

# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

July 2009 Vol. 31, No. 7



BARHART

**CAUTION**  
RF RADIATION  
STAY CLEAR FROM FRONT  
OF ANTENNA A MINIMUM  
OF NINE FEET  
AT ALL TIMES



## Out of Africa

By Col. Mark D. Vijums  
934th Airlift Wing vice commander and  
404th Air Expeditionary Group commander

- Africa is more than three times the size of the United States
- It is the second largest continent in the world, yet it is the world's poorest and most underdeveloped continent
- The average income in the Sub-Sahara region is 70 cents per day
- It harbors 90 percent of the malaria cases in the world
- More than 25 million people in Africa have AIDS

Because of its vital importance on the world stage, a decision in 2007 led to the creation of the U.S. African Command which led to the stand up of 17th Air Force in October 2008.

I am currently two months into a six-month deployment to the 17 AR, AFAFRICA, as the 404th Air Expeditionary Group commander based at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. So far, it has been a wonderful experience not only jumping in on a newly formed component numbered Air Force, but also taking a direct role in Air Force flying operations for the 53 nations that comprise AFRICOM.

Assigned to the 404 AEG, I have two C-130s as my steady-state operations. In addition, I command all the other temporary flying operations that take place on the continent. One past operation included supporting the United Nations African Union mission in Darfur through United Nations African Mission in Dafur. Five C-17 sorties moved 136 short-tons of equipment over a three-day period.

The two C-130s support all types of operations on the continent. Most of the missions support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM-Trans Sahara. These missions support the goals of building the African security capacity and promoting strategic partnerships. We've also been involved in numerous African partnership exercises most recently AFRICAN LION and SHARED ACCORD. The Hercs also support the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa channel missions to Ethiopia and Kenya for two weeks a month.

Initially, the airlift requirements were trickling in, but this past month we've doubled our flying allowing only one to two days between missions before the aircraft are back in the air flying down to the continent.

To this date, the 404 AEG C-130s have hauled 500 tons and a 1,000 passengers logging nearly 1,000 hours of flying time. About two-thirds of these totals have taken place in the past two months. Currently, the active duty has been filling the 404 AEG C-130 requirements. But the transition to Reserve and Guard flying is coming in September with Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., filling the requirement.

On the horizon, operations like JOINT ENTERPRISE may disappear with the need for AFAFRICA flying rapidly taking over, providing additional Reserve and Guard opportunities.

This has truly been a rewarding assignment as you can tell from my description above. But I miss my "home" at the 934<sup>th</sup> AW and can't wait to see you all in September.

## VIKING FLYER

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### Inspector General

#### Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Members should attempt to resolve Fraud, Waste and Abuse issues and personal complaints at the lowest possible level using command channels before addressing them to a higher level or the Investigator General. The immediate supervisory command chain can often resolve complaints more quickly and effectively than a higher level not familiar with the situation. The IG system should be used when referral to the command chain would be futile or there is fear of reprisal.

934th AW FW Hotline  
(612) 713-1180  
AFRC FWA Hotline  
(800) 223-1784 extension 7-1513  
SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline  
(800) 538-8429  
DoD FWA Hotline  
(800) 424-9098

### On the cover

Staff Sgt. Lesley Carhart, 934th Communications Flight, tunes an RF modulator during Army exercise global medic at Fort McCoy, (Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Summer.)

# Just briefly ...

## Teen Camp at Ironwood Springs

Teen Camp at Ironwood Springs in Stewartville, Minn., will be held July 19-21. Teen Camp is a three-day, two-night camp for teens ages 13-16. Teens will participate in this camping opportunity to experience the outdoors and explore problem solving situations in a group setting. This camp is part of Operation Military Kids. For more information, contact Michele Koenig at [koeni094@umn.edu](mailto:koeni094@umn.edu) or (507) 337-2811.

## 934th Maintenance Group Change of Command

Col. Eric Brandes will relinquish command of the 934th Maintenance Group to Col. Brett Newman in a ceremony July 10 at 8 a.m. in the hangar.

## 934th golf scramble

The 934th golf tournament will be held July 11 with a 4:30 p.m. shotgun start at the Emerald Greens Golf Course (Highway 55, east of Highway 52). Contact Ronna Puck at ext. 1665 for more details.

## Employer's Day

The annual Employer's Day orientation flight and tour will be hosted by The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve and the 934th Public Affairs Office Aug. 1 from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Forms are available online at [www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-090602-119.pdf](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-090602-119.pdf) and are due no later than July 12. For more information, contact the PA office at ext. 1217.

