

VIKING FLYER

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934th Airlift Wing
Air Force Reserve Command
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
Air Reserve Station, Minnesota

Operation Noble Eagle

Flying Vikings' port mortuary team volunteers help identify Pentagon victims



Reality becomes more than TV screen image for local reservists

by Al Eakle
Editor

The reality of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack at the Pentagon became more than an image on a television screen for 14 members of the 934th Service Squadron who volunteered to support Operation Noble Eagle.

Their grim job was to help to identify victims, and prepare their bodies for their final trip home to families and loved ones.

They were a part of a 250-person group, more than two-thirds Air Force reservists, working in the Defense Department's mortuary affairs center at Dover AFB, Del. All victims of the Pentagon attack were flown to this facility.

Shortly after the attack, the call went out for volunteers among the squadron to help. More than half of the unit volunteered to go.

Many had helped identify remains following the USS Cole bombing and the Marine Corps V-22 Osprey crash last year. For others, it was their first experience performing this grim task.

Getting the port mortuary team there was initially a problem, since no commercial aircraft were flying in the country.

In stepped the Flying Viking team, with one of the unit's C-130 Hercules aircraft prepped and ready to go.

An aircrew from the 96th Airlift Squadron flew the Twin Cities-base port mortuary team to Dover. The aircrew



The 934th Airlift Wing's port mortuary team included Master Sgt. Shawn Ferrin, Tech. Sgt. Stacy Campbell, Master Sgt. Steven Williams, Tech. Sgt. Erica Twardy, Staff Sgt. James Rutz, Tech. Sgt. Mary Miller-Huff, Senior Amn. Kristen Maloney, Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kruger, Senior Master Sgt. Dennis K. McLean, Senior Amn. Nancy Winter, Staff Sgt. Michael Gangl, Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kern, Tech. Sgt. Dewayne Schneider and Capt. Neal J. Landeen. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Robinson)

included Lt. Col. Tom Robinson, pilot and aircraft commander; Maj. Drew Hansen, pilot; Lt. Col. Gary Chambers, navigator; Staff Sgt. Tom Wiese, flight engineer; Master Sgt. Tom Thomas, loadmaster; and Tech. Sgt. Steve Hanson, crew chief.

Upon arrival at Dover, the wing reservists went to work in a variety of jobs at the facility. As a group they saw their efforts as a way to show respect for those who died.

Five people from the local port mortuary team returned home two weeks later, while the remaining nine people stayed an additional two weeks to help.

"No one refused to do what they had to do," said Master Sgt. Steve Williams, who was in the first group returning from the east coast. We got the job done."

At a news conference held shortly after their return to the Twin Cities, Staff Sgt. Michael Gangl said, "It's something that's going to affect you the rest of your life."

The five returnees in unison called it an emotional assignment, but one they would do again if they're needed in the future.



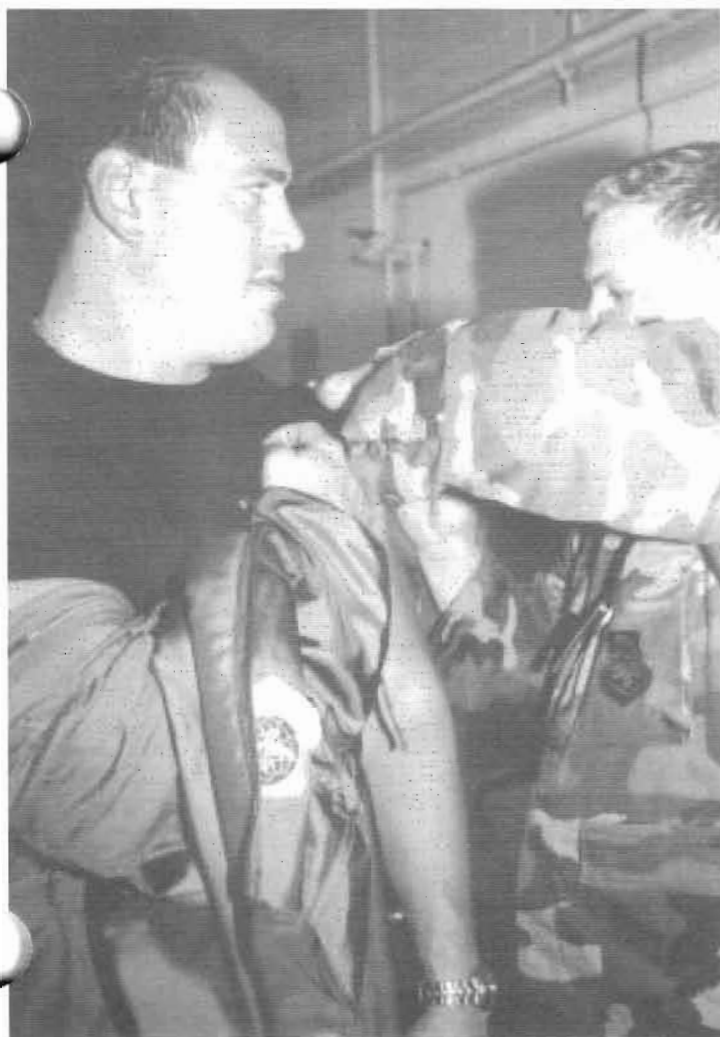
Loadmaster Master Sgt. Tom Thomas demonstrates the proper way to wear the passenger emergency oxygen system to Staff Sgt. Michael Gangl and Tech. Sgt. Erica Twardy.

On the cover
A cameraman with a local television station films Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Kruger, Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kern, Staff Sgt. James Rutz, Master Sgt. Steven Williams, Senior Amn. Nancy Winter, and Tech. Sgt. Dewayne Schneider as they head out to board of the the 934th Airlift Wing's C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. They were members of a 14-person port mortuary team who helped at the Defense Department's port mortuary center at Dover AFB, Del.



Aircraft maintainers, aircrews and firefighters process through and await briefings at the Personnel Deployment Function. More than 50 members of the wing recently deployed to Puerto Rico for two weeks, providing airlift support to U.S. Southern Command

Flying Vikings deploy to support U.S. Southern Command



More than 50 aircrew members, aircraft maintainers and firefighters from the 934th Airlift Wing spent two weeks deployed Sept. 15 to Puerto Rico to provide U.S. Southern Command with logistics and contingency support throughout Central and South America.

About a dozen people from the military personnel flight, aeromedical staging squadron, plans, intelligence, as well as Family readiness and Red Cross, processed and briefed deploying wing members prior to the start of their two-week trip.

Under the Coronet Oak banner, Reserve aircrews provide theater mobility, counter-drug efforts, embassy support, search and rescue services, and disaster relief operations.

Based at Muñiz Air National Guard Base, Puerto Rico, Coronet Oak is U.S. Southern Command's airlift arm. Since the late 1970s, it

has given the command a quick-response force of airlift planes.

Aircrews rotate in for a 15-day tour.

Coronet Oak aircrews are on alert to airlift special forces into any country in Central America, the northern part of South America and the Caribbean, where they might be needed.

Additionally, they support a host of airlift requirements, mostly for Navy and Army customers.

Most are routine transporting of passengers and cargo, but the C-130s also help in hurricane and flood relief efforts. They also make runs to resupply embassies in the region.

Crews arrive at Muñiz — located in the heart of Puerto Rico's capital of San Juan — each Saturday. There is a one-week overlap between arriving and departing units, and new crews are at work the second day after arriving.

Viking Flyer

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

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UTA Schedule

Nov. 3-4, 2001

Dec. 1-2, 2001

Jan. 5-6, 2002

Feb. 2-3, 2002

Mar. 2-3, 2002

Apr. 6-7, 2002

May 4-5, 2002

June 1-2, 2002

July 13-14, 2002

Aug. 10-11, 2002

Major world events over the past few weeks make Military Ball, Family Day events seem so long ago

By Col Dean J. Despinoy
934th Airlift Wing
commander

The weekend of the Military Ball and Family Day activities was the last time I saw and talked to many of you, and that seems so long ago.

So much has happened in the world over the past few weeks it's hard to believe those activities occurred just last month.

Both Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, and Brig. Gen. Ron Rand, director of public affairs for the Secretary of the Air Force, our guests that weekend, commented to me about what a top-notch event it was and how impressed they were with everyone they met.

My thanks to Lt. Col. Cam LeBlanc, Maj. Mo Banavige, Mr. Roger Hanson, the 934th Logistics Group and all those who helped make it a great event.

Additionally, the turnout for Family Day was fantastic.

We have made some good connections with vendors and will continue to have some great games and activities for future events.

My thanks to Margo Leslie and the Family Day committee for all their hard work.

Immediately after the events that changed all of our lives forever, I put the base into one of our highest security conditions, and activated the Crisis Action



Team. Shortly after hearing the news, members of the wing called from almost

every squadron volunteering to help.

We were tasked to have seven aircrews, and five aeromedical evacuation crews, ready in case they were needed.

Volunteers filled those positions and were on alert for several days, flying some missions in support of Noble Eagle.

On Friday, Sept. 14, an aircrew from the 96th Airlift Squadron transported 14 mortuary affairs volunteers from the 934th Services Squadron to Dover AFB, Del., to assist at the Defense

Department's port mortuary. Five of our people came home after two weeks, while the remaining nine stayed to help in those efforts for an additional two weeks.

So far, more than 10,000 Air Force Reservists and National Guardsmen have been called to active duty as part of the partial mobilizations authorized by President Bush.

Some of those mobilized are members of our wing.

The actual number of personnel activated and the jobs they are performing in support of Endearing Freedom missions are classified.

As a result of the

activation, the Air Force has implemented Stop Loss, effective Sept. 22. These measures apply equally across the Total Air Force—active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

This step is necessary to preserve those skills critical to perform the mission and maintain our combat capability.

Stop Loss for reservists "freezes" their status.

All service members' retirement, separation or transfer is suspended until termination of Stop Loss. All Air Force Specialty Codes are affected for the first 30 days.

A complete review of all skills, officer and enlisted, will be accomplished and the SECAF will determine which AFSCs will continue to fall under Stop Loss beyond the 30-day period.

I will be conducting a short Commander's Call on Sat., Oct. 13, beginning at 8 a.m. in Bldg. 820 (the hangar).

I encourage all of you who don't have scheduled training and whose duties permit to attend.

My thanks to all of you—traditional reservists, air reserve technicians and civilians—for your flexibility and sacrifice.

It is impossible to know exactly what future mission requirements will directly affect the men and women of the 934th.

Whatever our tasking, I know we are ready to set the standard in response to our Nation's needs.

Nightmare shocks the world, causes nation to mourn

by Special Agent Kevin H. Jacobson, AFOSI

Until recently, most people living in America felt safe from harm, until the nightmare that hit the eastern seaboard shocked the world and caused an entire nation to mourn.

The problem is we've got a long way to go before we finish the book and no one knows how it will end.

Reality is we're not invincible.

The threat can come from any direction, at any time, and can be as small as a letter bomb or as large as a commercial airbus.

They've proven they can hit us with organized, simultaneous attacks and are very patient, waiting for just the right moment to strike.

The only way to stop them is to find the threat early, identify all the players, and stop them before they execute their plan.

The Office of Special Investigations (OSI) has the stick for this responsibility in the Air Force.

One of our command priorities is exploiting counter-intelligence activities in support of force protection.

We use every tool available to collect and analyze information which will help us find "threats" to Air Force personnel and resources.

OSI's primary responsibility is to be off base, searching for any and all clues to help us track down individuals who mean you harm.

We need your help!

We do not know whether the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were isolated attacks.

These terrorists have proven to the entire world that they are a patient, well-organized threat.

Did they act alone?



934th Security Forces Squadron members, along with an Army Reserve augmentee conduct a vehicles inspection at the installation's main gate. (Photo by Al Eakle)

Certainly not.

Are there others still around waiting for their chance to make the evening news? Quite possibly.

Are any living in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, greater Minnesota or Wisconsin area and do they intend to target Air Force families and/or military targets?

I wish we knew.

However, there is hope and it depends on you.

Everyone can join our ranks and help us.

Our special agents are aggressively pursuing each and every lead, tracking down suspicious activity.

However, we don't have enough "eyes" to do it alone.

Be on the lookout for any and all suspicious activity.

This could be a car or a van that you know doesn't belong in the area.

It could be the way a group of foreign nationals avoid eye contact or go out of their way to not capture someone's attention.

It could be an overheard discussion in a restaurant or bar where someone is asking about the security of an Air Force base or Army post.

It could be when a foreigner in a bar doesn't want to show anyone valid photo identification.

It could simply be the man who is standing in one place too long, watching military activities or security entry procedures.

If you see anything strange, or get a feeling that tells you something isn't right, call us immediately.

When you make your observations, make sure you capture some critical information about the person or the event.

Write down the vehicle make, model and color if you can. At a minimum, try and get a license plate.

Write down a good description of the individual.

This will aid in our ability to quickly respond and pursue the facts.

I would like to cover one other important note.

Even though the ethnicity of the terrorists in this case was "Arabic" and/or "Middle-Eastern," it does not mean every person of that ethnic background is a terrorist.

Ethnicity does not define the character within. It's the behavior that should send off warning signs

Focus on the behavior and keep a watchful eye.

Finally, I can't overstate "reporting" suspicious activity.

Since the attacks on the east coast, hundreds of

witnesses have come forward and told the FBI they saw someone acting suspicious two weeks ago or saw a group of suspicious men gathering at a house back in July.

Some of these "suspicious" men have now proven to be some of the terrorists involved in the commercial hijackings.

If only we had known then what we know now.

The truth is the terrorists didn't come into our country unnoticed.

They didn't disappear from society.

They lived among us for, quite possibly, extended periods of time and blended into our society.

Hundreds of people saw and interacted with them on a daily basis.

The only problem was most people talked themselves out of reporting "odd" behavior because it would be silly or trivial to report such minute oddities.

Only now do they realize the consequences of doubting whether the information was important.

I promise you that no call to our office is trivial.

We aggressively pursue every call because we want to make sure nothing bad happens on OUR watch, to OUR family, in our OWN backyard.

We do not believe the crisis is over.

We believe a real and credible threat exists with us today, within the very borders of our country and we need your help in finding them.

If you see, or hear, ANYTHING suspicious, on or off-base, day or night, call the Security Forces Central Control desk at (612) 713-1102.

Your information will get directly passed to an OSI agent.

Dining facility closed during October UTA

The dining facility WILL NOT be open either day of the October UTA, as services conducted training the previous weekend.

Air Force looking for program volunteers

The Air Force is looking for two majors for the Department of Defense Executive Leadership Development Program, which begins in Sept. 2002.

The program, according to personnel officials, is designed specifically for highly motivated officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, commitment to public service, integrity and have an interest in moving into senior management positions.

These individuals, they said, must be able to operate in simulated real-life situations which involve short deadlines, be receptive to a unique training methodology where participants assume responsibility for their learning, and have the ability to conceptualize and analyze problems effectively.

Military participants contribute a vital perspective on the missions, operations, culture, and customs of the military, they added.

Military participants, in turn, learn from their civilian and military counterparts, as well as senior managers and executives.

Officials said these shared experiences enrich both military and civilian participants who are being groomed for further leadership roles.

To be eligible, officers must be majors or above and have completed SOS and ACSC, either in residence or by correspondence/seminar.

Those interested must apply to HQ AFPC/DPAPE by Feb. 2.

The Military Personnel Flight has more details.

AFA/AFSA co-host dinner

The Air Force Sergeants Association and the Air Force Association co-hosting an awards dinner on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Thunderbird Hotel in

Bloomington.

Both organizations will recognize the outstanding people of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, as well as chapter members.

Gen. John Handy, slated in early November to become commander in chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mobility Command, will be the event's keynote speaker.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and appropriate dress is business attire. The cost is \$25 per person for AFA/AFSA, and \$35 for individuals who are not members of either organization.

For more details, contact Col Paul Groskreutz at (612) 713-1205. Registration forms need to be in by Nov. 13.

Flying Vikings mugs available

A big hit at this year's Military Ball were the special 13-ounce mugs with the 934TH AIRLIFT WING "FLYING VIKINGS" logo etched on them.

A number of mugs are still available at \$5 each. Individuals may purchase them by contacting Roger Hanson at (612) 713-1091 during the week, or Maj. Mo Banavice at (612) 713-3452 on the UTA weekends. Proceeds from the sale of mugs goes towards next year's event.

Family Day feedback wanted

Michael Vosen of the 27th Aerial Port Squadron was the lucky winner of four tickets to Camp Snoopy during last UTA's Family Day activities.

Services is interested in getting feedback on Family Day activities. Anyone with suggestions for next year should contact Margo Leslie at (612) 713-1119.

Legal office seeks paralegals

The 934th Airlift Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is looking for junior enlisted members interested in retraining into the paralegal career field, AFSC 5J0X1.

Qualifications include: prior qualification in any AFSC at the 3-skill level or higher, ability to type at a

minimum rate of 25 words per minute, no previous convictions by courts-martial, no punishment under the provisions of Article 15, no convictions by a civilian court except for minor traffic violations and similar infractions, minimum General AQE standard of 50 percentile, and a law office manager and staff judge advocate certificate of interview with favorable recommendation.

Job description includes assisting attorneys in reviewing and preparing all legal actions, including powers of attorney, wills, administrative discharges, military justice matters and more.

If interested, please contact Master Sgt. Pam Russell at (612) 713-1230, for more information.

Pass, ID hours announced

The 934th Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID hours of operation are: Monday-Friday from 8-11 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m.; and UTA Saturday and Sunday: from 8-11 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m.

HSM ok'd for flood relief

The Humanitarian Service Medal was recently approved for personnel who assisted with the Grand Forks Flood Relief last year. The inclusive dates are June 12 through July 11, 2000.

To inquire about eligibility, contact Staff Sgt. William Liberatore in the customer service section at the Military Personnel Flight at (612) 713-1085/1507.

AAFES hold sweepstakes

Reservists can enter a special "Get Connected" sweepstakes when they log onto the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Web site www.aafes.com Oct. 5-31.

The exchange service is holding the sweepstakes to attract online Guard and Reserve customers because most of them live outside commuting distance to the nearest exchange.

"Not only will winners receive great prizes, such as large-screen

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Local

televisions and computers, but the same prize will be awarded to the winners' unit," said Barry Gordon, senior vice president of AAFES Cyber Region.

In conjunction with this promotion, AAFES is offering a special three-month, zero-interest, no payments promotion for on-line Military Star Card purchases made Oct. 5-31. Cardholders can also get a 10-percent discount off their first online purchase.

"Reservists are a very important part of the military family," Gordon said. "We want them to know that with online shopping, taking advantage of the exchange privileges they've earned is as close as the nearest computer. Even uniforms can be ordered from our online Army and Air Force Military Clothing Catalogs."

Members of Air Force Reserve Command and other reserve components, as well as their authorized family members, have had unlimited shopping privileges at military exchanges since 1990 when Congress removed restrictions on customer eligibility. (AFRC News Service from an AAFES news release)

First Sgt. position available

The 934th Services Squadron has a new first sergeant position and is looking for someone to fill the job, according to the squadron commander.

"The position is a master sergeant slot," said Maj. Scott Calvert, squadron commander. "Tech sergeants eligible for promotion to master sergeant are eligible to apply. They must be promoted to master prior to attending the Air Force Reserve Command First Sergeant Academy.

Minimum eligibility requirements for the position are in Air Force Instruction 36-2113, chapter 11 specifically addresses AFRC.

The individual selected must agree to attend the AFRC First Sergeant Academy within one year from the date

of appointment. Additionally, applicants must have completed a Command NCO Academy, either in residence or by correspondence.

Resumes should be in to me by the close of business on Oct. 14," said Major Calvert. "The board will conduct interviews during the November UTA."

Flying jobs open within wing

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing desiring to take to the skies as a pilot or navigator can do so, provided they have a bachelors degree and meet several criteria, according to Air Force Reserve recruiters.

"Several changes have occurred in the criteria which will allow more people to apply," said Senior Master Larry Giles, senior recruiter.

"Applicants for either UPT (Undergraduate Pilot Training) or UNT (Undergraduate Navigator Training) can now apply up to age 29, and must be in training by age 30.

"Another change," he said, "is applicants do not have to have 20/20 vision to qualify for UPT."

Individuals interested in applying should contact Recruiting at (612) 713-5627, or Master Sgt. Mike Ginapp in Career Enhancement at (612) 713-1509.

SGLI coverage extends to family members Nov. 1

WASHINGTON — The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will be extended to provide coverage to family members beginning Nov. 1

The government has always had an excellent estate program to protect family members in case of a servicemember's death, said Maj. Jeffrey T. Keef, chief of Air Force military estate and special pays policy at the Pentagon.

However, little has been available to provide the military member financial protection in the event of a family member's death

Under the new provisions, spouses and children will be automatically covered if the military member is an

SGLI participant, Keef said. The member will have the option to decline spouse coverage if submitted in writing.

The maximum automatic coverage is \$100,000 for a member's spouse, and any lesser amount must be evenly divisible by \$10,000, Keef said.

However, the amount of coverage of a member's spouse cannot exceed the amount of coverage of the insuring member.

Premiums for spouse coverage will be charged based on the spouses's age and will range from 9 cents to 55 cents per \$1,000 of coverage.

For example, \$100,000 of coverage could be obtained on a spouse younger than 35 for \$9 per month.

There is also a policy conversion option for the insured spouse after loss of eligibility for SGLI, he said.

Children will be covered automatically for \$10,000, and no premiums will be charged the member, Keef said. In cases where both parents are eligible SGLI participants, the child may not be insured by more than one member.

In the event of a family member's death, any insurance in effect will be paid to the insuring member.

If the member passes away before payment can be made, then the amount will go to the people named as the member's beneficiaries.

"The Air Force sees this as a good deal for its members," Keef said.

"By allowing members who have elected coverage only under SGLI to opt for family member coverage, we are putting them on equal ground with civilians who might obtain family coverage as a rider to their master civilian life insurance policies.

This relieves our members from having to seek out more than one provider in order to acquire coverage for the entire family."

Military personnel flights can expect to receive detailed implementing instructions in September. (Air Force Print News)

Reserve commander praises Wing during talk at Military Ball

by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams
Staff Writer

Saying that the 934th has "set the standard very high," Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, Air Force Reserve commander, pinned the Outstanding Unit of the Year banner on the wing's guidon, during a ceremony at last month's military ball.

"The 934th has set the standard very high and other units are struggling to meet that standard," he said while delivering the ball's keynote address. "I'm very impressed with the way you look and carry yourself, and you certainly have been capable of maximizing the effectiveness of your facilities."

Sherrard stressed the need to remember the legacy from which we came from, and challenged the attendees to go further into the community.

He said, "People need to understand the things you are doing. It is important for you and I to go into our community and explain what we are doing. It is critical for them to understand what our needs are and they will be supportive of us."

Sherrard said that the ultimate goal of the Air Force is to win each conflict by a score of 100-0, and "never lose air superiority or let our ground troops get in harms way."

He also pledged that senior leadership will do whatever necessary to get the funding needed to do the job and cited the F-22 program as critical to our future.

"The Air force is leading the way to make certain that we provide the right information for all of our air, land and sea forces," he said. "We in our Air Force can take great

pride in what we've done."

Sherrard, who was recently promoted to his current rank, gives the credit to the hard work and dedication of all of the reservists throughout the command.

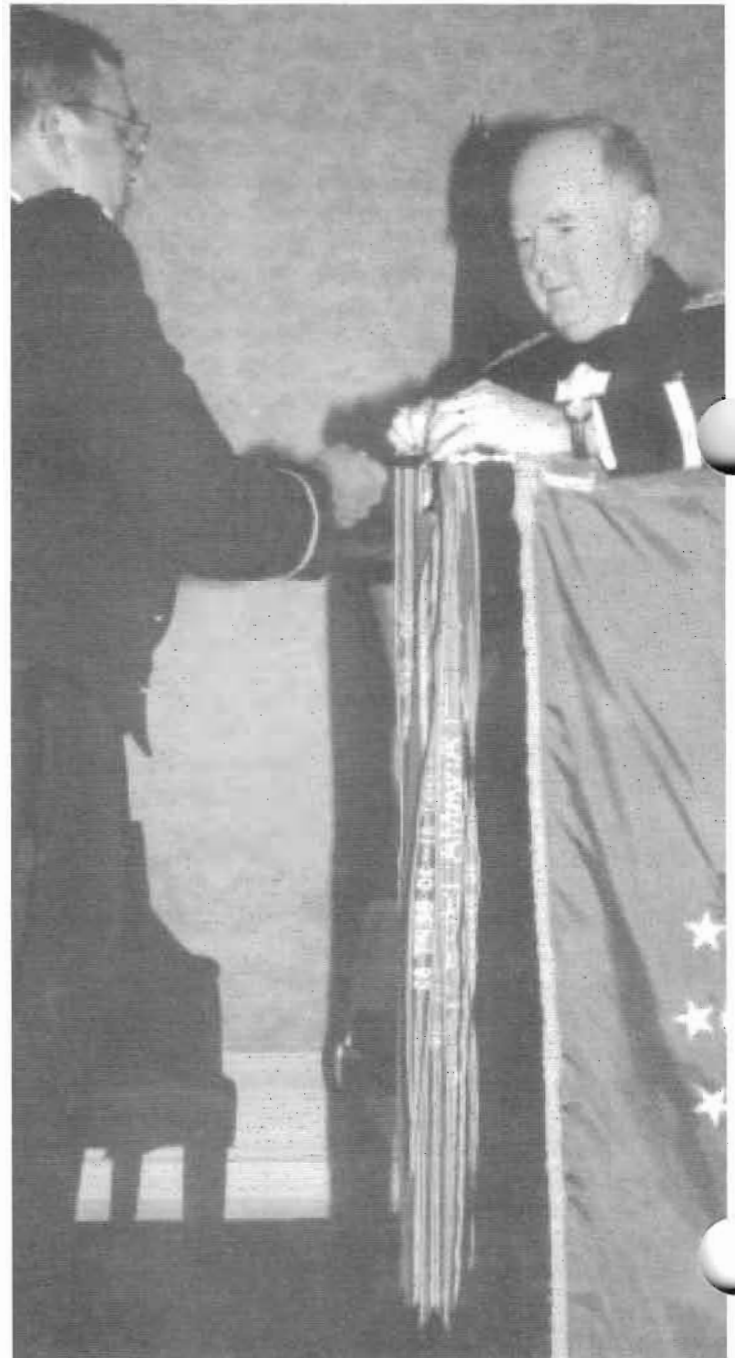
He said, "This promotion is yours. It's the recognition of you and thousands like you, that you have shown the capacity to

be dedicated to a higher purpose. I'm just the lucky person who happens to be wearing it."

The ball, sponsored by the 934th Logistics Support Squadron, was held Sept. 8 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul to commemorate the 54th birthday of the Air Force.

**Citation to accompany the award of
the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
to the
934th Airlift Wing**

The 934th Airlift Wing distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from Sept. 30, 1998 to Oct. 1, 2000. During this period, the wing accomplished its mission with a maximum degree of war readiness. The professionalism, knowledge and technical skills of wing personnel contributed directly to the fulfillment of national objectives. The wing's three subordinate groups and their combined 13 subordinate squadrons and flights accomplished their unique missions flawlessly, contributing to the overall success of support of worldwide humanitarian relief efforts by moving over 2,334,537 pounds of cargo in support of national security policy by directly supporting Operation Allied Force and Hurricane Mitch relief efforts, and 24 charitable organizations. Serving as one of three locations in the United States for military air cargo upload of a Russian AN-124 in support of Operation Christmas Child, the Wing received national television coverage highlighting its work with the civilian relief organization. The 934th Airlift Wing maintains full capability to respond to any and all taskings, evidenced by deployment to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware port mortuary duty in response to loss of a U.S. Marine Corps aircraft and loss of personnel. Ever vigilant to seize training opportunities, the Wing worked "hand and glove" with the Army Reserve and National Guard units to support their air movement needs and generate realistic training for the squadron members. The distinctive accomplishments of members of the 934th Airlift Wing reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.



Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

- **SMSgt. James B. Gustafson**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; (second Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Lt. Col. Craig W. Peters**, 934th Support Group; (first Oak Leaf cluster)
- **Lt. Col. Randall V. Hoscheid**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron (first Oak Leaf cluster)

- **Lt. Col. Stanley J. Thompson**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- **Maj. Daniel L. Anderson**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- **Maj. Deborah L. McBride**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **SMSgt. Robert A. Kahl**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **MSgt. David P. Pogatchnik**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **MSgt. Gary W. Scheff**, 934th Operations Group
- **MSgt. Jason M. Velasquez**, 934th Operations Support Flight

Air Force Commendation Medal

- **Master Sgt. Jerome E. Meyer**, 934th Maintenance Squadron (first Oak Leaf cluster)
- **Maj. David J. Gerken**, 934th Operations Support Flight
- **MSgt. Robert C. Senst**, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Ralph G. Rundquist**, 934th Maintenance Squadron.

Air Force Achievement Medal

- **Maj. Gary A. Bray**, 96th Airlift Squadron; (fourth Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Lt. Col. Randall V. Hoscheid**, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron; (second Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **SMSgt. James G. Schmidt**, 96th Airlift Squadron; (second Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Maj. Michael R. Erickson**, 96th Airlift Squadron; (first Oak Leaf Cluster)
- **Maj. Mark D. Vijums**, 96th Airlift Squadron

- **MSgt. James E. Courneya**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **MSgt. Mark H. Hartnett**, 96th Airlift Squadron

Newcomers

- **Airman 1st Class Wade C. Asher**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Jason M. Bardwell**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Senior Amn. William S. Batdorf**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Derek C. Borden**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. John J. Byerly**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **John G. Cheney**, maintenance
- **Debra Crawford**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Terrence Countryman**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Brian L. Drechsel**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Diane E. Echhoff**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Kevin J. Engel**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Scott A. Skeesick**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Senior Amn. John G. Frovold**, 934th Civil Engineering Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Anthony C. Haider**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Clint M. Hamann**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Desmond M. Henry**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Melissa G. Joplin**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Joshua L. Kramer**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Amn. Glen M. Kramlinger**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Steve R. Lubbers**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Kenneth C. McIntosh**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Andrew McClean**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Erik Merritt**, 934th Security

- Forces Squadron
- **Tech Sgt. Daniel J. Murphy**, 934th Mission Support Flight
- **Airman 1st Class Jacqueline Perez**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- **Lt. Col. Jay Pittman**, 96th Airlift Squadron
- **Melbourne E. Roberts**, plans engineering
- **Anthony D. Taylor**, 934th Security Forces Squadron
- **Airman 1st Class Bobby Warrens**, 934th Maintenance Squadron
- **Tech. Sgt. Susan L. Wagner**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron
- **Senior Master Sgt. Theresa M. Wenthe**, 934th Operations Support Flight

Kudo

- **Airman 1st Class Kristen A. Boneberg**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, who achieved a 97 percent on her career development course.
- **Staff Sgt. Dennis D. Erickson**, 934th Maintenance Squadron, who received a 94 percent on his career development course.

CGAF

- **Senior Master Sgt. Robert W. McGonigal**, 934th Logistic Support Squadron, associates degree in Personnel Administration.
- **Master Sgt. Pamela S. Russell**, 934th Airlift Wing, associates degree in Information Systems Technology.
- **Master Sgt. Donald L. Johnson**, 934th Operations Group, associates degree in Personnel Administration.
- **Staff Sgt. Robert M. Larson**, 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, associates degree in Health Care Management

TRICARE covers cost activated reservists' families

by Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

Family members of Reservists called to active duty for more than 30 days are eligible for TRICARE benefits the day their military sponsor mobilizes.

President Bush authorized the Defense Department to mobilize up to 50,000 National Guard and Reserve members to deal with the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks at the Pentagon and in New York City. DoD officials have indicated they intend initially to call up about 35,000.

The type of TRICARE coverage reserve component family members receive depends on the length of the sponsors' activation orders, Air Force Col. Kathleen Woody said. Woody, a full-time reservist, is director of medical readiness and programs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Woody said Guard and Reserve members who are activated receive the same individual healthcare as their active duty counterparts. Coverage for their families, though, can take many different forms.

Guard and Reserve families are ineligible for DoD medical benefits if their military sponsors have orders that call them to duty for 30 days or less.

If sponsors have orders to active duty for more than 30 days, their families are covered under the TRICARE Extra or Standard programs from the day the member is

activated, Woody said. While these family members would be eligible for space-available care in any military medical treatment facility, Woody, who is a nurse, cautioned that available space is limited and suggested using it only for an emergency.

"You want to have them in a program with some continuity with the providers," she said.

Eligible family members pay deductibles and cost-shares under both TRICARE Extra and Standard, Woody explained. Using a TRICARE Extra network provider can minimize those costs. Beneficiaries can get information on finding network providers in their area on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil, or at their local TRICARE service center.

In addition, family members of reservists and guardsmen activated under orders for 179 days or more have the option to enroll in TRICARE Prime, the military's version of a health maintenance organization. They will receive care in a military medical treatment facility or be assigned to a network provider in their area with no cost-shares or deductibles.

"TRICARE Prime is the only one of the TRICARE options that requires pre-enrollment on the part of the family members," Woody said. Enrollment information can also be found on the TRICARE Web site or by contacting a local TRICARE benefits counselor. "Enrollment has to occur by the 20th of the month in order to

be eligible for care on the 1st of the following month."

For instance, reserve component members who might be mobilized in coming weeks must have their enrollment forms in to TRICARE by Oct. 20 in order for their families to start receiving care on Nov. 1 under the Prime option, she explained. The family would be covered under TRICARE Standard or Extra until enrolled in Prime.

She said the most important thing for all reserve component members to do is make sure all the information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is accurate, Woody said. Since DEERS is the system used to determine eligibility for military health care, family members could be denied care if DEERS information is incorrect or incomplete.

Activated reservists are given a chance to review and make changes to their families' DEERS enrollments during the mobilization process, Woody said.

In cases where service members are activated for contingency operations, they and their family members are eligible to retain their military medical benefits for up to 30 days after they're released from active duty, unless sooner covered by an employer sponsored health care plan.

"This gives them a cushion to get civilian healthcare coverage in place," Woody said.

Dental care for both reservists and their family members fall under somewhat different rules. Since

earlier this year, reserve component members and their families have been eligible to enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program.

Woody explained that reserve members who had previously enrolled in the program are automatically removed when mobilized because they receive dental care from military providers while on active duty.

Reserve members in the Dental Program pay monthly premiums of \$19.08 for one family member or \$47.69 for a family enrollment. If the reserve sponsor is called to active duty, the premiums fall to the active-duty rates of \$7.63 per month for one family member or \$19.08 for multiple family members, Woody said.

Families who had previously declined TRICARE dental coverage but who wish to enroll after their sponsors are mobilized will be able to join at active-duty rates during the first 30 days. Enrollment forms and information are available online at <http://www.ucci.com/tdp/tdp.html>.

Woody noted that once the sponsor leaves active duty the rates revert to the higher premiums.

For more information on TRICARE benefits, visit the program's Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil.

Information on the TRICARE Dental Program can be found at www.ucci.com/tdp/tdp.html.

Reserve Affairs has set up a family readiness Web site at www.defenselink.mil/ra/html/family.htm.

Wing roundup

934th CFS

Newly designed coins were received for the squadron. A big thanks to **Senior Master Sgt. Clarence Super** and **Tech. Sgt. Christine McNamee** for their work on the design and production.

The **Engineering Shop** received new site surveying equipment in August. Shop superintendent, Master Sgt. David Nelson is excited about using the equipment, as it will make a surveyor's life much easier than in the past.

The **Supply Shop** conducted an inventory in August of desert Camouflage uniforms for the individuals deploying on the upcoming AEF rotations. The shop also prepared the chemical warfare and mobility bags in preparation of the unit's annual bivouac in early October.

The unit welcomed newcomers **Tech. Sgt. Dawn Flipp** and **Tech. Sgt. Mark Totino** to the unit. **Flipp** arrived from the 934th Operations Support Flight, will be retraining into the Information Management career field and working in the Orderly Room. **Totino** arrived from the Minnesota Air National Guard after a five-year break. He will be working in the squadron's HVAC department.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Pierce, unit education and training manager, upgraded to seven-skill level.

Staff Sgt. Roger Latterell, electrical, upgraded to seven-skill level

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Mike McGuire, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1281.

934th SPS

Since the tragic event that occurred on Sept. 11, the 934th Security Forces Squadron has been in high gear, assuming a very intense posture.

For those people working shifts their day's are 12-14 hours long.

During their tour of duty they are not afforded the luxury of a peaceful, relaxing lunch break. A majority of the troops eat their lunch while still standing at a post, or they take a couple minutes to stop the vehicle they are driving/riding

and inhale their food.

At times getting food was difficult, but due to the support and assistance from some outstanding people who embodied the American spirit and devotion, the troops were able to get some food, and to continue their duties upon the "wall."

The Security Forces have always prided themselves in taking care of their own, and at no other time in my career have I felt more pride at being a member of the 934th Security Forces than I have these past couple weeks.

The admin people of security forces took time out of their day to take food orders, and then go get the food and deliver it to each post.

One specific woman, the spouse of a squadron member, and those she works with and those she goes to school with, went above and beyond.

Carrie Moreno is the wife of **Tech. Sgt. Leo Moreno**, a squadron member and one of the many volunteers that stepped forward when the call for volunteers went out. He put aside his normal day to day life and climbed upon the "wall" with the full-time security forces members.

Mrs. Moreno came to the base during the lunch hour on Sept. 14 and again on Sept. 21, with bags full of Subway sandwiches. She purchased these with money donated by her co-workers and fellow students. They

wanted to thank, in a small way, the people protecting the country, state and the 934th Airlift Wing.

The 934th SFS would like to publicly thank **Mrs. Moreno**, her co-workers and fellow students, for this kind gesture.

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Barry Haukoos, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1008.

934th SVS

Master Sgt. Dan Shaddrick was reenlisted by **Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrad III**, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, during the September UTA.

Inspectors from the Hennessey team were here during the September UTA. They were evaluating the facility and staff of the dining hall for the best dining facility in the Air Force competition.

The squadron was busy supporting a number of activities involving Family Day. Squadron members were involved with set-up, food preparation and restocking, and clean-up. Additionally, the Fitness Center staff worked with various units organizing games for the kids. **Liz Larson**, the wife of **Capt. Larson**, volunteered to paint kid's faces and stayed busy all day.

Submitted by Senior Amn. Kristen Maloney, unit public affairs representative, (612) 713-1496.



Online subscription

As a service to our readers the Viking Flyer staff is beginning an online subscription service. The service will begin in May. Advantages to the service include earlier-than normal delivery, plus color photos. To begin a subscription, simply complete the following information and mail this coupon to: **934 AW/PA, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis MN 55450-2100.**

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I AM: reservist retiree

Signature _____

Officers Club

Lunch: Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner: Tuesday – Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m.
Lounge: Monday from 4-11 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

Sundays: Closed
Mondays: Dining room closed. Lounge open from 4-11 p.m.
Tuesdays: Fresh catch is the special in the dining room.
Wednesdays: Daily special in the dining room.
Thursdays: Daily special in the dining room.
Fridays: Prime rib or lobster special in the dining room.
Saturdays: Prime rib for two in the dining room.



Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, dishes out a plate of beans to a security forces member during lunch time at Family Day Sept 9. Activities that day included a free lunch, games for kids and performances by the Heartland of America band. (Photo by Al Eakle)

NCO Club

Breakfast: Monday-Friday from 6:30-9:30 a.m.
Lunch: Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner: Friday-Saturday from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Lounge: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3-10 p.m.; Wednesday

from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 3 p.m. to midnight.
Sunday: Closed
Monday: Chefs special for lunch in the dining room
Tuesday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room
Wednesday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room
Thursday: Buffet for lunch in the dining room
Friday: Different specials for lunch in the dining room; prime rib is the special in the dining room
Saturdays: Different specials for lunch in the dining room

Lodging

The grand opening of the new North Country Lodge is scheduled for Oct. 13 at 10:30 a.m. in front of the new facility, Bldg 707.

Lodging rates changed Oct 1 to \$23.00 for Visiting Airmen Quarters/Visiting Officer's Quarters and \$31.50 for Distinguished Visitor quarters.

The North Country Lodge's front desk operations are now in the new facility. At presstime, rooms in the new facility should be available after Oct. 15. After that date, the Lodging staff will fill rooms in the new building first, then use Bldgs. 711 and 716 (junior enlisted).

All guests should report to Bldg 707 for check in and check out. After hours arrivals (guaranteed) will also

report to Bldg 707 to pick up their room key.

Electronic key boxes are located in the lobby of the building, and are programmed with the last four numbers of the guest's social security number.

The guest simply follows the easy step-by-step instructions located near the boxes to retrieve their room key.

Membership

The Air Force club system is conducting a membership drive during which selected new members will be able to drive away as winners.

Called the "Ultimate Membership Drive," people who join the club through Nov. 18 have the chance to win one

of 10 new vehicles, such as a Chevy Cavalier, Dodge Neon or Ford Ranger.

The campaign is designed to boost the number of officer and enlisted club members, inform the Air Force community about the benefits of club membership and introduce club services to younger Air Force non-members, said Air Force Services officials.

New members will also pay no dues until January. The winners of the 10 vehicles have the option of taking an \$8,500 cash prize instead.

To be eligible for the prizes, new members must not have belonged to the club between Feb. 1 and Aug. 14, officials said.

People who were members of an Air Force club as of Aug. 14 will automatically be entered in the current-member drawing category.

All members must be in good standings with a current "active" account and not delinquent on their account.

Vehicle delivery takes about 12 weeks after selections are made, and delivery is to the nearest available location to winner's home duty station within the continental United States, officials said.

For more details, people should visit either the Officers or Enlisted Clubs.