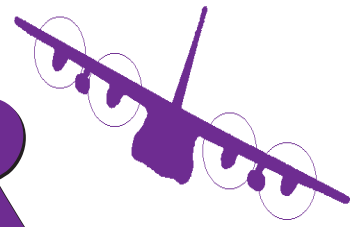


VIKING FLYER



934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

August 2005

Vol. 27, No. 8



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Nason

Honorary commanders get a chance to take a flight on one of the unit's C-130 Hercules during the July unit training assembly.

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The Viking Flyer is mailed to reservists' homes. Copies of the Viking Flyer are also available at various locations on base.

All photos are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The deadline for all submissions is the Sunday of the UTA one month prior to publication.

Aeromedical Evacuation

The squadron welcomed new members **Senior Airman Rebecca Popper** and **Capt. Joseph Malcolm**. **Senior Airman Bridgette Boentges**, **Staff Sgt. Denisa Ene** and **Master Sgt. Christopher Sayre** were given the Above and Beyond Award for excellence on their Fit to Fight test.

The squadron also recognized the accomplishments of three of our most recently qualified members. **Senior Airman Michael Armesto** and **Senior Airman Elisabeth Devin** both finished the training as an Aeromedical Evacuation Technician. **Second Lt. Adam Hohman** also completed the training and rigorous qualification criteria as a Flight Nurse.

Aeromedical Staging

Congratulations to the Airman of the quarter, **Senior Airman Amanda Kvamme**, NCO of the quarter

Master Sgt. Robert Larson and Company Grade officer of the quarter, **1st Lt. Michelle Thien**.

Senior Airman Sean Sanford is awarded AFRC Airman of the Year assigned to an Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

After starting his career at the 934th five years ago, **Lt. Col. Gary Peitzmeier** has opted for active duty. He will be stationed at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Master Sgt. Naomi Williams has been reassigned to Westover AFB, Mass. after nearly a decade at the 934th ASTS.

Communications

Welcomed new Chief Information Management ART, **Master Sgt. Patty Sahr**, from the 27th Aerial Port Squadron.

Tech. Sgt. Janelle Bombeck was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for service with Civil Engineers to Honduras in March 2004.

Logistics

Welcome newcomers **Senior Airman Brian Link** to transportation and **Staff Sgt. Andrew Zumhofe** to supply.

Congratulations to **Staff Sgt. Dustin Kruger** on completing the Leadership Development Program.

Best wishes to **Tech. Sgt. Marc Small** who has been fighting a battle with Hodgkin's disease.

Maintenance

Congratulations to **Maj. David Zener** for receiving the General Lew Allen, Jr. Award at the Air Force Reserve Command level. The award is for senior noncommissioned officers and officers.

Mission Support

Congratulations to **Tech. Sgt. Brian Wollak** for achieving a score of 90 percent on his 5-level end of course test.

Operations Support

Staff Sgt. Lindsay Hetchler recently graduated from the formal Operations Intelligence Course at Goodfellow AFB, Texas. During the course she was named distinguished graduate with a 98 percent grade point average.

Security Forces

The squadron welcomed newcomers **Airman 1st Class Chad Iverson**.

Master Sgt. Barry Houkoos, **Master Sgt. Nicolette Shegstad**, **Staff Sgt. Christopher Dobson**, **Staff Sgt. Jamielynn Shelite**, **Staff Sgt. Kristian Montenez**, **Staff Sgt. Scott Frazer**, **Staff Sgt. Heather Vellagas**, **Staff Sgt. Justin Sibenhaler**, and **Senior Airman William Livingstone** successfully completed Patriot Protector at Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Staff Sgt. Michael Bier competed in the Lifetime Fitness Triathlon on July 16th and the Heart of the Lakes Triathlon in Annandale on July 17th.

Staff Sgt. Michael Bier, **Staff Sgt. James Anderson**, **Senior Airman Seanwong Brown**, and **Senior Airman Kevin Graf** were given the Above and Beyond Award for excellence on the Fit to Fight test.

Senior Airman Jacob Larsen successfully completed Combat Arms and Maintenance Training school.

Services

Congratulations to **Senior Airman Fredrick Richardson** and **Airman Shenetta Hampton** on their promotions.

Tech. Sgt. Dewayne Schneider has finally hung up his spatula and apron after over 30 years military time.

Several members of the unit are going to Dover AFB, Del. for mortuary training in August. **Staff Sgt. Michelle Pagel** will be attending the Services Apprentice Course at Lackland AFB, Texas.



Encouraging Airmen to budget and save money

By Col. Teresa Hams
934th Mission Support
Group commander

When I was in my 20s, I worked for a finance company. Every day I processed loans for people who needed money or were desperate to pay bills. I quickly discovered that people do not realize how much trouble they can get into by mismanaging money.

Many people are too impatient to save for a car, so they buy a big, new car with all of the extras. They finance it by making monthly payments. They also use credit cards to buy furniture, gas, tools, clothing, dinner, motorcycles, boats or plane tickets. Again, they make payments. They go to the bank and take out cash with their bank card. They write checks too, but do not balance

their checkbooks and do not do a budget to figure out how much they are paying out each month.

Over time, their monthly payments and their cash withdrawals exceed their paychecks and they have trouble paying for rent or phone bills. The next thing they know, their car is being repossessed, the phone is turned off, and they are declaring bankruptcy.

According to one statistic, three out of five Americans cannot pay off their credit cards every month. They have over-extended themselves and get deeper in debt every month. If you are one of those people, you may be receiving calls from creditors and collection agencies. You probably feel stressed and are afraid to pick up the phone or answer the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson

door because someone wants you to pay a bill.

If you are in trouble, get help now. Create a budget worksheet to map out your finances. Figure out how to get out of debt. Ask a neighborhood banker to help you. You could also call the Air Force One Source help line. One Source has people who can help you with

budgeting and financial issues. The number is (800) 707-5784.

As you learn to make good decisions about money, you will find yourself making better decisions about your finances, your investments and your life. You will feel more secure about the future and you will be happy and prosper – that is my wish for you.

Patriot Detail pays respect to fallen comrades overseas

By Master Sgt. Chris Sayre
934th Aeromedical Evacuation
Squadron

The word “detail,” as defined by Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is: “selection of a person or group for a particular task.”

In the military, the term is used quite frequently. Airmen can volunteer or be picked for any number of details. These can include; picking up FOD on the runway, mowing the grass, or even painting a building.

Since arriving in theater, I have been participating in the toughest detail I have ever done. It is called the Patriot Detail.

The Patriot Detail is a ceremony

designed to pay proper respect to our fallen comrades, both American and Coalition, who have paid the ultimate price in defense of our Nations. Our fallen brothers and sisters deserve our respect and heartfelt gratitude for the part they played in furthering our nation’s commitment to deliver democracy and peace to the people of Iraq. Furthermore, their families will take comfort in knowing we paid our final respect in remembrance and prayer as their sons, daughters and loved ones make their final journey home.

As a group, we line up in formation and march out to an awaiting aircraft by a first sergeant. After splitting into two even

lines, with about 10 feet between us, we face each other. Upon hearing the command “Present arms!” we execute a three second salute. At this time, the honor guard or mortuary affairs personnel carry the flag-draped casket through the formation.

After placing the casket into the aircraft, we march into the aircraft and gather around the coffin. The Chaplain, who sometimes puts a name to the person in the coffin, then says a few kind words for our fallen comrade. Then the detail is dismissed.

After having worked a few details, I have now taken over as the lead Patriot Detail First Sergeant.

Wing Commander’s Hotline

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

To reach the hotline, call (612) 713-4685. Remember to leave your name and phone number.

Before calling, be sure to always use your chain of command or call the responsible agency first so it can have the chance to help you.

FEHB premiums extended for reservists, guardsmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — Department of Defense civilian employees called to active duty supporting a contingency operation may continue their Federal Employees' Health Benefits coverage, and have the agency pay their share of the premiums, for up to 24 months.

This applies only to reserve component civilian employees called or ordered to active duty supporting a contingency operation on or after Sept. 14, 2001.

The law extended coverage from 18 to 24 months, and provides that agency-paid premiums start the date an employee is placed on leave without pay or separated from civil service to perform active duty. Previously, coverage and agency

payment of premiums began the date the employee entered active duty.

"The benefits and entitlement service team has automatically extended from 18 to 24 months the coverage and agency-paid premiums for Air Force-serviced employees currently on active duty whose FEHB coverage has not yet been terminated and who meet ... eligibility requirements," said Janet Thomas of the Air Force Personnel Center's civilian benefits and entitlement service team here. "The beginning date was also adjusted."

To be eligible for the 24 months coverage and agency-paid premiums, employees must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a civilian employee of the Department of Defense at the time called

to perform active duty.

- Must be called to active duty on or after Sept. 14, 2001.

- Must be enrolled in FEHB and elect to continue the enrollment while on active duty.

- Must be a U.S. reservist or guardsman.

- Must be called or ordered to active duty (voluntarily or involuntarily) supporting a contingency operation as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13).

- Must be placed on leave without pay or separated from federal civilian service to perform active duty.

- Must serve on active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days.

"Periods of time in a paid leave status during the 24-month period do not extend the 24-month period," Ms. Thomas said. "FEHB premiums withheld during these periods of paid leave will not be reimbursable."