## Project Backpack

The Minnesota Veteran Family Support is offering free backpacks of school supplies to children of any military member who is currently deployed, scheduled to deploy in 2009 or returned from a deployment in the last 12 months. For more information, visit their website at [www.mnveteranfamilysupport.org](http://www.mnveteranfamilysupport.org).

## Youth essays

Youth age 12 to 17 years old with a parent currently deployed, wounded in combat or honorably discharged in any branch of the United States armed forces are invited to submit an essay about "What Hunting Means to Me and My Family" to the Elkhorn Outfitters and Jim Zumbo Outdoors sponsored essay contest no later than July 15 for the chance to win a hunting trip. Youth must have completed a hunter education course and be available to hunt during the 2009 season. For more information, visit [www.elkhornoutfitters.com](http://www.elkhornoutfitters.com).

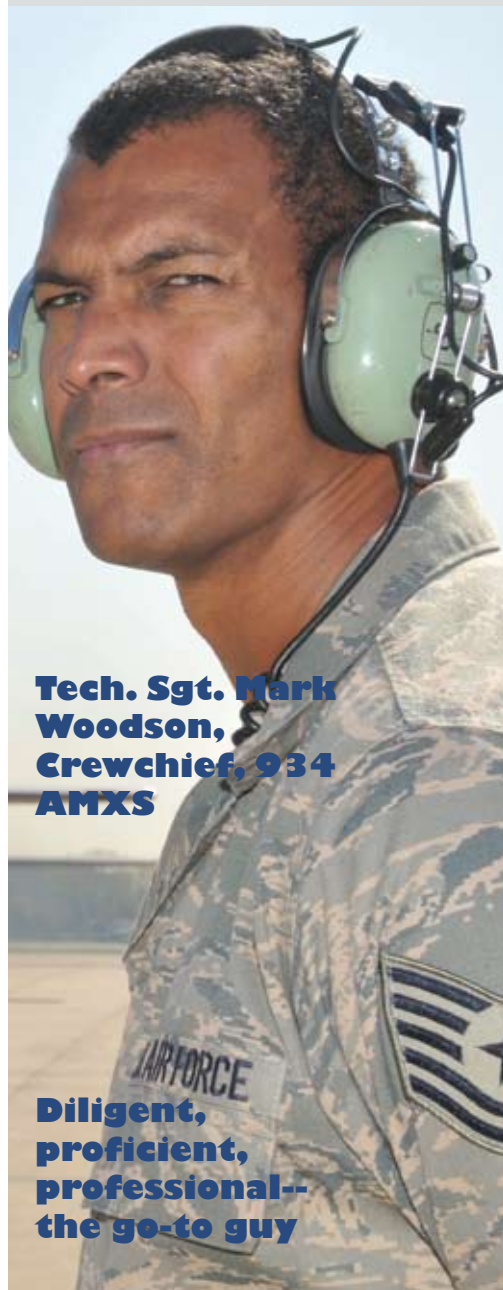
## Operation Purple Camp

Operation Purple camp registration on-line is open for families to register their children at [www.operationpurple.org](http://www.operationpurple.org) Operation Purple is a free week-long, overnight camp open to military children ages 7-17 and held at Camp Wartburg near Waterloo, Ill., July 19-24.

## Webcams available for check out

The Airman and Family Readiness Center has webcams available for military units to check out (limited to five per unit) which they can in turn check out to military members or families during a deployment. The webcams must be returned at the end of the deployment. For more details, call Vicki Lokken at ext. 1516.

# I am ...



**Tech. Sgt. Mark Woodson,  
Crewchief, 934  
AMXS**

**Diligent,  
proficient,  
professional--  
the go-to guy**

# ... A Flying Viking

## Military Personnel Flight & Mission Support Group

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

Welcome Senior Airman Peyton Ferguson and Airman Basic Sabrina Casey to the MPF.

Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Glatz achieved a 91 percent score on his 3S051 CDC Test Score in April.

Capt. Patrick McDonald received a meritorious service medal for outstanding leadership in the base Military Equal Opportunity function.

Base Education and Training was recognized for outstanding performance and commitment to educational excellence in 2008.

Welcome Lt. Col. John Fitter, who is the new Deputy Mission Support Group commander.

Congratulations to Capt. Troy Fiesel who was appointed MSG executive officer.

## Logistics Readiness

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

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Matthew Countryman in being awarded the 2008 Air Force Logistics (Air Reserve Component) Fuels Airman of the Year.

Welcome back to Senior Airman Ann Zornes after graduating from 3-Level Supply School.

Welcome to recent hire Staff Sgt. Laura Loveless in the Supply Section and Senior Airman Scott Smith in the Vehicle Maintenance Section.

Congratulations to Master Sgt. David Hanson-Best and Senior Airmen Melissa Riedy who recently passed their 5-Level CDCs.

## Civil Engineers

Provided by Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Senior Master Sgt. Scott LeClair (Electric Shop) received the Meritorious Service Medal. Master Sgt. Anthony Oswald (Training) and Tech. Sgt. Randal Utzka received the Commendation Medal.

Congratulations to Senior Master Sgt. Paul Yaeger for being appointed the new fire chief.

Welcome new member Senior Airman Marc Grewe (Electric Shop).

## Aeromedical Evacuation Squad-

Provided by Capt. Matt Grimes, Unit Public Affairs Representative

The AES currently has four members deployed worldwide in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Those members are Lt Col Lynn Rydberg, Capt. Christine Jones, Master Sgt. Zac Johnson, and Staff Sgt. Jodi Wortman. Maj. Michael Mackovich, Capt. Mary Donnes, Master Sgt Penny Billings and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Knowles, are deployed to Travis AFB, Calif. in support of the Integrated Contingency Movement of Patients plan.

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

**July 2009/VIKING FLYER**

## Promotions to:

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Davidson	CES
Staff Sgt. Tagisiaalii Faumuina	96 AS
Staff Sgt. Andrew Kellogg	MXS
Staff Sgt. Jason Nelson	CES
Staff Sgt. Lorrie Woebeking	27 APS
Senior Airman Jonathan Echevarria	SFS
Senior Airman Christopher Graybill	27 APS
Senior Airman Kimberly Kazle	CES
Senior Airman Rivas Lechuga	SFS
Senior Airman Cody Schroeder	96 AS
Senior Airman Angela Spranger	96 AS
Airman 1st Class Sung Yi	CES

## UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88th	Navy Marines
June	6-7	19-20	6-7	13-14
July	11-12	None	11-12	18-19/25-26
Aug.	1-2	14-15	1-2	8-9/22-23
Sept.	12-13	18-19	12-13	12-13/19-20
Oct.	3-4	10-11	TBA	TBA
Nov.	7-8	21-22	TBA	TBA
Dec.	5-6	12-13	TBA	TBA



## Habitable homes for humans

Habitat for Humanity volunteers, Master Sgt. Ted Hemmah (left) and Tech. Sgt. John Villegas, both in the 934th AW Security Forces Squadron, work on a project in the local community called A Brush with Kindness. The project, orchestrated by Tech. Sgt. Justin D Siebenahler, 934 AW Security Forces, mobilizes community volunteers to paint, landscape and make minor repairs to homes of low-income homeowners. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Justin D Siebenahler.

# Kosmic duo ...

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

Deployments can be a difficult time for any couple. The spouse at home worries about the deployed spouse in a foreign land while the deployed spouse worries about the spouse at home taking on extra chores like raising children alone and paying the bills. But what if you and your spouse could get grandma to babysit for a few months and go on a working vacation to Balad, Iraq, together? Would you do it? One couple from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron did. Here's their story:

## He said ...

Master Sgt. Damion Kosmosky is a no-nonsense, by-the-book Airman who goes by the nickname "Koz". Koz volunteered to deploy in May to Balad for a 123-day deployment. When the call came in September seeking volunteers to deploy to Balad, he and his wife, Staff Sgt. Jessica Kosmosky, just looked at each other knowing what was on the other's mind. They both wanted to volunteer, so they talked about it and worked out all the details so they could leave their two children with Jessica's mother and serve their country in a foreign land ... together.

"We are here to do a job," said Koz, who is a Wisconsin State trooper in his civilian career. "I just happen to have the advantage to have her here, to see her in person. But I spent nine years in the Army National Guard so I'm pretty by-the-book when it comes to public displays of affection. Trust me, there will be no PDA while we are here together. It will be all work."

Koz will be an aerial porter and transportation specialist while deployed and will work different shifts from his wife, so that will take away some of the temptation that might arise from being

deployed together.

The disadvantage of having his wife join him on a deployment is that he will have to treat her as a subordinate. Koz jokes that while he might get to pull rank in Iraq, the tables are turned when he gets back home.

And what is the advantage of being together for the deployment? Although they will be missing birthdays and other family events while deployed Koz and Jessica will celebrate their second anniversary July 4 -- together.

"I'm taking an inflatable palm tree with me and I'm going to make her an 'oasis in the desert' for our anniversary," he said. "So, I guess I'm taking her on an exotic beach picnic."

Koz has been deployed three times in his career, to Kuwait twice and now to Iraq. But this time, he's not alone.

## She said

...

Staff Sgt. Jessica Kosmosky is a kind-hearted Airman who is affectionate and passionate about helping others, which is why she wanted to volunteer for a 120-day deployment to Balad. Knowing she would leave behind her two children in the care of her mother for a few months was a sacrifice she wanted to make for the good of the Iraqi people. That is just the way she is, she worries about everyone but herself. But one person she won't have to worry about is her husband, Master Sgt. Damion "Koz" Kosmosky because he is deployed with her.

"I think that is the best thing about being deployed together," said Jessica, who will be doing special loading of aircraft while in Iraq. "I won't worry

about him because I'll get to see him, know that he's alright, talk to him instead of deciphering what's behind the e-mail or the telephone conversation."

Jessica, who has been in the military since 1999, admits that she is very affectionate and Koz is not so much so they kind of meet in the middle where PDA is concerned. But not at work, there will be no PDA at work.

"We are both very committed to our jobs, but maybe after work ...," She says with a grin. "We did talk about it but we are on different shifts so we'll barely get to see each other anyway. "But just knowing that he is there and I can see him and know he is alright is worth not being able to hug or kiss or anything else."

Jessica said that she will expect some sort of affection during the four-month deployment because the couple's two year anniversary will occur July 4, right in the middle of the deployment.

"Maybe he'll take me out to dinner at the dining facility," Jessica laughs.

"While that will be great to see him on our anniversary, the worst part will be taking orders from him. He outranks me so there will be times where he has to tell me what to do. Sometimes it can be hard to take off the 'wife hat' but I'm a professional and can do it."

Oddly enough, the couple was deployed together in 2004 as well, admits Jessica. They

were both on an assignment which took them to Kuwait and Germany. And while they were with the same unit for months, it wasn't until the end of the deployment that they became friends. It would be more than three years after that deployment that they would find themselves in love and getting married.

And here they are today, serving their country together.



# D-DAY REMEMBERED— THE 96TH CONNECTION

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

## FROM FULBECK TO THE RHINE

### Part III of a three part series

The Allied invasion of the Normandy beaches on June 6, 1944 may have been the beginning of the end for Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany, but it proved to be the beginning of a long and hazardous journey for the men of the 96th Troop Carrier Squadron.

Following their success at Drop Zone D, the squadron, part of the larger 440th Troop Carrier Group, continued with resupply missions to ground-based troops in the European theatre, and were detached for service in Italy in July and August 1944. Upon their return to England, the next big operation for the 440th TCG was Operation Comet. Set for early September, the mission was to drop paratroopers in Belgium ahead of General George Patton's Third Army.

Then tragedy struck.

"My plane 'Toni', serial number 919, was first in line. We were placed wingtip to wingtip after being refueled and serviced," Staff Sgt. Irving Brezack of the 96th TCS wrote in a letter shortly after the Sept. 2, 1944 incident at RAF Fulbeck, England. "My crew chief, Raymond B. Clark, and

myself were sitting in the cockpit reading a UFE magazine when a rocking motion struck our airplane, followed by a loud roar... We were told that the paratroopers had dropped a pack while loading the plane. The entire work detail was killed in the explosion. In that crater, which was a twist of fate, all we saw was someone's dogtag and an open pocket bible. Roll call had to be taken later on that day to see, who was on the detail that unfortunate day."

Annando Kramer, also of the 96th recalled the incident in a related letter.

"My friend, Roland P.E. Dahlberg, was the crew chief on that airplane, and he was standing right in the doorway of his airplane when that bundle of landmines went off," Kramer wrote. "Fortunately he had his back turned towards the explosion, or he would have been blinded. At the hospital they dug about 165 pieces of shrapnel out of his body. It was a miracle that he survived, but he had a strong will to live and much faith in Jesus Christ."

The incident occurred when a detail of paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division's 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Company I, were unloading parapacks from a 6x6 truck and placing them under the left wing of the "Bama Belle," C-47 number 43-15067 belonging to the squadron. One of the parapack bundles toppled onto a bundle containing 28 landmines, which exploded simultaneously. Sgt. Shearer, Pfc. Mitchell and Pvt. Spera were killed instantly and two other member of the 82nd Airborne were wounded. Sgt. Dahlberg was the only casualty in the 96th TCS.

Operation Comet was cancelled due to Patton's Third Army overrunning the drop zone at Tournai, Belgium.

Read the entire story at  
[www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil)

## Fitness Center offers summer classes

By Tech. Sgt. Josh Moshier  
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Summer weather has finally arrived, and although many people are already donning swimsuits, it's never too late to tighten up around the edges.

Of course, as Air Force Reserve professionals, it means more than that. A good beach body is a distant second to the standard physical fitness requirements of all Airmen.

The 934th Airlift Wing fitness center is here to help on both fronts. Whether Airmen are looking to shave a few seconds of their mile-and-a-half run, hoping to add a few pounds to their bench press, or simply looking for a healthy and competitive extra-curricular activity, the base's hidden gem has something for them.

In addition to intramural basketball, volleyball, flag football and softball, the fitness center offers spinning, core, circuit, yoga, fusion, total body and martial arts classes. Massage and personal training are offered for a fee. However, those are just

a sampling of the opportunities the fitness center offers on a regular basis. The fitness center also holds quarterly incentive programs that can include anything from its "Walktober" promotion to the recently completed "Fitness 500," which offer participants incentives such as t-shirts, golf clubs, gym bags and more.

Airmen can view a complete list of fitness center activities at [www.934thservices.com](http://www.934thservices.com).

"The fitness center is an Air Force Reserve Command 4-Star winner," said Ronna Puck, 934th Services Squadron. "Most of our classes and activities are free for all Department of Defense ID card holders and guests, our instructor are certified, and our equipment is top of the line."

The fitness center staff includes a Cooper Institute fitness specialist, is First Aid and CPR qualified, and includes education and certification in everything from Air Force fitness managers training to Bachelor's Degrees in Physical Education.

Airmen must register for most activities, and can do so by visiting the fitness center.



## Flying Viking

Col. Tim Tarchick recognizes Mr. Bob Kirschner as the newest recipient of the Order of the Flying Viking. The honor is given to community members for outstanding support of the men and women of the 934th Airlift Wing. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



## How Sweet it is

Col. Philip Sweet (right) takes command of the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron as he accepts the squadron flag from Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



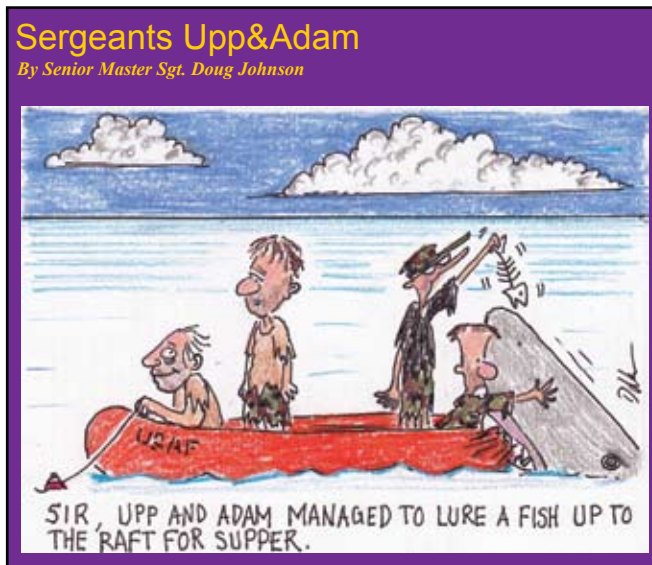
## New stripes

Newly promoted NCOs, senior NCOs and chiefs are congratulated on their achievements at the NCO recognition ceremony June 6. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)



## Bundles of joy

Senior Airman Matthew Heiman (left) and Staff Sgt. Darrin Evink, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron, display their baby bundles which are given to new Air Force parents by the Air Force Association. The bundles were presented by Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, (far right) and Lt. Col. John Fitter, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, as fellow CE members were on hand to offer congratulations. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett)



## Going above and beyond Recruiters announce wing-level incentives

The recruiting staff at the 934 AW is rolling out incentives and criteria for the Get1Now referral program. These incentives are in addition to the prizes awarded in the national Get1Now program. The local program rewards the person with the most referrals above and beyond the minimum of four who actually join the Air Force Reserve.

The prizes include:

- A Plaque presented during Commander's call
- An incentive ride on a C130
- 1/2 hour of C130 Simulator time

In addition to the recognition and gifts, referrals also look good on an EPR as an effective bullet.

934th Airlift Wing  
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Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

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**POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY  
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To the family of:**



Master Sgt. Gary Scheff, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, talks about the features of the C-130 aircraft with German Air Force Reserve officers Capt. Axel Schmidt (left) and Ilja Machalowsky. The officers are part of an exchange program which allows U.S. and foreign officers to experience similar duty functions with the services of other countries. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett)