

# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

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# HRDC is alive and well

**By Col. Steve Dewerff**  
**934 AW Vice Commander**

Col. Michael Kim, Vice Commander of 22d Air Force, hosted the first ever Human Resources and Development Council conference at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. October 15-17. Air Force Reserve Command, in the past, held an annual HRDC Command Conference, but due to the continued high operations tempo among AFRC bases, the conference has been reduced to a bi-annual affair. Westover hosted the event at their Wing Conference Center and over 120 members from throughout all wings in 22d Air Force as well as members from Air Force Reserve Command were in attendance.

Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, Commander of 22d Air Force, was in attendance all three days emphasizing the importance of the HRDC program throughout the Command. Ten members of the 934th Airlift Wing HRDC Council were in attendance and it was a unique opportunity to have full access to General Mazick throughout the program. Those attending with me were Command Chief Jan Dalton, Lt. Cols. Mark Vijums and Sharon Simpson, Maj. Sue Maki, 2nd Lt. Jessica Lind-Lamoureux, Senior Master Sgt. Vicky Kuntz, Master Sgt. Louis Herbes, Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Coronado and Senior Airman Jolene Koch.

Your wing was well represented with key leaders from the wing staff and all 934th Groups and the 934 ASTS. Except for Westover, the 934th had the largest group in attendance. This year's theme for 22d Air Force is "We leave no Airmen behind". HRDC is a program designed to promote diversity, ensure inclusion, encourage growth and develop leadership throughout all ranks of the Air Force Reserve.

The conference consisted of each wing in 22d Air Force presenting their best HRDC practices or programs. There was a question and answer session after each presentation and every wing in attendance was encouraged to benchmark any programs that might benefit their own wing HRDC. On the second day of the conference General Mazick hosted a general's panel with Maj. Gen. Hemminger, Air Force Reserve Command HRDC and Brig. Gen. Farris, Commander, 439th Airlift Wing from Westover

on the dais. The two-hour long question and answer period allowed attendees an opportunity to address Air Force, AFRC, 22 AF and Wing issues face-to-face with our senior leadership. Topics discussed included time constraints and ancillary training on UTAs, maintaining wing IMR health statistics, BOA card use and abuse, the continued growth and involvement of Air Force Reserve Command in the Air Expeditionary Air Force, promotion issues and promotion constraints in the future. Air Force Smart Operation (AFSO 21) and the transitional Air Force Reserves were discussed as well. Gen Mazick made it clear that we are an Air Force Reserve in transition from a cold war ready reserve into an operational reserve force blended in with our active duty and Air National Guard counterparts. We don't know today where our end state will be down the road and change is never an easy thing to accept, but change is inevitable.

Chief Dalton and I briefed our Wing HRDC best practice of using various panels over the past few years to discover positive and negative trends in the Wing. We briefed our use of Airmen and NCO panels to determine which issues needed to be addressed by senior leadership regarding Airmen and NCO issues. We briefed the results of our gender panel that was held last year to find out which male/female issues might be adversely affecting the Wing. Lastly, we briefed the results of our most recent BRAC panel to determine whether the needs of our new members arriving at the 934th due to forced BRAC base closures were being met. We also discussed the upcoming Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/Operation IRAQI FREEDOM- Air Expeditionary Force Cycle Panel that will be held in the spring. It will address what we can do to properly prepare our members for the next AEF cycle deployments by wing members by recalling lessons learned from this year's AEF cycle participants.

Lastly, the winner of this year's 22d Air Force Human Resources and Development Council Leadership Award was presented. The 934th Airlift Wing competed for honors with the 13 other wings in 22d Air Force, unfortunately for us; the winner of this year's award was the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover ARB.

It was a great conference and plenty of great information was shared. The 934th had the honor of dining at General Mazick's table on Tuesday night of the banquet. Having the General all to ourselves for the two hour dinner was a special treat for our HRDC council members.

The Wing HRDC council meets every UTA Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the wing commanders conference room. Our charter is to work for the betterment of the men and women of the 934th Airlift Wing to find ways to make life at the 934th more enjoyable, more productive and more beneficial to everyone involved. We encourage maximum participation regardless of age, rank, gender or AFSC. We leave no airmen behind!

Hope to see you at the next meeting.





# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Capt) Steve Svoboda  
934 AW Chaplain

Remember the base chapel staff is on-call for UTA weekends. Beginning Friday evening through sign-out on Sunday afternoon a chaplain can be reached round the clock on UTA weekends by calling x1227. Please stop in or call.

On Friday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. come to the chapel for pizza and a movie. The plan is to gather in an informal, after hours setting to start the weekend off right – with free food and a film. If you are here, stop by building 725 (it's the house behind CE by the old main gate). Come as you are – rank will be left at the door.

Can't make it to chapel? Let chapel come to you! This is a reminder that chaplains are available for brief religious observances at a time and place that is convenient for your group. Please call ahead to schedule and we will come to you! Regular service times are: UTA Sundays – Protestant 9 a.m.; Roman Catholic 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.; other observances by prior arrangement.



## Wing Commander's Hotline

Report suspected occurrences of Fraud, Waste and Abuse to the FWA hotline at (612) 713-1180.

## Fraud, Waste and Abuse 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) 713-1555. Remember to leave your name and telephone number.

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



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach

## Corps values

**Les Canarr, center, 934th AW civil engineer, and Michelle Kasprisin, Army Corps of Engineers, talk with Maj. Gen. Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple, Director of Military Programs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. General Temple toured 934 AW Corps of Engineer projects including the Fitness Center, Security Forces, Lodging and Aeromedical buildings.**

## VIKING FLYER

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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.



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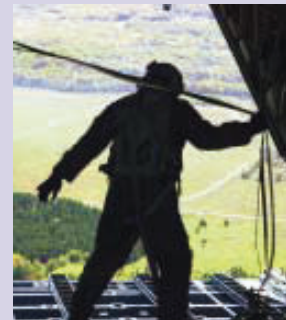


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams

### On the cover

**Master Sgt. Chuck Brynteson tracks airdrops over Camp Ripley during a tactical mission that included coverage by local television stations. See story on page 8.**





# A close call and decisive action link two 934th Airmen to bridge collapse

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey S. Williams  
934 AW Public Affairs

On a hot, 91 degree August evening, Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Imsdahl, 934th Security Forces Squadron superintendent, left his civilian job in Minneapolis for a routine drive home.

His windows were down as he drove across Washington Avenue to the Interstate 35W northbound on-ramp. He watched the construction workers on the opposite side as he crossed the Mississippi River.

Halfway across the bridge, Sergeant Imsdahl thought something serious was wrong with his vehicle. His vehicle was bouncing. Thinking he needed to replace the shocks, he noticed the van in front of him was bouncing too.

"I thought he had bad shocks too," the sergeant said, recounting his Aug. 1 experience. "By the time I got across the bridge, I saw a truck on the side of the road that was apparently overheating. About a mile later, I noticed there were only three or four cars behind me, and I didn't have any more problems with my shocks. I was amazed that the traffic was really light."

It wasn't until he returned to his Maplewood home that he heard about the I-35W bridge collapse.

"Everything suddenly hit me. I said to myself, 'You can breathe easy now because you just got lucky.' I didn't see or hear anything. It was a total fluke for me to be there. I usually don't work that late. I figure I must have missed it by less than a minute," Sergeant Imsdahl said.

Others weren't so lucky. When the I-35W bridge collapsed at 6:05 p.m. Aug. 1, over 100 people were injured and 13 motorists lost their lives.

While Sergeant Imsdahl was heading home, squadron-mate Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Grates, who serves as a Detention Deputy for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, was also heading home from his civilian job in Minneapolis.

Sergeant Grates was driving his bicycle over the Stone Arch Bridge to his vehicle on the north side of the river, when he heard an excited voice on the overhead speakers at the Lower St. Anthony Falls lockmaster area. While he heard the voice, he couldn't make out the words. Then he heard sirens and began to see emergency vehicles approach the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams

Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Imsdahl (left) and Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Grates.

area from various different directions.

Upon reaching his vehicle, Sergeant Grates called back to the jail and was informed as to what happened.

"Sensing that help may be needed, I went to the area and met up with Minneapolis Police Sergeant Bill Chaplin. I explained to Sergeant Chaplin that I was a member of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and offered my assistance," Sergeant Grates said.

During his time at the incident scene, Sergeant Grates was responsible for establishing a perimeter, assisting Minneapolis Police Department officers, and helping load deceased victims into the coroner's vehicle. He was on-duty at the scene from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., when he was relieved as rescue crews were finishing their duties for the evening.

"When you have people walking around and on bikes, all with cell phones at their ears, we needed to establish a perimeter and call for reinforcement," Sergeant Grates said. "It was all about keeping crowds away so people could do their jobs. We would move 30 people out and 30 more would move back in. People were even crossing the police tape. In doing air base defense, it's all about managing the perimeter. If you can't do it, you need to get some more help. That's one of the things I did that night."

The next week was quite chaotic as he went back to

**Bridge continued on page 13**



# Around the pattern



*Photo by Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett*

**Lt. Col. Marge McGlinn receives her retirement plaque from Col. Tim Tarchick. Colonel McGlinn retires with more than 29 years service.**



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer*

**Senior Master Sgt. Clark Johnson receives his retirement plaque from Col. Toby Hammer. Sergeant Clark retires with more than 20 years service.**



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Nason*

**Master Sgt. John Murphy receives his retirement plaque from Col. Tim Tarchick. Sergeant Murphy retires with more than 25 years service.**



*Courtesy photo*

**Senior Airman Cassandra Carter, 934th Mission Support Group (2nd from left) returns from a Southwest Asia deployment lasting more than eight months.**



*Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach*

**The 934th Honor Guard is recognized by Col. Tim Tarchick (right) with a shadow box created by the Grand Forks AFB, ND Honor Guard in appreciation for their assistance in rendering military funerals. Honor Guard members (from l to r) Senior Airman Tim Tabor, Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson, Senior Airman Lindsay Rosenow, Master Sgt. Mary Miller and Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Super.**

# Civic Leader Tour

## *Participant gives first hand account of tour to Niagara*

**By Mark Fleck**  
Business Development Manager  
Avure Technologies Inc.

I was invited by Col. Tarchick to join other community leaders on this year's Civic Leaders Tour to Niagara Falls, NY. I will admit I was hesitant to take time out of a busy schedule. After a bit of convincing from my wife, Peggy, I pre-registered and went back to the responsibilities of my day job as a market development manager for a food equipment manufacturer.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, the day of the tour arrives. After registration, breakfast, and a mission overview of the 934th Airlift Wing, we boarded the bus to my first ride on a military plane, a gray-colored C-130. Stepping inside the plane, I thought to myself, "What did I get myself into?" Long benches running down the middle of the plane made of a red colored fabric mesh were provided for seating. As it turned out, the seats were reasonably comfortable.

Originally designed in the 50s, we learned the real function of the C-130 is to airlift cargo including helicopters, armored vehicles, palletized equipment, and military personnel. This plane has one really cool feature: the aft door also serves as a loading ramp for quickly moving large equipment on/off the plane and when needed, airdropping loads to any destination in the world. Our plane was upgraded by the load masters to include the creature comfort of a "Ready" otherwise known as a lavatory to us civilians.

During the flight to Niagara Falls, the tour attendees had the opportunity to visit the flight deck. The crew on this C-130 model included a pilot, copilot, engineer, navigator, and two loadmasters. Lots of gauges, switches, and levers to monitor. The four large propellers performed flawlessly, albeit somewhat noisier than the many commercial flights I'd flown on. None-the-less, the crew produced a smooth



*Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach*

### ***Civic leaders arrive at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base for the 2007 Civic Leader Tour.***

flight arriving in Niagara Falls a bit earlier than scheduled.

At the Niagara Falls Reserve Station (914th Airlift Wing) we were greeted by the Western N.Y. contingent. After lunch, a tour of the Niagara Aerospace Museum followed where we learned about the rich Western New York aviation history. Bell Aircraft Corporation (now owned by Textron) got its start in Gardenville, NY. The company had originally only produced airplanes, including the famous Bell X-1, before Arthur Young, a brilliant young inventor, built and successfully demonstrated a viable flyable helicopter model in the 1930's. The guided tour included the P-39 "Airacobra", a 1910 Curtiss "Pusher", and the world-famous "Rocket-Belt" of James Bond and Super Bowl fame.

Later that afternoon we toured the spectacular Niagara Falls. We viewed where the Niagara River draining from Lake Erie crashes over its crest line creating Niagara Falls. We also went below the Falls looking up from the Maiden Mist boat. We learned Niagara Falls is the most powerful waterfall in North America. It is comprised of two major sections: Horseshoe Falls, on the Canadian side of the border and American Falls on the U.S. side.

After breakfast Thursday morning, we were given demonstrations of key life support functions the 914th Airlift Wing provides in preparing our aircrews for their missions. I'm a technology guy and the Night Vision Goggle demonstration kicked butt! What a phenomenal advantage to have NVGs in battle with the enemy. Next up was the tour of the KC-135 Stratotanker. The KC-135's role is both as an aerial refueler (gas-station-in-the-sky) and as a transport for both passengers and cargo. Many of the tour group took the opportunity to lie on his or her stomach next to the flying boom operator as he described his role in refueling our numerous military aircraft in flight.

What a treat to learn how some of our fellow Americans spend their hours working!

Then it was back on the C-130, wheels up, and on our way to Minnesota arriving around noon.

My sincerest thank-you to Col. Tarchick and the men and women of both the 934th and the 914th Airlift Wings. This experience enlightened me to the skill and dedication of my fellow citizens who serve and protect our country in the all volunteer military.





# VIKING VOICES

*What are your plans for Thanksgiving, your favorite Thanksgiving food and tradition?*

*Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Edmond*



*"I'll be going to tech school at Lackland AFB, Texas. My favorite food is turkey and I like watching football. I'm a big Bears fan."*

**Airman 1st Class Waleed Kishta  
934 LRS**



*"I'll be spending time and eating with family members. My favorite food is pumpkin pie, and I enjoy visiting family member's houses."*

**Tech. Sgt. Mandy Peterson  
934 ASTS**



*"I'll be visiting family in Wisconsin for the first time in years. My favorite food is my grandma's ice cream cake with pumpkin pie. I hope to be playing softball or football on the farm, depending on the weather."*

**1st Lt. Brandon Schrader  
96 AS**



*"Eat, take nap, go to work, eat again. My favorite is Mom's apple crisp. All of our family members, including my new 'butterball' niece Victoria Faith, will be visiting Mom and Dad's house."*

**Senior Airman Mackenzie  
Schroeder  
934 ASTS**



*"Spend time with family, do as little as possible and watch football. My favorite food is mashed potatoes. Our tradition is going around the table and saying what we're thankful for."*

**Master Sgt. Jay Redfield  
934 MXS**





# Media fly on airdrop mission

By Master Sgt. Paul Zadach  
934 AW Public Affairs

On a perfect fall day last month, two television crews were able to fly with the Flying Vikings on a tactical airlift mission and share the experience with TV viewers across Northern Minnesota.

The reporters, from ABC and NBC affiliates in Duluth, began the day early by observing the mission planning phase and learning about what was in store for them: A tactical airdrop over the ARNO drop zone at the Camp Ripley Range in Northern Minnesota.

After receiving safety briefings, the TV crews were flown to the drop zone where they observed and filmed a mass Container Deliver System airdrop. The operation is conducted from approximately 300 feet above

ground level and requires precise coordination between the loadmaster, navigator and pilot in order to drop the cargo within about 50 feet of the target. The CDS packages are released and roll out the back of the aircraft as parachutes open via static lines immediately after exit. During a real world mission this technique would be

used to provide supplies to troops in remote areas.

Reporter Julie Pearce, who in her story described the aircrew members as looking like “modern day super heroes” said, “This was an absolutely awesome experience being able to fly with you. We are amazed by the skills you have and the pride you take in your jobs.”



*Clockwise from above: Fall colors provided a scenic backdrop for the airdrop. Maj. Bruce Wiskus, aircraft commander, traces the route of the air drop for reporters Julie Pearce (left) and Kim Johnson. Loadmaster Master Sgt. Chuck Brynteson signals that the cargo is ready for drop. The cargo is out the rear aircraft door on it's way toward the target at Camp Ripley.*

*Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Williams*





# What You Need To Know About VA Home Loans

Hello from the staff of the VA home loan program located at the St. Paul Regional Loan Center. From time to time we will be contributing an article about current trends in the real estate industry. We'll also offer some friendly tips on how you can best position yourself to take advantage of this great benefit. Our staff is committed to providing you with the best possible service, regardless of what type of home loan you ultimately decide is right for you.

We see a growing trend where mortgage lenders are using their influence to sway borrowers into loan products that may not be best for them.

Not a day goes by that we don't take a call from a veteran who was given financing that is inappropriate to their situation, wondering if we can help them.

As a consumer, you need to be aware that not all lenders are going to put your needs first. The consequences of taking bad advice on what will likely be the single largest purchase of your life can be devastating and take years to repair.

We believe that VA financing is your best option in nearly every home buying situation. The VA Home Loan Program was created to offer eligible veterans the opportunity for no money

down, 100% financing at market interest rates. While competing no money down products have surfaced, they usually end up costing you more both in the short term and the long term.

Listed below is a comparison between a VA home loan and the most common type of no money down loan that borrowers are obtaining, the 80-20 loan. The 80-20 loan involves taking out two loans simultaneously, one for 80 percent and the other for the remaining 20 percent of the loan balance. The 80 percent loan is

even take over your loan and reduce the interest rate to create a payment you can afford. Additionally, if you get a VA loan and the rates go down, VA offers an Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan that reduces your rate at a minimal cost to you, without forcing you to qualify again, or even have an appraisal. Simply put, it's the best thing going.

How do you find out if you are eligible for a VA loan? By contacting a mortgage lender that you decide you want to do business with. In general terms, if you qualify for some other

type of mortgage financing, you would probably qualify for a VA home loan.

	<b>VA Home Loan</b>		<b>Standard 80-20</b>	
<b>Financing</b>	100%		80%	20%
<b>Interest Rate</b>	6.50%		6.50%	9.00%
<b>Term</b>	30 year fixed		30 year fixed	30 year variable
<b>Loan Amount</b>	\$150,000		\$120,000	\$30,000
<b>Monthly Payment</b>	<b>\$948.10</b>		<b>\$758.48</b>	<b>\$241.39</b>

generally for the going market interest rate, while the 20 percent loan usually carries a variable interest rate several percentage points higher.

In the example listed above, you can see that the VA loan will save you roughly \$51.77 per month. VA also has regulations in place to protect the veteran borrower from paying excessive fees and charges at closing. The differences don't end there, however. Should something happen that prevents you from making payments, our office has 40 representatives that can help you work with lenders to get you back on track, or find other solutions. In some instances, VA can

Obtaining a VA loan shouldn't take any longer than with any similar mortgage product, and shouldn't be any more difficult. VA has flexible credit standards and income guidelines that rival any in the industry.

One final note: if your lender tells you that a VA loan isn't the best way for you to go, we'd like to hear from you. Call us at 1-800-827-0611 ext 3716, and we'll take the time to analyze your loan choices.

If a VA loan isn't your best option, we'll tell you. So...until next time, thanks for everything you do. We promise to help you to the best of our abilities.

## Important lodging information

### NOVEMBER LODGING ALERT

To follow is important information for ORE and non-ORE participants utilizing lodging in November. Occasional lodging will be offered to ORE participants returning from Gulfport on Sunday of the

ORE (18 Nov 07). This means you would be able to get a lodging room to rest prior to driving home. We anticipate having rooms available as early as 0900. Please contact your squadron if you will need occasional lodging.

### Reservations

All lodging reservations must be made before Wednesday before the UTA. With lodging needs increasing during UTAs it is necessary to adhere to these deadlines or availability of a lodging room cannot be guaranteed.

# Lodge makes history--wins Inkeeper Award

By Cristina Oxta  
934th Services Squadron

North Country Lodge made history recently by being the first Reserve base to win the Air Force Innkeeper Award.

North Country Lodge is a three-time Air Force Reserve Command Innkeeper winner and has competed at the Air Force level in the small base category in 2002 and 2004 and in the large base category this year. There are only two categories in the competition. This win ranks North Country Lodge as one of the top lodging facilities in the entire Air Force worldwide.

North Country Lodge General Manager Tammy Davis said whenever it competed for the Innkeeper award, the staff saw at it as a good learning experience, regardless of whether it won or not.

"Each time, we were more experienced and learned of our Air Force Innkeeper standards. Over the years, we created outstanding programs and just kept enhancing those already in place," Davis said.

In July, lodging experts from San Antonio, Texas, inspected each command level-winning facility, including North Country Lodge, to determine the winner at the Air Force level. Davis said confidence is one of the things that put North Country Lodge over the top to win the award.

"We didn't have to put on a show. We've been enhancing and improving our programs for years," Davis said. "We have in depth, detailed programs that show daily that we operate at the highest Air Force standards. While we were being evaluated, we were performing our daily operations and the team of inspectors followed us as we went about our daily jobs. They really saw us in action."

Davis added that the staff's attitude and personality also set it apart from the competition.

"Everyone always says it's the staff's friendliness and genuine caring attitude. None of it is put on. It's how we act everyday," Davis explained. "We didn't plan to be the winner and the fact that we are justifies what we feel every day at work, which is pride in ourselves and what we do. We really just do what the regulation tells us to do and add a little flavor of our own, and then there's our personality, which took us over the edge to be winners."

When Davis learned from Margo Leslie, chief of Services, that North Country Lodge won the award, she was elated. To keep the news a secret until it was announced at a wing commander's call the following day, they went into Davis' office, closed the door, and celebrated quietly.



Courtesy Photo

## **North Country Lodge is the first in AFRC to win the Innkeeper Award**

"We silently screamed and jumped up and down in my office and hugged and screamed some more! It was the absolute best secret I had to keep until the next morning when the news was officially announced," Davis said. "My staff went wild, as did the base personnel and our wing commander."

"There are about 100 lodging facilities in the Air Force throughout the world. Winning this award is like winning the Super Bowl. I am extremely proud of everyone in the Services organization for this achievement," said Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander.

Davis said the lodging staff is contented at winning the Innkeeper Award.

"We are so often told by our guests, our comment cards and other services members who stay here how outstanding the staff and facility are. This just makes us feel even better — officially recognized for what we love to do," she said.

In November, Leslie, Davis and North Country Lodge staff members will attend the award presentation at in New York City. Leslie said to see North Country Lodge win an Air Force award for the Reserve command had been a goal she wanted to meet before she retired.

"Lodging is the only area that we're competitive in with the active-duty Air Force because we don't have large enough programs to compete for the LeMay, Eubank or Hennessey awards. I've been at active-duty bases that competed for these awards.

"The excitement for your staff is just overwhelming," Leslie said. "I wanted our outstanding lodging staff to have the opportunity to go to New York to share in this excitement. They will fully understand what a major accomplishment this Air Force award is."



## AMXS

We would like to introduce three new members to our squadron. We first met Senior Master Sgt. James Orze during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM when he was part of the 440th and thought he would be a nice addition to our unit. Along with Sergeant

Orze, we are also happy to have Tech. Sgt. Daniel Kuehn and Staff Sgt. Andrew Lamia from the 440th. Sergeant Kuehn is a racecar driver who likes to cruise around in his Trans-Am and Sergeant Lamia is a Criminal Justice major and an avid hunter.

Seven members of our squadron are in Puerto Rico in support of Operation CORONET OAK.

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Todd Kopperud who was happily married October 26. Everyone is happy to see he finally found a woman who would put up with him.

We'd like to thank the Trash Haulers for playing at the MXG appreciation party, and all who pitched in to make it happen.

Staff Sgt. Chantell Chase reenlisted for another six years. We all look forward to working with her in the coming years.

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Pat Donahue who recently completed his course 12 Senior NCO Academy correspondence course.

Congratulations also to Tech. Sgt. Dennis Maddox, who was awarded our Maintainer of the Quarter award for the third quarter of 2007.

We also have seven individuals who scored excellent on their fit to fight test: Senior Airman Emily Miller (in the lead), Capt. Andrew Staut, Master Sgt. Dave Bugni, Staff Sgt. Zach Nelson, Senior Airman Britton McDaniels, Senior Airman Jason Prinsen, and Airman 1st Class Steven Prinsen.

## APS

Staff Sgt. Mathew Weber was promoted to Tech. Sgt. and Airman 1st Class Carlson was promoted to Senior Airman.

The 27 APS welcomed 20 new members from the recently de-flagged 34th Aerial Port, Milwaukee.

Senior Airman Lee Haines was

selected to represent 22 AF in Operation Seasons Greetings (OSG-07). Airman Haines will be traveling throughout the Middle East with the band Trick Pony, Singer Rio Piedras and some New England Patriot Cheerleaders in support of the deployed troops.

Twelve members of the 27 APS were awarded the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service ribbon.

Tech. Sgt. Schaller, Staff Sgt. Schok, and Staff Sgt. Hauch were awarded Top Tunner for their performance at 60K Loader training at Dobbins ARB.

Staff Sgt. Gordon Syzko was awarded a letter of appreciation from the Navy Reserve, US Naval Ship Repair Facility, Sasebo, Japan for his role in training Naval Reservists on Hazardous Material Handling Operations.

## CF

Members continued preparing for the upcoming ORI to be held at Gulfport, Miss.

Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Roger Gomez and wife Kaatji on the birth of their son Jace Alden Gomez September 12.

## MXS

Staff Sgt. Wallace of the Avionics section recently returned from a worthwhile and well-decorated stint in Germany back-filling for the deployed folks from the 86th MXS. On other Sergeant Wallace related news, he arrived home just in time to finish his wedding plans as he and his vivacious young fiancé Jenny will be getting hitched in January.

Kudos to all of our recognized folks this month: Tech. Sgt. Clint Hamann & Tech. Sgt. Dave Cadry both of the Avionics section and both sporting shiny new Commendation Medals.

Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Mikonowicz and Staff Sgt. Mak Lai-Shun of the Fabrication section and Senior Airman Matt Buse and Matt Adams of the Iso Dock. Senior Airman Adams was promoted just in time as he will be departing soon for slot working KC-135s with the Arizona Air Guard. Good news/Bad news, Master Sgt. Steve Lerbakken will be vacating his ART position in the avionics section for a job with the FAA

but will be staying with us in the Reserve program. Lastly, great news out of last month's First Sergeant Board: Master Sgt. Laurie Konz got the well deserved nod and will be taking the reins in January. She comes to us from our orderly room but has held many varied positions on base through the years.

## CES

Lt. Col. John Fitter, Chief Master Sgt. David Halverson and Senior Master Sgt. Larry Corrigan all received the well deserved Meritorious Service Medal. True warriors and shining examples. Several members from the squadron participated in a tabletop exercise held in the CE conference room. Also in attendance were other members from the 934 AW, as well as personnel from Youngstown ARB, Ohio.

Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Siendel was recognized by his peers as the "Best Readiness Emergency Management Superintendent" at the 934th. Congratulations Sergeant Siehndel.

## SVS

The Services unit would like to welcome back Senior Master Sgt. Stacy Campbell from successfully completing a 120-day deployment overseas. Services would like to recognize Master Sgt. Alan Schumacher who came to us from the 440 SVS in Milwaukee. Congratulations goes out to Senior Master Sgt. McGuire as well as Tech. Sgt. Gray for completing their 7-level school this past month. North Country Lodge also won the Air Force Innkeeper Award in the lodging base competitor category this past month. The Reserve lodging crew is not part of the daily operations, however, contribute greatly to the success of UTA weekends. A special thank to Staff Sgt. Lancaster and Senior Airman Branch who have adjusted their schedules to accommodate the change to a 24-hour operation. The Services Squadron would like to wish the best of luck to everyone participating in the ORE this coming month. The Viking Dining Facility will be open next month for normal operations.



# Viking Vibes



## Food delivery

The Services Club's pizzeria delivers pizzas, pasta, sandwiches and more anywhere on base, including lodging, Tuesdays through Fridays 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call (612) 713-1672 or 1655.

## Thanksgiving Buffet

The Officers' Club will serve up a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings Nov. 22. Seating is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-paid reservations required. Call (612) 767-1960 ext. 201. Tables will be held 15 minutes after the reserved time. Open to all ranks and military branches. Cost is \$19.95 for adults and \$8.95 for children ages 4 to 12. Children under age 3 eat free.

## Gift certificates

Need the perfect gift for someone special and you need a door prize for your squadron's holiday party? Give a club gift certificate. Visit the clubs or call the Officers' Club at (612) 767-1960 ext. 204 or the Services Club at (612) 713-1655.

## Texas Hold 'Em

A tournament will be held Nov. 17 at the Services Club at 6:30 p.m. No fees or pre-registration. No money played chips only. Prizes for winners.

## Tailgate

The Officers' Club will host an Army-Navy Game Membership Tailgate Party Dec. 1. The fun starts at 11 a.m. at the lounge. Enjoy great food and drink specials. This event is free for club members. Non-members pay \$10. Open to all ranks.

## Officers' Club Specials

Try the daily lunch specials at the club. There will be a different hot entrée, soup, sandwich and quiche each day.

Savor a tasty pulled barbecue sandwich for \$8.95 every Wednesday this month at the lounge. In honor of Aviation Month, every Thursday this month is Wing Night at the lounge. Eat as many yummy chicken wings as you can for only 25 cents per wing.

The 2-for-1 special Nov. 15 is top sirloin with green peppercorn sauce and roasted potatoes and vegetables for \$18.95.

## New Year's Eve Party

Swing to the music from the big band era and enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages and door prizes. Ring in 2008 at the Officers' Club with a balloon drop and champagne toast at midnight. The cost is \$40 per couple or \$25 for an individual. Pre-paid reservations required. No refunds for cancellations made after Dec. 26. Call (612) 767-1960 ext. 201. All ranks and military branches welcome.

## Fitness classes

The fitness center will offer circuit training/fitness boot camp classes Wednesdays at 11:30 and 3:30 p.m. The 6-week session starts Nov. 7. Indoor cycling classes will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. This 6-week session starts Nov. 5. These classes are free. For more details, call the fitness center at (612) 713-1496.

## Pig-Out Challenge

The Annual Pig-Out Fitness Challenge is from Nov. 5 to Dec. 21. Earn pigs when you workout. The individual with the most pigs at the end

of the challenge wins. Call Bill Garside at (612) 713-1470 for more information.

## Personal Training

Need a little help to rev up your fitness regimen? Get help from a certified personal trainer at the fitness center. Call (612) 713-1496.

## Massage

Relax and try a Swedish, sports or rehabilitative massage with a certified massage therapist at the fitness center. Rates vary. Pick up a brochure at the fitness center. Gift certificates are available. Call (612) 713-1496.

## Lodging shuttle

North Country Lodge offers shuttle transportation to and from lodging to the Mall of America, Veterans Hospital, Humphrey Terminal, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Officers' Club, Light Rail Station, 88th Regional Readiness Center and 133rd Air National Guard Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The shuttle will drop off and pick up at main entrances. The cost is \$5 per person for drop off and \$5 per person for pick up. The shuttle service is available to everyone on base, not just lodging guests. Lodging guests can make at the front desk. Those who are not lodging guests can call (612) 726-9440.

## Space A

Guests who want to use Space A at North Country Lodge must make reservations 30 days in advance if there is low occupancy for a three-day period. Reservations can be extended if space is available.

*Continued on next page*





## Club closed

The Services Club will be closed Nov. 22 and 23 and Dec. 25 and Dec. 26. The Officers' Club will be closed for lunch Nov. 23, but the lounge opens at 4 p.m. It will also be closed Dec. 24 to 26.

## Rentals

Rent sports equipment, trailers, canopies, tables, chairs, and more at the base Outdoor Recreation Center. The center is located at Bldg. 778. Club members get a 10-percent discount. Military units get a 20-percent dis-

count. Call (612) 919-5134.

## Fitness center hours

The hours of operation for the fitness center are Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., wing UTA Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and wing UTA Sunday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

# Bridge

*Continued from page 4*

work at the jail. He pulled a lot of overtime in order to back fill the licensed deputies who worked entry control areas at the site.

In an email to Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander, Sergeant Grates' supervisor, Detention Sergeant Brad Laudert, wrote, "I have concluded that Jeff's training and experience with your organization helped enable him to make sound professional decisions during an extremely chaotic event. I believe

that Jeff's actions positively affected the safety, security, and integrity of the accident site, thus allowing other first responders to accomplish their immediate goals of victim rescue at the scene."

"Sergeant Grates' quick thinking and decisive actions clearly show his knowledge, skills and genuine concern for helping others in a time of crisis, said Colonel Tarchick. "When I heard of his actions, I was proud but not surprised. Sergeant Grates is an example of the extraordinary people we have in the 934th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve living in the community and doing great things."

For his actions, he was awarded

two pins from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, one was the rescue pin and the other was a 35W bridge first responder pin. He was also given a commendation from Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek.

In retrospect, Sergeant Grates said, "I didn't do anything more than anyone else in my department. Everybody on the department wanted to help."

Sergeant Imsdahl reflected, "If I used one of my nine lives, that's great. This is probably one of a thousand different stories out there. I'm glad it wasn't me, but I do feel sorry for those who weren't as lucky."

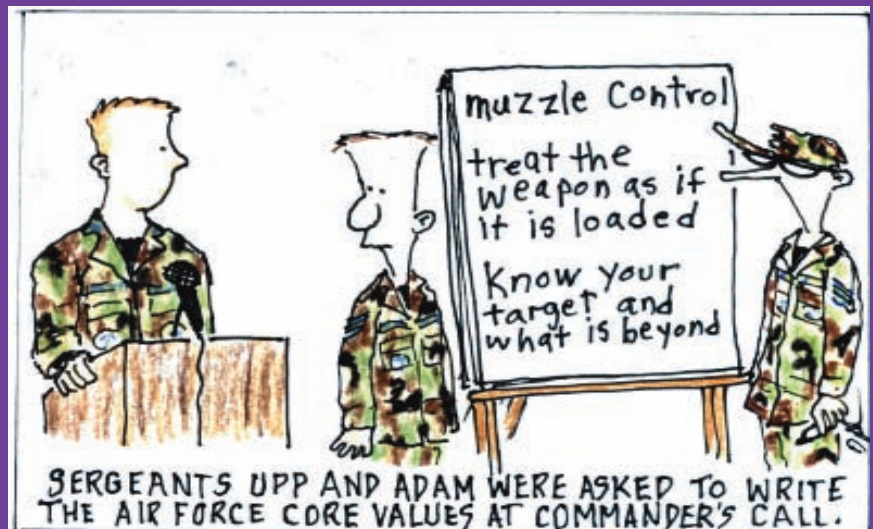


## British invasion

**Tech. Sgt. Tim Loftus, 96 AS life support, (right) talks with Royal Air Force Ground Engineer Pete Ofee. The British C-130J encountered a faulty gear indicator light and diverted to the 934th en route from Yuma, Ariz. to England. 934th Maintenance personnel helped to repair the problem**

*Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach*

## SGTS. UPP & ADAM



## Promotions

Senior Master Sgt. Aaron A. Mikonowicz	MXS
Senior Master Sgt. Troy P. Puckett	OSF
Tech. Sgt. Jacquelyn D. Sullivan	LRS
Staff Sgt. Justin E.D. Dodge	LRS
Staff Sgt. Derek J. Fore	96 AS
Staff Sgt. Laishun Mak	MXS
Staff Sgt. Buffy A. Moncel	SVS
Staff Sgt. Erik A. Puffer	AW
Senior Airman Matthew P. Adams	MXS
Senior Airman Matthew J. Buse	MXS
Senior Airman Lea M. Dierkhising	ASTS
Senior Airman Philip J. Helppi	MXS
Senior Airman Danielle L. Hermans	CES
Senior Airman Adriana N. Hollins	AES
Senior Airman Dennis P. Miao	ASTS
Senior Airman Joseph M. Wallington	ASTS
Senior Airman Paul D. Weber	SFS
Airman 1st Class Chou C. Lor	AES
Airman 1st Class Brandon L. Turner	OSF

## Decorations

### Air Medal

Staff Sgt. Michael C. Riemer

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Craig A. Bogan

Lt. Col. John L. Fitter

Senior Master Sgt. Stephen R. Kozlowski

Master Sgt. Paul C. Gulenchyn

Master Sgt. David D. Strande

Tech. Sgt. Martin M. Maher

Tech. Sgt. Troy D. Ranum

Tech. Sgt. Susan L. Sheveland

### Commendation Medal

Capt. Christopher S. Rieland

Senior Master Sgt. Steven A. Nicolai

Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Nason

### Joint Service Commendation Medal

Master Sgt. Scott A. Lewis

### Combat Action Medal

Tech. Sgt. Michael I. Humenny



Courtesy photo

## Three for the road

The three newest recruiters for Minneapolis Tech. Sgts. Craig Dunbar, Wendy Albee and Marcus Erickson pose at the Reserve Recruiting Training and Awards seminar at the Combat Training Center in Savannah, Ga. The weeklong program provided training and was also attended by AFRC wing commanders.





# Calendar

Time	Activity	Location	POC
<b>SATURDAY</b>			
0730 to 1600	Newcomers Flight	Per schedule	MSgt Besser, x1755
0800 to 1200	AFOQT/AFCT Testing	Bldg 852, room 206	SMSgt Lunde, x1501
0800 to 1430	MPF ID Cards Open	Bldg 852, room 105	TSgt Jorgensen, x1085
0830 to 1200	Disaster Prep, CONOPS Refresher	Bldg 760, room 130	SMSgt Johnson, x1934
0845 to 1130	Physical Exams	Bldg 840	SMSgt Hanson, x1642
0845 to 1130	Sick Call	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612 ?
0845 to 1130	ASTS Laboratory Draws (All lab draws)	Bldg 840	MSgt Kaufmann, 1633
0845 to 1115	Hearing Exams	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612
0900 to 1000	Documenting TQT	Bldg 760 room 130	SMSgt. Johnson x1934
0900 to 1130	Immunizations	Bldg 840	SMSgt Brausen, x1617
0900 to 1000	First Sergeants Council Meeting	Wing CC Conf Room	CMSgt Dalton, x1211
0900 to 1000	Unit Deployment Meeting	Bldg 760, room 194	TSgt Rice, x1788
0930 to 1130	Medical Outprocessing	Bldg 840	SMSgt Goetz, x1642
1215 to 1615	Certifying HAZMAT	Bldg 745, room 108	TSgt Rice, x1788
1230 to 1600	Physical Exams	Bldg 840	SMSgt Hanson, x1642
1230 to 1500	Immunizations	Bldg 840	SMSgt Brausen, x1617
1230 to 1330	Enlisted Advisory Council	Wing CC Conf Room	CMSgt Dalton, x1211
1230 to 1600	Hearing Exams	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612
1300 to 1600	Medical Outprocessing	Bldg 840	SMSgt Goetz, x1642
1300 to 1600	ASTS Labatory Draws (HIV only)	Bldg 840	MSgt Kaufmann, 1633
1300 to 1600	Sick Call	Bldg 840	MSgt Rebholtz, x1612
<b>SUNDAY</b>			
0700 to 0730	Catholic Services	Bldg 725, Chapel	Chaplain Svoboda x 1226
0830 to 1130	AF testing Appt. Only	Bldg 852 Rm 206	Gary Hayda, x1515
0830 to 0930	HRDC Meeting	Wing CC Conf Room	Col. DeWerff x 1204
0900 to 0930	Protestant Services	Bldg 725, Chapel	Chaplain Svoboda x 1226
1000 to 1100	Chief's Council Meeting	Wing CC Conf Room	CMSgt Dalton s 1211
0730 to 1600	Newcomers Flight	Per schedule	MSgt Besser, x1755
1215 to 1615	Increment Manager Training	Bldg 745, room 108	TSgt. Rice x1788
1300 to 1400	LOD Review Meeting	Bldg 760, CC Conf Room	SMSgt Atchley x1607
1500 to 1530	Catholic Services	Bldg 725, Chapel	Chaplain Svoboda x 1226

## UTA Dates

<u>Month</u>	<u>934th</u>	<u>133rd</u>	<u>88TH</u>	<u>Navy/Marines</u>
Nov	17-18, NA	17-18	3-4	17-18
Dec	1-2, 8-9	15-16	1-2	8-9
Jan	5-6, 12-13	12-13	5-6	12-13
Feb	2-3, 9-10	9-10	2-3	9-10
Mar	1-2, 15-16	15-16	1-2	8-9
Apr	3-6, 19-20	19-20	5-6	12-13
May	3-4, 17-18	17-18	17-18	10-11
Jun	7-8, 21-22	21-22	7-8	14-15
Jul	NA, NA	NA	12-13	19-20
Aug	2-3, 16-17	14-17	2-3	9-10
Sep	6-7, 20-21	20-21	6-7	13-14



## Club Membership Drive

Join the club now - Dec. 31 and get a gift, FREE 6-month membership &

a chance to win a \$250 Best Buy gift card.

Current club members who encourage an eligible individual to join the club receive a gift (one-time) & a chance to win a FREE 1-year membership.

The military branch with the most eligible people who join the club gets \$500 off an official function at the Services Club or Officers' Club. For more details, call (612) 767-1960 ext. 200 or (612)713-1680.

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Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100

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