Questions may be addressed to a BEST benefits counselor by calling (800) 616-3775. People can press ext. 2 for Air Force serviced civilian, then ext. 2 for BEST benefits and entitlements, and follow the prompts. Employees located in foreign areas can dial a toll-free direct-access number for the country they are in, then (800) 616-3775.

F.Y.I.

Direct-access numbers are located online at www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp.

For more information, go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/docs/FEHB_24_Months.pdf.

934th AW cancer survivor organizes ride to raise awareness

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Less than a year ago Tech. Sgt. Scott Hellzen, 96th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, was battling prostate cancer. Today, he is cancer free and is organizing a motorcycle ride to raise money and increase awareness for the prevention of the disease.

"Let's Ride for Prostate Cancer" will start at Thompson Park in West St. Paul at 10 a.m. Aug. 20. The cost of the event will be \$25 and people will receive a T-shirt, food and drinks. There will also be a silent auction with sports memorabilia and gift certificates.

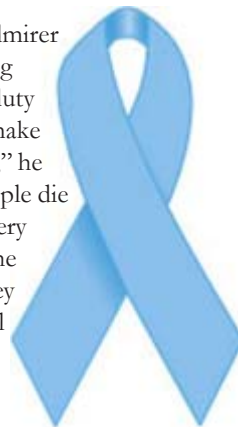
The actual ride will start at noon and will go through Stillwater, Taylors Falls, Cambridge and Ramsey. Sergeant Hellzen said he chose the 160-mile trip for its scenery.

"The route we are taking is absolutely beautiful," he said, adding that the cliffs and river should make the day enjoyable for everyone.

Sergeant Hellzen came up with the idea after he realized something needed to be done to raise awareness for prostate cancer.

"I'm a huge admirer of Lance Armstrong and felt it was my duty and obligation to make people more aware," he said. "So many people die from the disease every year and most of the time it's because they don't find out until it's too late. The worst part is that it just takes a simple blood test."

The sergeant added the proceeds from the day will be donated to Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network. The network is a Web site that is geared to educate people and provide support for patients and their families.



"The Web site definitely helped my wife and I make informed decisions. It covered everything from treatment options to side effects on medications," he said. "We wanted to give back to something that helped us out so much."

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Foss, 96th AS chief loadmaster, is planning on attending the event and said he's looking forward to doing something worthwhile while "hitting the open road."

"Sergeant Hellzen is a good guy and has the kindest heart so when he got prostate cancer, it was a wakeup call," the chief said. "It goes back to doing something important for other people because someday it could be us."

Sergeant Hellzen said he's thankful for all the support he has been receiving and said anyone is welcome to attend the event, even if they just come for the festivities.

For more information or to register, call Sergeant Hellzen at 651-230-6659 or e-mail him at hellzs01@yahoo.com.



Life insurance benefits gain increased emphasis

WASHINGTON – Air Force Reserve Command senior leaders want reservists to know about the importance of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

A recent tragedy involving a reservist who declined SGLI coverage prompted a call for this benefit to receive more emphasis. In addition to requiring reservists to report to their military personnel flight to decline coverage in person, command officials are looking at adding squadron-level counseling by the first sergeant or commander.

This increased concern comes on the heels of legislation to increase the maximum coverage, to ensure beneficiaries know when an individual turns down the maximum and to help service members who sustain traumatic war injuries.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 raises maximum SGLI coverage from \$250,000 to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for people with traumatic injuries.

In a new twist introduced through the legislation, troops with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of people who are not married, the designated beneficiary will receive notice when the person purchases less than the maximum coverage.

Defense and Veteran Affairs officials are working on the details of the expanded benefits.

The increased SGLI coverage will start Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit will begin Dec. 1. The legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, said Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct results of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The benefit does not apply to people suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Mr. Wurtz said.

People enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Mr. Wurtz said.

Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage – \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 – will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Mr. Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.

Because the rates have not changed, people who retain \$250,000 or less

coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Mr. Wurtz said, except for the \$1 "traumatic SGLI" premium.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected people won't be charged retroactive payments, he said. DOD will absorb that cost.

The new traumatic SGLI benefit is designed to provide "a quick infusion of cash" for cash-strapped families of troops recuperating from traumatic injuries received in the line of duty, Mr. Wurtz said.

Compensation will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and is designed to help families of severely wounded troops leave their homes and jobs to be with their loved one during recovery.

"These families incur a lot of expenses, and this is designed to help them financially," Mr. Wurtz said.

VA staff members will consult with DOD to write regulations that will put the new SGLI benefits into effect

"Lots and lots of details have to be worked out," Mr. Wurtz said.

Among outstanding issues is the fact that the expanded SGLI coverage is part of the supplemental legislation package that funds operations only through Sept. 30. That's 30 days after the new SGLI limit takes effect and two months before the traumatic SGLI benefit begins.

Mr. Wurtz said the VA is confident Congress will resolve this issue before there's any lapse in coverage.

The VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program.

Did you know?

The C-130H model of the Hercules can carry upwards of 42,000 pounds of payload. With that weight it can travel 1,208 miles, or from here to New York City, without refueling.



Awards and Decorations

Second Lieutenant

Brandon Schrader

Senior Master Sergeant

Calvin Johnson

Master Sergeant

Brian Barclay, Tina Carlson, Michael Gigstead, Sarah Schlicht, Timothy Thompson

Technical Sergeant

Daniel Boedeker, John Cheney, Aaron Hillberg, Brian Knutson, Anthony Mallizzio, Robert Murphy

Staff Sergeant

Kayla Bultinck, Chantell Chase, Timothy Gassman, Amber Meyer, April Pearson, Adam Peterson, Cory Preusse, Matthew Weber, Adam Webster

Senior Airman

Bridget Boentges, Cale Byrdziak, Amber Moore, Fredrick Richardson, Jeremy Schroeder, Jessie Van Ouse

Airman First Class

Grace Claus

Airman

Roger Gomez and Shanetta Hampton

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Douglas Kveene, Master Sgt. Peter Desanctis

Commendation Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Roy Shives, Master Sgt. Robert Larson, Master Sgt. Steven Nicolai, Master Sgt. David Sowers, Master Sgt. Peter Welter, Tech. Sgt. Ian Owen, Tech. Sgt. Ricky Smasal

Achievement Medal

1st Lt. Julie Hamiel, Tech. Sgt. Mark Woodsman, Senior Airman Brandon Lancaster

In the Spotlight

What is your best summer memory?

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams



“Just went to Alaska right after the June 2005 UTA doing the camping thing. What a blast!”

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Cormier, 934th Maintenance Squadron
VIKING FLYER



“Jet skiing on the St. Croix River in 2002. The jet ski told you information like the water temperature and the direction you were going. It was pretty cool.”

Tech. Sgt. Martha Grimes, 934th MEO



“I was stationed in Germany in 1994 and spent a month touring Western Europe.”

Tech. Sgt. Scott Flaherty, 934th Security Forces Squadron



Habitat for Humanity makes dream come true for base employee

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Johnson
Staff Writer

Thanks in part to a group of volunteers from the base, a housekeeper from the 934th Services Squadron will unlock her dreams when she receives the keys to her new home in November.

Khadra Hassan, who has been working at the base since 2001, is the recipient of a Habitat for Humanity house in Northeast Minneapolis.

The program, designed to provide affordable housing to low-income families, will allow the Hassan family to have a safe and comfortable home, said Ms. Hassan.

"It's a really good neighborhood and really safe, which is good for my children," she said.

Approximately 15 to 20 volunteers from the wing were on site April 19, May 27 and June 15 to help build two different Habitat for Humanity homes. The crew worked on everything from putting up sheetrock to painting the walls, said Margo Leslie, 934th SVS division chief.

Ms. Hassan was surprised when she saw people from base working on her new home.

"I didn't know they were going to be there," she said. "I looked over and said, 'That's my boss working here!'"

Ms. Leslie said she was just as surprised.

"Khadra didn't mention that she was getting the house," she said. "I was



Members of the base services squadron help to construct the home of Khadra Hassan, a North Country Lodge employee.

absolutely shocked when I saw it was her."

This is the second year volunteers from the base have joined other federal agencies to build Habitat for Humanity houses, said Ms. Leslie.

"I find it personally rewarding," she said. "It's a great project, and I think it's important to do something for affordable housing. I see what it's like for people who wouldn't normally be able to afford a house. This is a great opportunity to make their dreams come true."

William Fauver, from the 934th Communications Flight, said he found

the experience rewarding and would definitely recommend it for anyone.

"Probably the most important thing I got from this project was new friendships," he said. "I had a sense of accomplishment as I watched the progression of the house each time I went."

Ms. Leslie said it was also great for the Air Force.

"It establishes rapport with the civilian community," she said. "Everyone is so thankful and it brings the community and the military together in one place."

UTA Schedule (Including FY 06)

Sept. 10-11
Oct. 1-2
Nov. 5-6
Dec. 3-4
Jan. 7-8
Feb. 4-5
Mar. 4-5

Apr. 1-2
May 6-7
June 3-4
July 15-16
Aug. 5-6
Sep. 9-10

Order of the Flying Viking



The wing Honor Guard present the Air Force colors during the playing of the Air Force song.



Col. Muscatell presents a plaque to Mary Savage, co-owner of Hiawatha Dry Cleaners and Launderers, during the ceremony.



Col. James J. Muscatel, Jr. presents Darryl Graves with the wing scarf, inducting him into the Order of the Flying Vikings. The ceremony took place on July 22nd. The purpose of the program is to provide a way to show appreciation to those who have given their steadfast support and made outstanding



gs inducts latest honorees



contributions to our wing and the Air Force Reserve. Mr. Graves retired from the 934th AW in 1993 as an aircraft mechanic foreman. He currently volunteers his time at the Family Resource Center where he assists newcomers and family members with military issues.



The three inductees listen to Col. Muscatell speak about the importance of the honor.



Richard Pavlasek speaks to the audience about his experience with the 934th Airlift Wing.

Photos by Staff Sgt.
Josh Nason



New nose art helps set aircraft apart

By Staff Sgt. Nicholas Olson
Staff Writer

From a distance, all aircraft of a certain model look the same. They may have a different number on the tail or a different stripe designating their unit, but it is the nose art, located near the front of the aircraft, that sets it apart.

Since the earliest part of aviation, nose art has been attached to aircraft in some manner distinctive to its unit, its country or its crew. Often times it is an image of a pinup or a cartoon icon that brings back memories of World War II when planes like the Memphis Belle flew over Germany or the P-51 Mustang that sported shark teeth.

The aircraft at the 934th AW are getting a similar treatment with unique and creative symbols created by Airmen from the unit.

The first of the new designs was unveiled in June for aircraft 9143. It was created by Master Sgt. Tim Payton, 934th Maintenance Squadron. Under the guidance of Lt. Col. Jeffrey Higgins, 934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, Sergeant Payton was commissioned to create a POW/MIA-themed piece for one of the aircraft.

“He heard that I liked to draw and asked me if I would be willing to make one,” said Sergeant Payton. “He wanted me to use the POW/MIA flag as one of the elements and I went from there.”

The nose art that Sergeant Payton created uses an American flag and elements of the prisoner of war theme with the phrase “You are not forgotten.”

“I really enjoy drawing and it is fun to get your work out where people can see it,” said Sergeant Payton.

The nose art on the previous C-130E aircraft was a picture of the state of Minnesota with the names of Minnesota cities. The current aircraft, which have come from other installations throughout the country, are being rededicated with the new nose art to reflect a local spirit, explained Sergeant Payton.

“The theme of the new designs are tied to patriotism and Minnesota,” said Colonel Higgins.

Sergeant Payton’s design is the first



One of Master Sgt. Tim Payton’s original concepts for the nose art design.

in a series of nose art to be commissioned.

He is also coordinating with Master Sgt. Aaron Mikonowicz, 934th MXS training specialist, to work on art for the other aircraft. Sergeant Mikonowicz had previously created nose art while stationed in England.

“I painted the nose art on the wing commander’s A-10 Thunderbolt in 1988,” said Sergeant Mikonowicz. He was surprised to find out that, years later, the aircraft still bore the nose art, even though the aircraft had been reassigned on more than one occasion.

He was also surprised to learn that his artwork had made it into a video game.

“My brother in law was playing a flight simulator game on his computer and had downloaded that particular aircraft,” explained Sergeant Mikonowicz. The simulated aircraft still bore his work, something that Mikonowicz took pride in.

“I am excited to be a part of the whole idea,” said Sergeant Mikonowicz.

It allows squadrons to take ownership and to more personally identify an airplane.”

Sergeant Mikonowicz also pointed out that the name and nose art on an aircraft can make a difference in historical terms.

“No one would remember the Enola Gay if it hadn’t been painted on the side of the airplane,” said Sergeant Mikonowicz. “I think it is neat to have a canvas that is always on the move.”

Sergeant Payton is working on an additional design that will incorporate the Minnesota state quarter and one that will include the use of local professional sports teams.

Sergeant Mikonowicz is developing nose art for two aircraft. The first is a tribute to Minnesota veterans. The second is a Viking-themed piece that will work with the Norse mythology of Minnesota, said Sergeant Mikonowicz.

The next nose art should be completed in the near future and will be unveiled in a ceremony similar to the one in May.



934th Airman receives teacher of the year honors in Iowa

Story and photo by Senior Airman Curtis Holden
Staff Writer

A member of the 934th Airlift Wing is being honored this month for his excellent performance of his civilian job duties in the community where he works and lives.

Senior Airman Edward Savage, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron administration specialist, recently was selected to receive an R.J. McElroy Trust Foundation 2005 Gold Star Teacher of the Year Award for Black Hawk County, Iowa, representing Blessed Sacrament Elementary School in Waterloo in the discipline of Physical Education and Health.

“To be recognized is awesome,” said Airman Savage. “It makes you feel great.”

Airman Savage is one of ten teachers, each instructing various age groups of elementary through high school aged students, in different academic disciplines, to win the award. He also received \$1,000.

“The money wasn’t the big thing, it was being recognized by the students and parents. That was really cool,” Airman Savage said.

Airman Savage teaches pre-school through eighth grade. In order to win

The Gold Star Award, Airman Savage had to be nominated by his students, their parents and/or colleagues for teaching above and beyond the normal scope of his instructor duties, said Airman Savage.

“The purpose of the award is to stop and notice the classroom teaching stars shining quietly among us,” according to the R.J. McElroy Trust Foundation Web site. “These are the teachers who spark students’ imaginations and ignite a love for learning, who set a shining example and who make a difference in the lives of their students. These are the teachers who challenge our children to reach for the stars.”

The R.J. McElroy Trust Foundation was established by Mr. R.J. McElroy in



Senior Airman Edward Savage performs his duties at the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron during the July UTA.

1965 and is also located in Waterloo, Iowa, according to the Web site.

Airman Savage explained that life as a teacher can pose some very difficult challenges to overcome.

“At the high school level, I quickly changed the program into a lot of lifelong activities including weight training, Pilates and Yoga,” said Airman Savage. “You try to teach kids these things as early as grade school.”

“We talk about life skills and not picking on other people and not being all competitive. It doesn’t matter who wins and loses, and I don’t keep track of

scores. That drives them nuts because they want to know who wins. That’s the most challenging thing.”

Airman Savage said he teaches his high school students Tai Chi and will soon start teaching them cricket, which he played while living in England. Airman Savage also said he wants to teach his high school students badminton.

“So, little by little you educate them about a few different sports,” continued Savage. “I guess it’s changing the whole mind set of the three R’s – Roll Call, Roll out the Ball, and Read the paper.

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SAVAGE cont.

Airman Savage explained that life as a teacher can provide many benefits and rewarding experiences beyond the classroom.

"In P.E. this year, I noticed the 2nd grade daughter of one of the parents who nominated me was having trouble with her motor skills," said Savage. "And I just mentioned that on her report card."

Airman Savage said the parents became emotional but they were not offended.

"I explained to them, compared to some of the kids she's just a little slower and sometimes it's just age and genetics, but sometimes it might be a bigger problem," said Airman Savage.

The parents took Brianna to a doctor and it turned out she was having seizures that they were not aware of. Brianna was given medication and has since been performing well, he

said.

"I helped a family help solve their kid's problem without me really knowing it," said Airman Savage. "That's very rewarding in helping a kid prosper a little.

Other parents can vouch for his positive influence on their children. Parents Kelly and Douglas McCarthy have two daughters, Katie, an eighth grader, and Maggie, a fourth grader, who have been his students at Blessed Sacrament Elementary.

"I would say he's a positive role model for all of the students," said Mrs. McCarthy who also serves as a Religious Education Assistant at Blessed Sacrament. "He builds up their self-esteem. He makes them feel like they can accomplish anything. He develops them into leaders and also makes learning fun."

Mr. McCarthy, who also serves as the Blessed Sacrament

Elementary School Athletic Board with Airman Savage, said, "If my daughters have a fun day with Mr. Savage, they'll come home and tell us all about it."

Mr. McCarthy added that the Athletic Board members usually crew an athletic event about once or twice a month but that "Eddie [Savage] is always in all the home sporting events for the school even though he wouldn't have to."

Mrs. McCarthy said Airman Savage's best skills are being able to connect with each student at the different age levels.

"He has a lot of first-hand experience and knowledge in Physical Education and Health, so it makes it a lot more interesting for the kids," she said.

Airman Savage said he tries to use his knowledge, skills and experiences to have a positive impact on the lives of his

students.

"It doesn't matter if students try and fail or get lost in the success of it all," said Airman Savage. "It's their ability to try new things. And if they try new things in P.E., they might try new things in life, hopefully positive things. The impact is the kids. It's their hearts, it's their brains, it's their self-esteem. The impact is making each kid realize his or her potential and being able to help move them along to it."

By helping his students reach their potentials, Airman Savage is also serving a very important role as a mentor and realizing his instructor potential as an R.J. McElroy Trust Foundation 2005 Gold Star Teacher of the Year Award winner.

"It's validation for the hard work you're doing," said Airman Savage. "I just thought it was a great honor to be nominated."

Wing creates picnic area for park, members

Story and photo by Senior Airman Curtis Holden Staff Writer

Members of the 934th Airlift Wing have a new gathering place where they can dine outside next to a river and enjoy nature, thanks to some industrious folks on base.

The 934th Civil Engineering Squadron completed the Minnesota River Picnic Area Project during the July 2005 unit training assembly.

"It was a program that Colonel Muscatell wanted for Morale Welfare and Recreation purposes, and to provide wing members with a gathering place," said Master Sgt. Patrick Smith, 934th CES heavy equipment operator.

Wing civil engineers broke ground, constructed a concrete platform with a terraced brick facing, and built two picnic tables at a site in Minneapolis along the Minnesota River next to the 934th AW Firing Range and Fort Snelling State Park.

"It's close to the base and there's

nature and wildlife there by the river, so it provides a relaxed atmosphere for base personnel," said Senior Master Sgt. Steve Nicolai, 934th CES equipment operator.

The project also provided a good training opportunity for some of the CES pavement and equipment department workers.

"It gave us a chance to break ground, build a wall and use artistic interpretation to blend it into the existing and surrounding environment," said Sergeant Smith.

The base civil engineers brought in fill-in dirt and used extra block from another project. They had to purchase the rest of the materials, added Sergeant Smith.

The project cost \$4,300 to build and was funded locally, said Master Sgt. John Kline, 934th CES

readiness officer.

The site and project was designed by Staff Sgt. James Hocum, 934th CES equipment operator.

The existing site is one of three picnic areas Colonel Muscatell wants built, depending on available funding, said Sergeant Smith. The other sites would be built along the same road to the north of the current site.

The River Picnic Area is open during normal Fort Snelling State Park hours.



SERGEANTS UPP & ADAM

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

Retirements

Chief Master Sgt. Gary Smith

Aug. 13 @ 3 p.m.

Call Master Sgt. Steven Orwig at
ext. 1535.

Master Sgt. Rick Klick

Aug. 13 @ 3 p.m. at Bldg. 821

Call Master Sgt. Vicky Kuntz at
ext. 1443.

Master Sgt. Steve Pittman

Aug. 13 @ 3 p.m. at Bldg. 821

Call Senior Master Sgt. Lonnie
Gillespie at ext. 1323.



Viking Vibes



Officers club

The 934th AW Civilian Welfare Committee is sponsoring the Post Road Flea Market every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ft. Snelling Officers Club. The event will be held through Labor Day. Vendor space is available for \$10. Volunteers are also needed to help.

For more information, call (612) 713-1402 or (612) 408-2737.

Spouses' club

To join the Officers' Spouses' Club, call Lee Claar at (952) 831-5252.

Lodging

The North Country Lodge's Business Center, located in the East Meeting Room, is now open. It was established for guests to use while staying at base lodging.

The center provides a computer, printer, fax machine, telephone, 32-inch TV with VCR and conference tables. Guests can use the Internet and check their e-mail at no cost.

Local faxes are free. Long-distance faxes are assessed a charge through lodging's telephone carrier. Charges will be posted to the guests's portfolio. Use of the copy machine costs 10 cents per copy.

For more information, call lodging at (612) 713-1983.

Recreation

Banquet tables, chairs, a chocolate fountain and other party essentials, hiking and camping equipment, gas powered washers, and a utility trailer

are available for rent at Outdoor Recreation. All club members receive a 10-percent discount.

Call (612) 713-1496.

Birthday

All club members receive a \$15 certificate to celebrate their birthday at the base clubs.

The offer is valid only on the month of the member's birthday.

Call the Services Club at (612) 713-1655 or the Officers' Club at (612) 713-3678.

Tae Kwon Do

The fitness center offers Tae Kwon Do classes from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The cost is \$80 per person each month or \$136 for a family of two or more. A free uniform is included.

Call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496 for more details.

ESGR

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Web site has been updated.

To better serve Web site visitors, changes have been made to the reports section, state policies section, and the basic and advanced employer relations section.

Pre- and demobilization briefings have also been added.

Visit the ESGR Web site at www.esgr.com.

Retirees

Retiree Appreciation Day is Sept. 17.

To show its appreciation to retired military members, SatoTravel will offer retirees the

opportunity to register for a chance to win one of three prizes: \$100 rental car vouchers, a hotel voucher at the Florida Mall Hotel in Orlando, Fla., and a Hawaiian vacation for two.

Only retired U.S. military members are eligible to register for these prizes.

No purchase or other consideration is necessary to enter or win.

For more information, call SatoTravel at (877) 304-8456.

Military Ball

The event will be held September 10th at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Dress for military personnel will be mess dress. Civilians dress in formal attire.

Ticket costs are \$50 for civilians, ranks 0-3 and above and E-7 and above, \$50.00 for non-military base employees. Lieutenants, E-5's and E-6's are \$35.00. Prices for E-4's and below are \$20.00

See your First Sergeant for tickets.

Family Day will be held on Sunday, September 11th from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Unit members are encouraged to bring the whole family. There will be food and lots of fun and games for the kids.

Meal tickets will be available for \$3 for non-military members.

Liason Needed

The United States Air Force Academy and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Admissions Liason Officer Program has openings in Northern and Southern Minnesota, as well as the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro area.

The program is open to Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve officers as either a primary or additional duty assignment for those who are willing to work as representatives for the USAFA and AFROTC programs.

Anyone interested should contact Lt. Col. Jim Tuitt by phone at 952-403-1560 or e-mail at jrtuitt@mchsi.com.

Family Day

This month in Viking history

Courtesy of Master Sgt. Russ Funaro
934th Airlift Wing historian



1975

President Gerald Ford made a visit to the base while in town to address the national American Legion convention.

“Leave a Legacy” Contest

“If you don’t know where you are going, you’ll end up someplace else.”

- Yogi Berra, Baseball Hall of Fame

Col. James Muscatell Jr., 934th Airlift Wing commander, believes the wing mission statement needs revision. He would like to revise it and establish new goals for the wing, and is encouraging everyone to participate in the “Leave a Legacy” contest.

Through this contest, entrants can submit ideas for a wing mission statement or two or three goal statements. If your mission statement and/or goals are selected, not only will you receive a prize, but more importantly, you will leave your fingerprint on the wing- a legacy.

Rules of engagement:

- * Mission statements should articulate the day-to-day mission of the wing.
- * Characterize who we are, our business and how we get it done.
- * Goals should be where we want to be five to 10 years down the road.
- * Goals should focus on what really matters.
- * Be brief and creative. Keep it short and to the point.
- * Distinguish the 934th AW as a unique, outstanding wing. Make it easy to remember.
- * If entrants use other wing’s mission statements for guidance, the source must be provided.
- * Entrants can submit just the mission statement, just the goal statements or both.
- * All entries must be sent to Maj. C.J. Lupo by e-mail to cj.lupo@minneapolis.af.mil by Sunday of the September UTA.
- * “Leave a Legacy” winners will be announced during the October UTA.

E-mail submission should include:

- * Mission statement and/or identify two or three long-term goals, separate from mission statement
- * Your full name, rank, unit, shop function and phone number

934th AW’s current mission statement:

Provides command, control and operational guidance for an eight primary assigned aircraft C-130 squadron and associated support functions. The wing operates an Air Force Reserve Station. Directs tactical airlift operations in the worldwide theater. Functions include command and control, operations, finance, safety and information.

Examples of other mission statements:

Youngstown Air Reserve Station:

To support national objectives by providing mission-ready C-130 airlift forces with accompanying expeditionary combat forces to a combatant commander. To provide a state-of-the-art C-130 aerial spray capability that is responsive, flexible, and highly effective. To provide a premier air reserve station with modern facilities to support the wing’s mission and a variety of joint service tenants.

McGuire Air Force Base Operations Group:

Fueling, Hauling, Healing, Defending Freedom

For more information, call Maj. C. J. Lupo at (612) 713- 1560 or 1st Lt. Julie Hamiel at (612) 713-1202.

Bicycling - Riding Vikings Bicycle Club

Join the bicycle club. Call Ronna Puck at (612) 713-1665 or Lt. Col. Carolyn Lohman at (612) 713-1446 to sign up.

Discount tickets/coupons

To purchase tickets for Camp Snoopy, Underwater Adventures, Minnesota Zoo, Minnesota Children's Museum, Chanhassen Dinner Theater and the Renaissance Festival, call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496.

Discount cards for the zoo and IMAX theater are also available.

Underwater Adventures tickets cost \$9.50 for adults and \$5.50 for children.

Fit to Fight - Ready to Win fitness program

Participate in UTA fitness activities for incentive awards.

For more information, call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496.

Fitness center hours

5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays

5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays

Closed on federal holidays

Travel

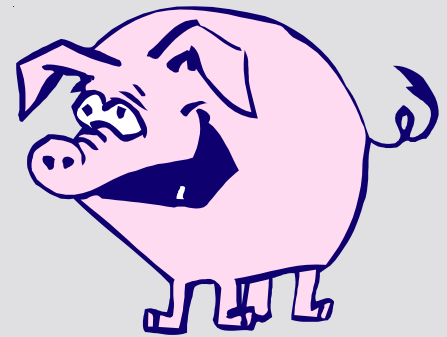
Armed Forces Vacation Club offers time share units. Cost is \$264 per week.

Go to www.afvclub.com.

Air Force Travel - www.aftravelonline.com

Colorado R&R USAF Academy travel - www.coloradorandr.com

Shades of Green Resort, Disney World - www.armymwr.com



Hog Roast

Presented by the Fort Snelling Flower & Garden Club

Aug. 16 at the Officers' Club

Social 5 p.m.

Dinner 6 p.m.

Menu: Hot sliced roast hog (freshly prepared that day)

Fresh corn, sauerkraut, potato salad, apple sauce and rolls

Dozens of door prizes!

Price: \$15 per person

Proceeds support various charities that help military members.

Purchase tickets from the Flower & Garden Club or at the Officers' Club bar.

For more information, call Trudye Bremner at (952) 941-3527.

**934th Airlift Wing
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Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100**

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