are there for them, ensure they know where to get financial help if they need it and make sure they are invited to the various holiday festivities on base. There are a lot of Airmen who will be spending the holidays alone this year. It's our responsibility to improve our commitment to them, to ensure they know they are part of the greatest family in the world ... the Air Force family.

Thank-you for all you do and remember the Reason for the season... God Bless you all.

T2

Survey reveals readers want newspaper changes

By Capt. S.J. Brown
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For the first time ever, the 934th Public Affairs office conducted its annual newspaper readership survey with the 934th Service's Squadron's Services Courier survey during the wing commander's annual commander's call here Oct. 5.

And the results were rather eye-opening to members of both staffs, the main comment by pollsters being to add more details to the two publications.

About 10 percent of the military members present at the commander's call completed the survey. Of those, more than 85 percent said they got the majority of their news from the Viking Flyer and 75 percent said they read the publication monthly. All-in-all, the majority of readers who took the

survey said they were happy with the design and size of the newspaper but would like to see more photos of people and more details on other Air Force units.

One issue that the PA office is investigating is the fact that less than a quarter of the participants claimed to have received their newspapers on time at their home address. To ensure your Viking Flyer reaches you, you should ensure your home address is updated with the Military Personnel Flight here.

The bottom line is your voice was heard and the PA office staff will try hard to comply with all survey takers' suggestions.

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On the cover

Capt. Andy Thomas, 96th Airlift Squadron proudly waves the flag from a C-130 cockpit and the aircraft returns from a deployment to Iraq. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Edmond)

'Yes, I'm contagious'

By Capt. S.J. Brown
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

I get all giddy as I watch the white space on the thermometer get smaller and the red part get bigger. As the blood red color inches closer and closer to its intended target at the top, I feel ... well, I feel contagious.

While most people are watching their unit's Combined Federal Campaign "contribution thermometer" to ensure the unit is making its goal, I am watching it for another reason altogether. You see, I am an optimist, sometimes overly so to the annoyance of the people in my office. Yes, I am contagious with hope. But, that is the entire reason why I get so excited when I see more donations come in to the CFC.

More donations to the CFC means more people are genuinely concerned about the welfare of others so much so that they are giving their hard-earned money to charities (even in this time of economic unrest and uncertainty). That thermometer's temperature rising means people aren't simply looking out for Number One but are contributing to hope. Hope for a cure, hope for the homeless, hope for the hungry, hope for peace. Hope is contagious. That much is evident in last year's CFC contributions. In 2007, more than one million dollars were donated by approximately 24,000 federal employees (the average gift was \$310). That means 24,000 people were contagious with hope and caring last year.

As wonderful as being contagious with hope is, I will admit though that

I was a bit overwhelmed when I sat down with my CFC book of charitable organizations.

How do I choose which organizations will receive my donation? There are thousands of them! Well, CFC makes it rather easy. The program breaks down the charities into 26 different categories such as "housing / shelter" and "animal related." I have a system I use making it easier to choose. I simply choose my top five priorities, assign them to a CFC category and find charities within that category that appeal to me. Examples include: because I have a child, I choose a charity in the "Youth Development" category; because my mother died of a stroke, I choose a charity in the "Medical Research" category.; and since I am a tree hugger, I choose a charity in the "Environmental Quality, Protection, and Beautification" category.

Whatever the category or the charitable organization, I give because I care, just like millions of others in this nation. Now, there is even more time to donate. I just heard that the Northern Light CFC (available online at www.northernlightscfc.org) has been extended to Dec. 15 for the Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station members. Donations can be made online at the website above until Dec. 15 as well. The Northern Lights CFC is striving to reach a \$1.2 million goal this year. This year, let's break the thermometer by going over the goal. Why? Because we care and because caring is contagious.

The IG Says...

Air Force military and civilian members have a duty to promptly report Fraud Waste and Abuse (FWA) or Gross Mismanagement.

Fraud -- Any intentional deception designed to unlawfully deprive the Air Force of something of value or for an individual to secure from the Air Force a benefit, privilege, allowance, or consideration to which he or she is not entitled.

934 AW FWA Hotline:

(612) 713-1180

AFRC FWA Hotline:

Toll free (800) 223-1784 extension 7-1513

SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline:

Toll free (800) 538-8429 DoD FWA Hotline: (800) 424-9098

Viking Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Chad Law

934th Airlift Wing, chaplain's assistant

Hometown: Rapid City, SD

Years in Air Force: 12

Date entered Air Force Reserve: September, 2007

Who is your biggest inspiration? My family is the reason I do what I do. Without their support, I couldn't do what I do for the Air Force. I can't explain what it's like to be loved like I'm loved by my family. It truly is humbling.

What does your service in the Reserve mean to you? My service in the Reserve gives me the opportunity to continue my service and pursue medical school. I didn't want to leave the Air Force, but it was becoming increasingly difficult for me to complete school while doing my job as a crew chief. The Air Force Reserve was the answer. I can still serve my country will attending school full time.



Electronic OPR/EPRs become reality

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- An Air Force Enterprise Information Management initiative to process officer and enlisted performance reports electronically became reality Oct. 1 when the Air Force Personnel Center endorsed the first of three phases of AF Electronic Workflow Processing, or AF e-WP, thanks to a partnership between AFPC, Pacific Air Forces and Air Education and Training Command's communication directorates.

"The major benefit of this effort is to reduce the workload associated with preparing officer and enlisted performance reports by providing availability of a standard process Air Force-wide," said Chief Master Sgt. Charles Spase, AFPC's EIM program manager.

"If you remember how we used to route EPRs—hand-carrying around a hard copy report in those Air Force blue folders—electronic workflow processing now gives us an 'electronic blue folder' capability," the chief added.

Chief Spase also explained the AF-e WP program provides an electronic site picture through SharePoint, the system all major commands now work with, of a unit's activities by sharing information at all levels and receiving immediate feedback. "It allows a visible, standardized action plan to achieve suspenses, manage tasks and track metrics efficiently and effectively for everyone in the chain of com-

mand," the chief said.

"Feedback from the field was that we said, 'Here – we made an electronic form, use it,' but we never developed guidance on a standardized process," said Col. Glenn Rattell, AFPC's director of personnel data systems. "So, thanks to the support of AETC's communication directorate, we were able to roll out a standardized electronic process to give back to the field," the colonel added.

"While developing Phase I of AF e-WP at Hickam Air Force Base, we quickly realized changing culture was more of a challenge than creating a technical solution. We're all proud PACAF was able to super-charge an effort to give time back to Airmen and develop the final product with the rest of the Air Force," said Capt. Reid Novotny, a Headquarters PACAF communications action officer.

Through collaboration among all major command communication directorates, EIM capabilities will be implemented across the entire Air Force, according to said Col. Theresa Giorlando, AETC director of communications.

"With the leadership of Air Force Communications Agency, we're combining the efforts of all the major commands to apply successes and lessons learned to standardize this electronic performance report process," Colonel Giorlando said.



On the scene

Army and Air Force first responders arrive at an “accident” as part of a joint-service three-day emergency medical technician refresher training here Oct. 31. The medics, from local Reserve and National Guard units, are required to complete the recertification every two years. Training is provided free of charge and saves the units thousands of dollars annually. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)

SERGEANTS UPP & ADAM

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson



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”

27th Aerial Port Squadron

Provided by Senior Airman Philip Velasco, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Farewell to Master Sgt. Brian Barclay who retired Nov. 1. Sergeant Barclay spent 11 years with the unit after spending 12 years with the US Coast Guard.

The unit sent five members to the Red Flag exercise located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. During the rotations of the different exercises, our Airmen augment the active-duty performing joint inspection, load planning and assisting in loading aircraft from around the world.

Military Personnel Flight

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

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Harwood, chief of career enhancement, who will be leaving the 934th Military Personnel Flight and accepted a position with the 310th MSS at Buckley AFB, Colo.

Congrats to Senior Master Sgt. Bradd Kimble, personnel systems manager, who has accepted a position with the Department of Veteran Affairs. He will continue to serve the Air Force as a traditional reservist.

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Harwood in receiving a Master of Arts in autism spectrum disorder education from the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis.

Welcome to a new member of the MPF, Staff Sgt. James Harsted, who will be working in the Mission Support Flight Readiness section.

Good luck to Tech. Sgt. Robin Brewster and Master Sgt. Ruth Beecher who will be deploying to Southwest Asia, and Capt. Amy Kippley, who will be deploying to Africa this month.

Logistic Readiness

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

Promotion congratulations to Staff Sgts. Taylor Debel and Matthew Countryman.

Welcome back to Tech Sgt. Marcus Erickson, vehicle management, who was an Air Force Reserve recruiter and is now back with his LRS.

Welcome back Master Sgt. Barbara Arwood from a double deployment in Southwest Asia and Nellis AFB, Nev.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Michael Grohskopf in achieving 92 percent in his 5-Level CDC exam and to Senior Airman Nicholas Ferry in passing Course 1 with 90 percent.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Joel Folkestad in being awarded his 7-Level and Senior Airman Melissa Reidy her 3-Level.

Civil Engineers

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

The Civil Engineer Squadron received the 2008 Maj. Gen. Robert C. Thompson Award (best Air Force civil engineer resource flight).

Contrats to Senior Master Sgt. Lawrence Corrigan, electrician, who was selected as the recipient of the 2008 Chief Master Sgt. Larry R. Daniels Award for the outstanding civil engineer military superintendent.

Maintenance

By Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Bystedt and Master Sgt. Eric Johnson

Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Congratulations to Senior Airman Matt Skaro who was selected the squadron airman of the quarter.

Congrats to Tech. Sgt. Steve Hutchinson and Master Sgt. John Quinlan of the isochronal inspection dock were awarded Air Force Commendation and Achievement medals respectively.

Congrats to Staff Sgt. Eric Hudson of the sheet metal shop who garnered the best dressed Award this month.

Congrats to Master Sgt. Bob Howell of the propulsion section who won the drawing for a \$1,000 gas card from AAFES.



Congratulations to recent promotees

Tech. Sgt. Brian Haukoos	96 AS
Staff Sgt. Matthew Countryman	934 LRS
Staff Sgt. Taylor Debel	934 LRS
Staff Sgt. Christina Staebell	934 MXS
Staff Sgt. Chad Iverson	934 SFS
Airman 1st Class Jennie Veurink	934 AES
Airman 1st Class Barrett Brandt	934 CES
Airman Diana Owens	96 AS
Airman Sung Yi	934 CES

UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88th	Navy Marines
Dec.	6-7	6-7	6-7	13-14
Jan. 09	10-11	TBA	10-11	10-11
Feb.	7-8	TBA	7-8	21-22
Mar.	7-8	TBA	7-8	14-15
Apr.	4-5	TBA	4-5	18-19
May	2-3	TBA	2-3	16-17
June	6-7	TBA	6-7	13-14
July	11-12	TBA	TBA	18-19



Lt. Col. Sherry Hemby, accepts command of the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron from Col. Mark Vijums, 934th Airlift Wing vice commander, as Senior Master Sgt. Moore (center) and Col. Cherie Roberts, outgoing AES commander, look on. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, poses with 934th recruiters (from left) Tech. Sgt. Marcus Erickson, Staff Sgt. Craig Dunbar, Senior Master Sgt. Hal Bradshaw, Tech. Sgt. Wendy Albee and Senior Master Sgt. Brendt Traicoff at the semi-annual recruiter conference in Orlando Florida. The conference included training sessions and an awards banquet. (Courtesy photo)



Col. Tim Tarchick, (center) 934th Airlift Wing commander, poses with ROTC cadets following a Veterans Day ceremony for postal employees in Minneapolis Nov. 5. (Air Force Photo/Capt. S.J. Brown)



Master Sgt. Brian Barclay (right), 27th Aerial Port Squadron, receives a retirement display case from Lt. Col. Mike Deselich, 27th APS commander. Sergeant Barclay retired Nov. 1 with 23 years of service. (Air Force Photo/Senior Airman Philip Velasco)



Master Sgt. Bob Howell, 934th Maintenance Squadron, won a \$1,000 gas card from the Army Air Force Exchange Service as part of their 101 Days of Summer, Gas sweepstakes. (From left) Tammy Edens, Laura Williams, Store Manager, Sergeant Howell, Mary Lou Harris, Department Manager, (kneeling) Samantha Tucker and Anna Allan. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch)



The 934th Airlift Wing's newest chief, Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Stenberg, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, receives his new stripes from Chiefs Chris Knowles and Richard Dunne during a ceremony Nov. 2. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



Deployment matters

Staff Sgt. Cory Upmeyer (left) and Master Sgt. Louis Herbes, 934th Mission Support Flight, obtain information about post deployment transition from Allan Jorgensen, state transition assistance advisor, at the Deployment Matters Information Fair Nov. 1. at the Services Club. Representatives from state, federal and local agencies were on hand to offer information and assistance to reservists and their families about the deployment process and integrating back into civilian life afterward. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)

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**POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY
DELIVER IN HOME BY December 1.**

To the family of: