

# VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

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**CELEBRATING THE  
MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**



# Would have, could have, should have

By Col. Eric W. Brandes  
934th Maintenance Group commander

In our current times of deployments, economic turmoil and leadership changes, emotions and stresses sometimes take control of our lives, often times not for the better.

Service Before Self is one of our Air Force Core Values and is worth living by however you can be of most value in the service to our country if you take care of you first.

That may sound contradictory but let me propose this. I've been in and around aircraft maintenance for over two decades and I can attest to the fact that aircraft are safer, more reliable and perform better when well maintained, so do you. No, this isn't a "push" for the Fitness Program, but more a proposal that extends beyond.

So what can you do to take care of you so when needed to perform you are the best you can be? To begin with don't be a "would have, could have, should have" person - unhappy, unprepared and regretful. Do something now! Well what?

First of all there are always opportunities to volunteer on projects within your church, unit or charitable organizations like the Veterans Administration, Red Cross, Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Why volunteer? In my opinion not much can be more rewarding than when you do for others without any

selfish motivation. You can meet new friends and acquire skills that may be beneficial now or in your future.

Second, complete a degree, take a course, or audit a class and of course make it a priority to complete your Professional Military Education.

I will take this opportunity to "push" the Community College of the Air Force for either an associate or bachelors degree. The school gives credit for much already accomplished at other academic institutions or even throughout your military career. Of course there are numerous other methods either local, on-line or some combination to build upon and increase your knowledge.

Education stimulates thought, opens the mind and as many have stated, "Education is something nobody can take away from you". Everyone is busy and seem to have no available time but "*if not now, when*"?

Third, embrace change. It's not that you have a choice anyway. That may sound harsh but let's face it, change is going to happen, "resistance is futile." I've been quoted as saying "Change is the status quo" - what do you think?

Admittedly there is no guarantee

any given "*change*" will be an improvement but not trying to improve will definitely not make things better.

While trial and error is often frustrating, waiting for the perfect solution is the same as doing nothing. If you don't improve ahead of, or at least at the same pace as your enemy, competition or peers, what will happen to you?

Think of self-improvement as becoming better able to adapt to external change by making internal changes to you.

Fourth, be happy and smile. It's often tough, but remember we all have our blessings and challenges and there has never been an assurance that life would be easy. The Word would be to: "seek harmony; be sympathetic; express brotherly love; be compassionate; live with humility."

Why? Because the opposite will harvest bitterness, regret and unhappiness, and you also won't be much fun to be around. Your family, co-workers, and fellow Airmen will appreciate it as well. This may all sound a bit too "touchy-feely" particularly coming from a maintainer.

The bottom line - do something now to take care of *you*. Don't worry about what you haven't done. Don't become a "could have, would have, should have."

## VIKING FLYER

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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.

## On the cover

Cover illustration of 934th military children in honor of April being designated 'Month of the Military Child.' (Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams)

# Mission first, people always

## Wilt takes command of Operations Group

By Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett  
934th Public Affairs



Saying, "I want to earn the trust of the people in the Operations Group and the Airlift Wing to be a successful leader," Lt. Col. Ronald Wilt took command of the 934th Operations Group March 15.

Along with that responsibility, he brings new ideas along with questions for the group.

"I am very impressed with the quality of the people and strength of the units," he said. "For the first 100 days, I plan no changes. Instead, I will listen and learn without questioning thoughts or judgment."

The new commander expects to ask a lot of questions and wants to learn the way the 934th Airlift Wing does business.

"Expect me to ask questions as I go around to each of the units to visit and learn," he said. "My questions are not intended to identify wrong ways of doing business. On the contrary, there are many ways to do business."

"I want to understand your processes. I want to understand your talents, and I want to understand your passions," he added.

He requests members of the 934th OG set their priorities in this order: family, civilian job, reserve.

"We must balance several things in our lives, which means we must set priorities," he said. "The asset that truly appreciates within any organization is

people. Systems become outdated, buildings deteriorate and machinery wears, but people can grow and develop."

The colonel is no stranger to running things. His previous assignment was Deputy Commander, 302nd Operations Group at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Furthermore, he is a C-130 command pilot with more than 7,500 flying hours on various models, and has served as an instructor pilot, flight examiner, ground safety officer and director of training at the squadron level during his career.

"Our job is to support the wing mission. I want to learn how we do business and understand how it is different from previous commands," he said. "I want to understand the interaction between groups and overcome barriers."

"There is an unwritten motto that I will try to follow as commander. It is, 'Mission first, people always.' I will not forget that," the colonel said.

A 1980 Air Force Academy graduate, Lt. Col. Wilt will be promoted to colonel April 1. Colonel Wilt's full bio can be found at [www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil).

## The IG Says...

Members should attempt to resolve Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA) issues and personal complaints at the lowest possible level using command channels before addressing them to a higher level or the Investigator General (IG).

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

# Air Force/Navy get **WET**, dry

## By 1st Lt. Lee Place 934th Operation Support Flight

The 96th Airlift Squadron demonstrated a “lean forward” approach toward its tactical airdrop mission by sending an aircrew to the U.S. Army Proving Grounds in Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 23 through 27 to test a new delivery system and software.

The 13-person team, which was comprised of members from the 934th Operations Group, 934th Operations Support



A loadmaster from the 96th Airlift Squadron readies the LCADS and SWAD systems for an airdrop in Arizona.

Flight, the 934th Maintenance Squadron and 96th Airlift Squadron, made the trek to Arizona specifically to test the new Low Cost Aerial Delivery System with Strata Wireless Activation Devices as well as Joint Precision Airdrop System software.

The LCADS is a one-time use, stand-alone airdrop system consisting of a modular suite of low cost airdrop items (made up of parachutes, containers, platforms and other air items). All components must be simple in design, maintenance and operation, and have low production and lifecycle costs to be included in the suite.

During the four days of flying the crew dropped seven of the LCADS each weighing around 10,000 pounds. Along with the LCADS system, the crew tested a new device called a SWAD, which allows the LCADS loads to free-fall with a smaller parachute to keep stable for a specified amount of time. At the end of that time the SWAD activates releasing the main parachutes which slow the load's decent rate creating a smooth landing.

“From a fresh out of school crew member it was exciting to be a part of testing new procedures and using new drop technology was great,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Donovan, 96th AS loadmaster.

JPADS utilizes the same global positioning technology that helps fighter and bomber aircrew deliver smart bombs with pinpoint accuracy. This allows cargo bundles dropped from C-130 aircraft to steer themselves to drop zones.

Traditionally, C-130 cargo airdrops are conducted anywhere between 400 and 1,000 feet. With JPADS, those same airlift aircraft have the potential to guide airdrop bundles from as high as 25,000 feet with the same, if not better, accuracy. Additionally, JPADS provides the capability to drop cargo to multiple, small drop zones from a single release point. This also keeps the aircraft and aircrews safer and out of range of the enemy.

Along with the LCADS system the crew tested a new version of JPADS software, which was loaded with a high-resolution wind forecast model. The computer also receives updated near real-time wind information. This information is communicated to the JPADS loads then re-broadcasts the aircraft's GPS coordinates to electronics fastened to the cargo so that when dropped, the load's GPS receivers guide the cargo to the desired point of impact. “This has been successful in Afghanistan and soon we hope it will be further utilized in the Iraq theater of operations,” said Maj. Daniel DeVoe, Air Mobility Warfare Center JPADS project officer.

## NAVY RESERVISTS TAKE 'PLUNGE'

by CMDM (SW) Dan Hartman  
Navy Operational Support Center - Minneapolis

Three members of the Navy Operational Support Center - Minneapolis joined seven of their Marine colleagues for a brisk swim on Feb. 28.

Braving 18 degree high temperatures and calling themselves the “Polar Headcases,” the team joined others at the Crystal Lake Beach in Burnsville, Minn., to “take the plunge” for a very worthy cause - Special Olympics. The NOSC-Minneapolis 'Polar Headcases' are HMC Eddie Fitzpatrick, YNC (AW) Rich Cole and AE2 (AW) Anthony Beguhl.



# FAMILY, SPOUSES PREPARE FOR DEPLOYMENT

Story and photo by

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams  
934th Public Affairs

Nearly 70 spouses of deploying reservists participated in the first new Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program March 7 held at the Base Fitness Center. Spouses received briefings from Col. Tim Tarchick, 934th Airlift Wing commander and Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Cluka. They also heard from representatives from such organization as Tricare, the American RedCross, Military Family Life Consultants, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, Military One Source, Operation Military Kids, Airman and Family Readiness, base legal and Public Affairs.

The program was created in 2007 as part of Governor Tim Pawlenty's Yellow Ribbon Task Force with the aim of helping Minnesota National Guard families cope with the stresses of the deployment cycle. It has now been adopted DoD-wide.

"This is a DoD program now," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Stoetaert, Yellow Ribbon Deployment Cycle Support representative. "This is geared towards members and their families who are deploying. It provides advice and support from such issues as what a deploying member does with their pet python when gone to home ownership issues. We're here for them. Whatever they need is what we try to get them."

Sergeant Stoetaert admitted having had such short-notice led to challenges to overcome in the inaugural program, but with the help of different people on base it became a success.

"Thanks to some great members from maintenance, services and public affairs, we had a pretty good program for such short notice. Everyone I worked with picked up their responsibilities and ran with it," he added.

During one particular briefing, where a 934th spouse talked



Don Norman, Military Family Life Consultant, discusses coping mechanisms during the Yellow Ribbon briefing at the Fitness Center March 7.

about the issues she dealt with during her husband's two deployments, drew the most interaction. Several of the attendees remarked about their similar experiences and were happy to be part of the program.

"A few people said they didn't have this information when their spouses previously deployed, and one woman said she now feels like part of the Air Force family," Sergeant Stoetaert said.

The sergeant said he's currently working towards making the program more uniform and addressing some logistical issues in order to allow other groups to take advantage of the program, including when individuals leave for deployment.

"Today's Yellow Ribbon Predeployment Seminar has allowed the Airmen's loved ones to receive vital information about the deployment experience directly from the service providers--through no filters or delay," said Vicki Lokken, director of 934th Airmen and Family Readiness. "Today, they are receiving priority treatment through the Yellow Ribbon program---they deserve no less."

For more information, contact Sergeant Stoetaert at (612) 713-1227.

## Deployed cops named 'Airmen of Month'

Two deployed 934th Security Forces Squadron members were named Outstanding Airmen of the Month for March 2009 for the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in Southwest Asia.

Master Sgt. Thomas Robelia (left) was named Outstanding Senior NCO of the Month and Senior Airman Paul Weber was named Outstanding Airman of the Month. (Courtesy photo)



## Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Provided by Staff Sgt. Michelle O'Dean, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Albert Anderson on becoming a flight examiner and to Maj. Michael LuCore, our newest flight instructor.

## Military Personnel Flight

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

Farewell to Tech. Sgt. Thomas Jorgensen who will be leaving his Air Reserve Technician/NCOIC of customer service position to work for the 934th Logistics Readiness Squadron as a civilian materials examiner and forklift driver. He will continue to work in Military Personnel Flight Customer Service as a traditional reservist. We wish him well.

Welcome to Airman Basic Stephanie Graybill. She will be assigned as a career enhancement technician in the MPF.

## Maintenance

Provided by Master Sgt. Eric Johnson and Staff Sgt. Jose Garza  
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

The 934th Comm/Nav shop supported Joint Precision Airdrop System aircrew training at Laguna Army Air Field, Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz. See story on page 4.

Senior Airman Jeremiah Harden volunteered to fill a shortfall at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to help out in the Fuel Systems repair shop

Congrats to Master Sgt. Don Henderson of the inspection dock and Tech. Sgt. Chuck Keller of the guidance and control shop were both awarded Achievement medals.

Congratulations to newlyweds Staff Sgt. Jeremy and Kandice (Leehy) Schroeder, who married on March 14. Jeremy is a member of the hydraulic shop.

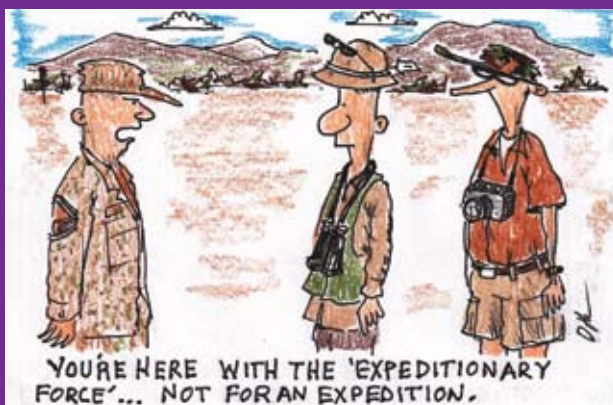
Congrats to Jeff Tompkins (Hydraulics), Jude Quinn (Wheel and Tire), and Jeff Benson (ISO dock) who were all promoted to Tech. Sgt. Mark O'Brian (Fuel Cell), and Eric Whiteaker (Metals Tech) were promoted to Staff Sgt.

The AGE shop welcomed Staff Sgt. Ben Hanel. He was prior service stationed at Luke AFB, Ariz.

Tech. Sgt. Ralph Rundquist of the propulsion section said farewell after 34 years of honorable service in the Air Force.

## Sergeants Upp&Adam

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson



## Civil Engineers

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

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Tony Lamia who was promoted to the well deserved rank of Master Sergeant. Tech. Sgt. Scott Novak and Staff Sgt. Brandy Beeman were recipients of the Commendation medal. CE welcomed its newest members: Staff Sgt. Benjamin Bunnell (Electric Shop) and Senior Airman Christopher Richardson (Fire).

Farewell to Master Sgt. Mike Lein who retired after 26 years of service to his country.

Thank you Senior Master Sgt. Sowers for stepping up and volunteering as the new squadron career advisor.

Staff Sgt. Toby Arfstrom (Fire) completed the Tech-Rescue 1 course.

## Logistics Readiness

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

Farewell to Capt. Daniel Johnson who was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and given the LRS Squadron plaque and wing coin.

Col. Tarchick awarded the NCO of the Year plaque to Staff Sgt. Matthew Countryman. (See photo on page 7)

Congrats to Tech. Sgt. Kevin Schulz and Senior Airman Jessica Lachman who were given their new promotion stripes.

Congratulate the following for being upgraded in their skill levels:

Senior Airman Elliot - Fuels 5-level CDCs

Staff Sgt. Taylor Debel - Transportation 7-level CDCs

Senior Airman Zachary Glunn - 3-level Supply School

Senior Airman Daniel Olson - 3-level Fuels School

Welcome Staff Sgt. Suzanne Alnes from active duty after being stationed in Spangdalem AB, Germany.

## Comm Flight

Provided by Maj. Rick Erredge, Unit Public Affairs Representative

We have three people deployed and three more preparing to deploy. Several members are in school status. We are getting ready to participate in Operation Global Medic with

**UTA dining facility menu now available online at [www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil](http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil)**

## UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88th	<u>Navy</u> <u>Marines</u>
May	2-3	13-16	2-3	16-17/30-31
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



Tech. Sgt. Ralph Rundquist, 934th Maintenance Squadron aircraft propulsion technician, retired after 34 years of service. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Popovich, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron fire chief, receives his retirement plaque from Col. Tarchick. The Chief retired after 26 years of service. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)



Lt. Col. Ronald Wilt receives the flag from Col. Tarchick, officially assuming command of the 934th Operations Group. Lt. Col. Wilt will be promoted to Colonel on April 1. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)



Staff Sgt. Matthew Countryman, 934th Logistics Readiness Squadron, receives the 934th Airlift Wing NCO of the Year plaque from Col. Tarchick. (Air Force Photo/ Staff Sgt. Joshua Moshier)



Master Sgt. Robert LaFreniere, 934th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, receives his retirement plaque from Col. Tarchick. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Schaefer, 934th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, receives his plaque from Col. Tarchick. Sergeant Schaefer retired after 31 years of service. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)

## Promotions to:

Senior Master Sgt.	Donald Scott	MXS
Master Sgt.	Darrell Knox	OSF
Master Sgt.	Dennis Maddox	AMXS
Master Sgt.	Chad Minkel	AS
Tech. Sgt.	Jeffrey Benson	MXS
Tech. Sgt.	Justin Guggisberg	SFS
Tech. Sgt.	Andrew Lamia	AMXS
Tech. Sgt.	Jude Quinn	MXS
Tech. Sgt.	Mailia Rousseau	APS
Tech. Sgt.	Kevin Schulz	LRS
Tech. Sgt.	Lance Scott	AS
Tech. Sgt.	Jeffrey Tompkins	MXS
Staff Sgt.	Jacob Hanggi	CF
Staff Sgt.	Mark O'Brien	MXS
Staff Sgt.	Aaron Tadewald	CES
Staff Sgt.	Benjamin Troyanek	SFS
Staff Sgt.	Eric Whiteaker	MXS
Airman 1st Class	Emily Garmager	AS
Airman 1st Class	James Osborne	SFS
Airman 1st Class	Jesse Guest	AES



Tech. Sgt. Craig Dunbar, 934th Recruiter, presents a "cool" Air Force Reserve snowboard to Jeremy Arsenault for his help in providing successful leads to recruiters and assistance in other recruiting programs. Mr. Arsenault is scheduled to attend basic training in July and plans to train as a medical technician. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

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