

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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

May 2009 Vol. 31, No. 5





Growing our replacements

By Col. Toby D. Hammer
934th Airlift Wing Inspector General

Spring is here and many begin to think of the planting and growing season. Those thoughts may be on growing green grass or on planting and growing vegetable or flower gardens. It may even be the thoughts of the farmers and their planting of crops or the landscapers planting and growing trees and bushes. The legacy for all these growers will be based on the results they will see in the autumn of this year. My thoughts find me also thinking about growing and legacy. These thoughts, however, are on growing our replacements and how the legacy of that effort will be seen in five to ten years from now, well after I am no longer an active member here at the 934th Airlift Wing. This article is a reflection on our responsibility to nurture and equip our replacements.

During the last two and a half years, I have had the fortunate honor of welcoming the Newcomers to our wing on Saturday mornings and introducing them to my role as the installation IG. I have closed these briefings with the same message that I told newcomers to the maintenance squadron when I was a commander. That message has been and is today that our newcomers are now the most important people in our wing, it is not the commanders, it is not our chiefs, it is not our first sergeants, it is not our field grade officers, it is not our Top Three enlisted, and it is certainly not me. The most important people on our wing are the newcomers; they are the future of this wing.

If this article sounds like it is heading towards the topic of mentoring, you

are very perceptive. While we do have a formal mentoring program that is outlined in Air Force Instructions and includes feedback and performance reviews, it does not completely answer the needs of growing our Airmen. I encourage all top-three enlisted and field grade officers to look, listen, and respond to needs of our young Airmen of both the enlisted and officer ranks by committing yourselves to serve our future wing's leaders as a mentor. This request is a follow-up to Col. Brandes' Viking Flyer article that suggested that an individual do all he or she can to continue their personal and professional development. My request is for all of us to step to help this professional development process. Choose to be a mentor, a sponsor for newcomers, a big buddy, a concerned comrade, a wingman, or if you want to call it by what it is, a servant leader. In order to assist in this mentoring effort, the 934th Human Resources Development Council is coordinating two opportunities for continued development; a two-day enlisted workshop and quarterly company grade officer workshops.

The enlisted workshop will be a two-day workshop for interested enlisted Airmen that is currently planned to occur in November. This workshop is developing into an intense career developing seminar that will have a host of speakers and a wide range of topics.

It will be professionally interactive as well as socially interactive.

To read the rest of this story
www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil

I am ...

... Staff Sgt.
Liz Loveless,
a Financial
Management
budget assistant

- a hard worker
who loves meeting
new people and
working in finance

- an Airman who
goes above and
beyond

... A Flying Viking

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VIKING FLYER

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

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Joint Air Reserve Station, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100. For more information, call (612) 713-1217.

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

All photos are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

On the cover

Staff Sgt. Kelly Jabas, load-master, 96 airlift squadron, demonstrates proper parachute release and water entry during water survival refresher training at Key West, Fla. For more, see page 4. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett)



Tech. Sgt. Matthew Russell (left front) and his team of Staff Sgt. Richard Melroy (front) and (left to right back) Staff Sgt. Jesse Werner, Master Sgt. Damion Kosmosky and Staff Sgt. Troy Olson bring home the bucking bronco trophy. (Courtesy Photo)

APS takes trophy in ROUNDUP

By Staff Sgt. Michael Edmond
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 27th Aerial Port Squadron edged out 17 Reserve AP squadrons to win the inaugural 22nd Air Force AP Roundup held March 13-15 at Dobbins AFB, Ga.

On its way to taking home a bucking bronco trophy, the 27 APS placed in the top three in all but two of the six challenges used to determine the most proficient unit. They took first in the in-transit visibility event.

"Every team that went down there worked hard," said Tech. Sgt. Matt Russell, the 27 APS team leader. "One of the things that made us stand out was that we did everything as a team."

They practiced together as well as performed their regular Reserve training as a team, and at the competition they made sure all their uniform combinations matched. This team-mindedness led to their team having great cohesion, said Sergeant Russell.

"I'm really proud of my team for doing as well as we did," he said.

The Roundup competition consists of six events, four directly related to the aerial port job. The engine running on-load/offload challenge was the most intense event.

"The props are spinning and the wind is blowing, and we had to load the C-130 as quickly, efficiently and safely as possible," said Staff Sgt. Justin Melroy, one of the team members.

Even though chains on board seemed to be flying out of control and people and cargo were moving all around, each person acted as a cog in a machine and the event went smoothly, said Sergeant Russell.

"Everyone had a role and a job and they worked together to perfection," he said.

The second event is ITV, which tests a team member's ability to take a given scenario and come up with a solution.

The material handling equipment event pushed the team's ability to maneuver the large 25K Halverson through a course and then load and off load cargo.

Read the entire story at
www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil

get real

Water survival training goes beyond the class



The rescue basket is lowered from a Navy H-60 helicopter during the hoist operations phase of water survival at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla. Water survival training is required for all air crew and aero medical personnel every two years.

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett
934th Public Affairs

Four months of planning and coordination between two military services came together for dozens of members of the 934th Airlift Wing in a day of hands-on water survival training at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla. during the April Unit Training Assembly.

Students received training in numerous aspects of water survival during the one day, 10-hour refresher course that is required every two years for all aircrew and aeromedical personnel. What made this event special was not the location or balmy weather. Rather, this training was unique because it was the real deal.

“There is a huge difference between a classroom



Staff Sgt. Jolene Koch, (left) 934th Aeromedical Evacuation entering and exiting the one-man life raft. during the canopy crawl



Flares illuminate the morning as training begins at the chute/vest station.

what you have to do in it but actually use equipment for real. It's different,” he said. “Hands-on training is the best we can provide people with,” said Maas, C-130 pilot 96th Airlift Squad

Instructors from crew flight equipment cycled four groups through stations that included water entry from a flotation device, life vest refresher, signaling devices, one-man life raft, and 20-man life raft life hoist.

“It was very well organized, the parachute and getting hoisted into the water by the helicopter probably the best I

could get,” the captain added.

The Training Stations

Four groups cycled through six training stations during the evolution. Each station came complete with instructor, written information and hands-on equipment to build proficiency.

Chute/Vest Station

At this station, students were reacquainted with the contents of the life vest which includes inflatable floats, signaling devices, radio, food and water.



AW2 Enrique Davis, Navy rescue swimmer, takes some fresh water hydration during the helicopter rescue training.



The luminescence of a sea dye marker (foreground) is clearly visible, even at shallow angles, while smoke is used from shore to signal rescuers.



A wet, hungry and exhausted Senior Master Sgt. Shane Lohmann, readiness NCOIC for the 934th AES, rides back to shore after completing a 10-hour day of water survival training.

water under a parachute canopy and practiced the proper method of escaping a parachute without becoming entangled in it. The one-man life raft was also part of this station where students practiced entry and exit of the one-man life raft.

20-man life raft

At this station, students were dropped in the water a short distance from the raft and had to swim against the gulf current to the raft and enter it.

Once on board the raft, they executed the immediate action steps, assisted others and deployed the sea anchor. They also learn how to make sea water into fresh water using the water purification system, according to Senior Master Sgt. Troy Puckett, superintendent of the aircrew flight equipment section who also coordinated the training.

Parachute Ops

Students used actual parachute harnesses and were lifted hundreds of feet in the air via parasail. Hand signals from the boat told students to *prepare* for water entry by flipping down the buckles and *release* which meant to pull the rings releasing the student from the parachute. Some students were dragged in the water like fish bait to understand a landing in windy conditions.

Helicopter Hoist

As in an actual rescue, complete with Navy divers, students swam against rotor wash, gulf

current, saltwater spraying in their face and the roar of the H-60 hovering 75 feet above, to enter the rescue basket. They were then hoisted up to the helicopter, or at least half way, and then lowered back into the water.

“It was incredibly realistic,” said Staff Sgt. Jolene Koch, medical technician with the 934 AES who just completed her first refresher course since completing flight training in a pool.

A long day

Even with the help of a half dozen support personnel, it was a long day; 12 hours for instructors, 10 hours for students. It went off without a hitch.

Not just water survival

Water survival was not the only training that occurred on this trip. AES personnel conducted two training scenarios of their own during the 4.5 hour flight from Minneapolis to Key West and two more on the way back, said CPT Jennifer Aasland, Director of Operations at the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Preparedness

Students and aero medical technicians were not the only ones who benefited from the event.

“I think it makes us better instructors,” said Staff Sgt. Lai-shun Mak, aircrew flight equipment technician.

“One of those deals where you work hard and play hard. There is no better feeling. You learn a lot and have a great time,” said Captain Maas. “It was awesome!”

“When you have fun, you retain more and that makes you better prepared,” said Sergeant Koch.

Military Personnel Flight

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

Tech. Sgt. Nick Glatz returned from personnel apprentice technician school.

Congrats to Staff Sgt. Mark Himmer who received the first Unit Excellence Award. Sergeant Himmer is the new Career Enhancement Chief.

Logistics Readiness

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

Congratulations to Senior Airman Laura Cowley in completing the Supply 3-Level Course with 97 percent and Staff Sergeant Brian Link passed the Vehicle Operations 7-Level CDCs.

Welcome to newcomers into the LRS Squadron: Staff Sergeant Salina Padilla from the 934th Communications Flight, Staff Sergeant Paul Lucas from the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and Staff Sergeant Erik Swan coming into the Air Force Reserve from active duty at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Civil Engineers

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

Congrats to retiring members Senior Master Sgt. Paul Sackmann (training), Master Sgt. Tyler Coddington (electrician), Master Sgt. Thomas Whiteford (utilities).

CE sent three teams, over the span of six weeks, to Vandenberg AFB, Calif. to build hardened shelters at their bivouac site. The Readiness/Emergency Management Flight spent two weeks at the March AFB, Calif. Regional Training Site receiving training on numerous pieces of HazMat and chemical detection equipment as well as recon and room entry procedures.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Day, Staff Sgt. Aaron Locke, and Senior Airman Matthew Heiman all successfully completed the USAF Reserve Leadership Development Program

Services

Provided by Tech. Sgt. Timothy Piepho, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Congratulations to Staff Sgts John Dufresne and Brandon Lancaster and Tech. Sgt. Carlton Lebroke who recently reenlisted.

Sergeant Fahey left for deployment to Iraq and was assigned as the recreation fitness director.

Senior Airman Melissa Grant will be deploying to Iraq, then later she will be joined by seven more members: Tech. Sergeants Crystalrose Dodson, Joel Harrington, Carlton Lebroke, Michael Johnson and Timothy Piepho and Senior Airmen Randy Williams, and Naomi Magner who will be augmenting the Army.

Congratulations to Sergeants Lebroke and Piepho, and Senior Airman Michael Berish on passing their career development courses. Special recognition to Staff Sgt. John Barrett, who scored 95 percent.

There were three additional members who successfully completed the requirements to be upgraded to 7-level: Staff Sgt. Sandy Anderson, Sergeant Dufresne, and Sergeant Lancaster.

There were 12 members who travelled to Hawaii for 18 days. Their time was spent training in the dining facility, flight kitchen, lodging, fitness center and readiness. The team was there to help augment and support the base which was preparing for their ORI in the next few weeks.

In May, there will be two groups going simultaneously on annual tour to England and the other to Alaska for Deployment for Training. They should have a unique opportunity to see parts of the world that most will be experiencing for the very first time.

Congrats to Senior Airman Yakini Branch on the birth of a boy.

FIRING RANGE OFF LIMITS

The 934th Airlift Wing firing range, located on Fort Snelling grounds, is off limits to unauthorized personnel. Trespassing is illegal and dangerous due to gunfire. For additional information, contact 934th Combat Arms program manager, Master Sgt. Gamboni at ext. 1815.

Sergeants Upp&Adam

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN



Wow! YOU TWO REALLY TOOK 'GIVE WHAT YOU CAN' TO HEART, DIDN'T YOU!

UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	88th	Navy Marines
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

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

VE-DAY REMEMBERED— THE 96TH CONNECTION

On May 6, 1945, Edward Kennedy, chief of the Associated Press western front staff dispatched the scoop of a lifetime. At General Dwight Eisenhower's headquarters at Reims, France, General Gustaf Jodl, German army chief of staff, signed the terms of surrender at 7:41 p.m. central war time. The European Theater of World War II was officially over.

Less than 12 hours later, at 8:35 a.m. central war time on May 7, Kennedy's dispatch was released by the New York desk of the Associated Press, and the world went wild with joy.

The Minneapolis Morning Tribune ran the headline, "Announcement Due at 8 A.M.: Today Will Be VE-Day" in its May 8th edition, while its cross-town rival, the St. Paul Pioneer Press ran with the headline, "City Set To Mark V-E Today." Hundreds of other newspapers, like the Rochester Post-Bulletin in Minnesota, ran with a simple headline declaring, "President Announces Victory."

President Harry Truman joined British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Russia's Marshal Josef Stalin in issuing a simultaneous joint proclamation of Germany's unconditional surrender.

After 16 years of depression and war, the announcement sparked celebrations worldwide including thousands gather-

ing at Trafalgar Square in London and New York's Times Square. At the celebration in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, revelers were so excited that a riot broke out.

In Minneapolis, grocery, meat, hardware and liquor stores were closed all day on May 8, and the Cargill Corporation let their employees leave at 12:30 p.m. Near the Foshay Tower on 9th Street and Marquette Avenue, paper and streamers were thrown out of office windows like a ticker-tape parade in celebration of the European theatre's end.

But the war was not finished for pilots and crew of the 96th Troop Carrier Squadron, the precursor to today's 96th Airlift Squadron. Flying C-47 Skytrain cargo aircraft with the large wartime marking 6Z stenciled on the left side of the fuselage, the squadron was assigned to the 440th Troop Carrier Group of the 9th Air Force's 50th Troop Carrier Wing. The 96th Troop Carrier Squadron performed admirably during Operation Neptune, more commonly known as D-Day, for their role in dropping paratroopers from the 3rd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division on June 6, 1944. By December 1944, the squadron airdropped supplies to ground infantry units fighting at Bastogne, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge, and was stationed at Orleans, France, 133 kilometers southwest of Paris, when Germany surrendered.

Cpl. William G. Wildes, a special vehicle operator for the squadron, laughed when he recalled his activities on that day. "I was driving a beer truck back from Paris. We went to Paris to get beer and found out about the war's end when we got back to quarters. I guess the war was over when I drove through the gate," he said.

Read the rest of the story at www.minneapolis.afrc.



Master Sgt. Pam Russell receives her retirement plaque from Lt. Col. Leonard Burrigge, 934th staff judge advocate. Sergeant Russell retired with more than 24 years service. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer)

Promotions to:

Master Sgt. John Brown	Airlift Wing
Master Sgt. Steven Gray	Services
Master Sgt. Stephen Hutchinson	Maintenance
Master Sgt. Brian McInnis	Security Forces
Master Sgt. Karla Provost	Aeromedical Staging
Master Sgt. Douglas Ranke	Security Forces
Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Huber	Maintenance
Tech. Sgt. Angela Fahey	Services
Tech. Sgt. Derrick Warren	Operation Support
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Russell	Aerial Port
Tech. Sgt. James Schneider	Security Forces
Tech. Sgt. Amanda Martinson	Operations Group
Staff Sgt. Nathan Vanegen	Aerial Port
Staff Sgt. Sara Beale	Communications
Staff Sgt. Kristoffer Bornetun	Aerial Port
Staff Sgt. Nathan Raab	Operations Support
Staff Sgt. Ryan Ricci	Aerial Port
Senior Airman Gabrielle Cohrs	Aeromedical Evacuation
Senior Airman Miles Kuykendoll	Logistics Readiness
Senior Airman Nicholas Muller	Aeromedical Evacuation
Senior Airman Todd Plote	Operations Support
Airman 1st Class Alfredo Arroyo	Logistics Readiness
Airman 1st Class Carrie Williamson	Aeromedical Staging
Airman 1st Class Alexander Hennen	Aircraft Maintenance

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To the family of:

MARINE LANDING



Marine Cpl. Alexander looks for his family at the redeployment ceremony here April 18. More than 200 Marines were welcomed home at a ceremony in the 934th Airlift Wing hangar. The Marines, assigned to the 471st Marine Wing Support Squadron, Marine Forces Reserve, here returned after being deployed for more than nine months. The Marines were part of a Provincial Security Force at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, where they provided security for the installation both on and off the base. The Marines also reinforced embassy and port security at their deployed location. The Marines and their families were supported by the 934th Airlift Wing during their initial deployment and return. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett)