



1948-1998

Vol. 20, No. 2/February 1998

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.



Master Sgt. Tim Turner

Cover story:
***Loadmaster
helps avoid
midair
disaster***

▶ See Page 13

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Vol. 20, No. 2
February 1998

Col. Michael Gjede,
wing commander
Lt. Col. Kristin Rudin,
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Mark Davidson,
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Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch,
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Master Sgt. Tim Turner,
Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly,
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Tech. Sgt. Greg Krajewski,
Staff Sgt. Robert Walz,
photographers

On the cover

Tech. Sgt. Bill Rudgers, 96th Airlift Squadron, earned an Air Force Commendation Medal for his courage in avoiding a midair disaster. For the story, see Page 13.



Master Sgt. Tim Turner

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UTA schedule

March 7-8	August 1-2*
April 4-5	Sept. 12-13
May 2-3	* UTA pay
June 6-7	should be
July 11-12	deposited by:
	Feb. 18.

*Unit Compliance Inspection

Commentary

Get your ducks in a row

Preparation is key to achieving your career goals

Col. Michael Gjede
Wing Commander

Most career opportunities are created by somebody vacating a position above you.

This usually has a "ripple effect," meaning one promotion, retirement or move creates a whole chain of moves down through the wing, group and squadron. The point here is most of these events can be forecast with a fairly high degree of accuracy.

This should be important to you, because it allows you to "plan" your career. You should be able to set goals for yourself to help you get where you want to be.

Obviously there are certain things to do along the way, especially if you're looking for a top leadership position. It doesn't matter whether you're an officer or enlisted — there are many squares to fill on the way to the top. There are also many pitfalls, but we'll ignore those in this article.

Important squares include

'Year of the Enlisted Force'

First-line managers key to combat readiness

Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh
Chief, Air Force Reserve Command,
Commander, Headquarters AFRC

Air Mobility Command has selected "Year of the Enlisted Force" as their theme for fiscal year 1998. Because we provide the largest share of our combat ready forces to AMC, this is a unique opportunity for us to focus as well on the enlisted men and women who distinguish themselves daily.

Air Force Reserve Command shares an important common factor with every other military organization; without our enlisted force, we could not exist. The professionalism,

participation, Professional Military Education, additional duties and always doing the task at hand to the best of your ability. Stepping up to a challenge when nobody else volunteers will certainly get you noticed. Assume a leadership role every chance you get.

More importantly, though, is letting your commander or supervisor know what your goals or career aspirations are. This allows the decision makers to not only know you are interested but will facilitate some mentoring along the way.

In the 934th, we've just started a formal mentoring program, and it promises to be successful. I predict rapid expansion as the word filters down through the units.

The bottom line is: Plan now for your career. Don't wait until the squadron commander or first sergeant job comes open to start thinking about your eligibility. It may be too late to be competitive.

Plan now — your future is in your own hands. □

technical skill and dedication to duty of these specialists, technicians and first-line managers are key to our combat readiness.

This is an excellent opportunity to publicly recognize the contributions of our enlisted force and for all of us to better understand the important roles they play. Our enlisted corps has been the backbone of the Air Force Reserve from the beginning.

As we celebrate our golden anniversary, I encourage all enlisted reservists to renew commitments to service and professionalism. With a new century around the corner, your continued efforts are crucial to our continued success. □

World

C-130 review concludes

The team appointed to conduct a review of flight safety issues associated with the C-130 aircraft has completed its report.

The team was also chartered to look into the Nov. 22, 1996, accident involving the HC-130P from the 939th Rescue Wing, Portland International Airport, Ore., that crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

Key recommendations from the report included:

- ▶ A review is needed for changes following the 1997 transfer of the fleet from Air Combat Command to Air Mobility Command.

- ▶ Standardization is needed for aircraft modifications, instrumentation, manuals, digital flight data recorder parameters and life support equipment requirements.

- ▶ Ditching/bailout procedures should be reviewed.

- ▶ Technical orders need complete rewrites and need to convert from paper format to digital.

- ▶ Selected wreckage from King 56 – the Portland aircraft – should be recovered, particularly the wing section, fuselage tanks and cockpit fuel gauges. *(Air Force News Service)*

'PayCall' makes pay queries simple

Reserve members who need to check payroll deposits or other pay-related matters now have the "PayCall" system at their command.

PayCall, an integrated voice response system, provides information on amount of last paycheck, last tour dates, reissued W-2s, federal and state tax information and deductions.

First-time callers have to answer a series of questions to validate identity and receive a personal identification number. Call 1-800-755-7413 or DSN 926-1281. *(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)*

Key Reserve positions see action

Maj. Gen. John Batbie Jr., director of plans at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, has been appointed as the Air Force Reserve member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board. Created by Congress in 1952, the 24-member board serves as the principal policy advisor to the secretary of defense on reserve component matters. *(AFRCNS)*

In a related matter, the secretary of defense has established the positions of assistants to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard and Reserve matters. Each of the two positions will be held by a major general or rear admiral for a term of two years, which may be extended for an additional term. The nomination process is now in progress. *(AFNS)*

Civil Air Patrol needs reservists

Civil Air Patrol-United States Air Force urgently needs enlisted and officer Category E reservists. Nationwide positions range from acting as liaison between CAP and the Air Force during search and rescue operations, to teaching air and space science to young people and helping run a cadet flight

encampment. The Category E program offers great flexibility, with no annual tours or mandatory weekend unit training assemblies.

For more information, call **Joyce Deplanche** at (334) 953-5225 or DSN 493-5225. *(AFNS)*

Junior officer seminars planned

The Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminar series for 1998 has been announced and is listed below. Detailed information on requirements of each session is available from the JOLDS electronic mail site, **AFRC.JOLDS@afres.af.mil** or the Internet, **http://www.afres.af.mil/~qi/qijolds.htm**

- ▶ **Feb. 26-March 1:** Leadership weekend, Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla., **Carl.Obenland@afres.af.mil**

- ▶ **April 23-26:** Spring session, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., **Deborah.Reddish@afres.af.mil**

- ▶ **May 7-10:** "Leading Effectively," McGuire AFB, N.J., **tbchafe@juno.com**

- ▶ **June 11-14:** "Managing Large Organizations," Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., **jjohnso@ipui.edu**

- ▶ Dates/theme to be determined: Peterson AFB, Colo., **Sandra.Featherston@cos.afres.af.mil**

- ▶ **June 27-July 3:** Swedish Military Academy, Stockholm, Sweden, **Carl.Obenland@afres.af.mil**

- ▶ **Aug. 7-9:** "Applying JOLDS Principals to Real World Application," Youngstown Municipal Airport, Ohio, **Bart.Elsea@yng.afres.af.mil** or **Kim.Sheehan@central.epa.ohio.gov**

- ▶ **Sept. 24-27:** "Leadership and Performance," Charleston AFB, S.C., **Wendy.Liles@chs.afres.af.mil**

Active duty 'must run' items announced

Air Force News Service issued the following "Must Run" articles for base newspapers:

- ▶ **A new housing allowance system** called the basic allowance for housing took effect Jan. 1 as part of the 1998 National Defense Authorization Act. BAH is a monthly housing payment, replacing the current basic allowance for quarters and variable housing allowance. Dramatic changes will not be seen immediately, however, as they will be phased in over six years.

The new allowance is intended to provide uniformed service members with housing compensation based on comparable civilian housing costs. BAH rates take into consideration rank, dependency status and location. The rates are based on housing costs for civilians with comparable income levels residing in the same area.

- ▶ **Annual variable housing allowance surveys** are no longer required of active-duty members. Nationwide housing cost data that will be used to compute basic allowance for housing will be collected by a private contractor.

- ▶ **A new system crediting active-duty members** for overseas temporary duty will enable them to earn short- or long-tour credit to help avoid non-volunteer selection for overseas assignments.

(Continued on next page) ▶

Briefs in Blue

(Continued from previous page)

▶ **The officer assignment system** faces possible overhaul, depending on recommendations from a three-month review wrapping up in March. Officials said key elements sought include stability, predictability and fairness.

▶ **The Air Force needs recruiters** and encourages interested people to see the recruiting web site for information: <http://www.rs.af.mil/rtr.htm>

Local

Around the wing

▶ **Master Sgt. Edward Johnson**, 934th Communications Flight; **Tech. Sgt. Darrell Knox**, 96th Airlift Squadron; and **Staff Sgt. Candy Sommers**, wing recruiter, participated in a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., on Jan. 19. They served as ushers for the event, which included a rally, awards ceremony, march and speeches.

▶ **Wage and tax statements** – W-2s – were scheduled to be mailed to all Reserve members by Jan. 12. Anyone who has not received their W-2 should call military pay, Ext. 1407 or 1411, or use the "PayCall" system. (See news brief, previous page.)

▶ **The Base Service Store** closed on Jan. 6. Each organization should have an International Merchant Purchase

Authorization Card for use in purchasing office supplies and any other items or services costing less than \$2,500.

▶ **Rothe Development, Inc.**, has announced recent promotions on base. **David John** has been promoted to assistant local area network administrator. **Eric Trimble** is now the wing information protection manager, following the departure of **Rick Ensenbach**. **Deborah Carriger** is now the alternate wing information protection manager.

Also, **Carol Cwikla** was selected as the first employee of the quarter for October through December 1997. The award was based on votes from fellow workers.

▶ **The 934th Airlift Wing firing range**, located on Fort Snelling grounds, is off-limits to unauthorized people. Trespassing is illegal and dangerous due to gunfire. For details, call the 934th Security Forces Squadron, Ext. 1812 or 1806.

Holiday charity donations tallied

▶ **The 934th Airlift Wing Toys for Tots** drive received 356 toys, delivered by members from 934th Recreation Services and 27th Aerial Port Squadron to the KARE-11 television studio's pickup site on Dec. 18.

▶ **Base civilians donated** 1,300 pounds of food and \$85 to the Trinity Mission in Minneapolis Dec. 16. The donations were collected during the the annual holiday party, hosted by the 934th Civilian Welfare Fund Council, chaired by **Morrie Henjum**, base transportation. □

Viking Search:

Financial management apprentice



Senior Airman Todd Littfin has worked in finance for a year now.

Clip this for a colleague or family member and assist recruiters in their search for new 934th Airlift Wing reservists.

Air Force Specialty Code/unit: 6F031, 934th Airlift Wing.

Job description: Primary responsibility is funds accountability, requiring accuracy and attention to detail. Perform broad span of financial services/management duties, including travel pay, military pay, paying and collecting, accounts control, commercial services, budget and financial analysis.

Civilian job equivalent: Accountant, cost analyst, auditor, bookkeeper, budget analyst, human resources/payroll.

Training:

▶ Twelve weeks, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

▶ Additional two week training courses are available at Sheppard.

Special requirements: No record of conviction by a civilian court, nonjudicial punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or conviction by military courts for offenses involving larceny, robbery, wrongful appropriation or burglary.

What's great about the job:

▶ Temporary duty assignments available at various active-duty bases.

▶ Extended tours available for trained people overseas.

▶ Plenty of upward mobility for long-term reservists.

▶ Frequent participation in annual Air Force competition, Top Dollar.

▶ Customer service role enables interaction with many people from all over the base.

Recent travel locations: California, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas.

Contact: 934th Recruiting Office, 612 713-1456. □

Wing leadership changes soon

The 934th Airlift Wing should see a change of command sometime in March as **Col. Michael Gjede**, wing commander, has been selected as the new commander of the 910th AW, Youngstown, Ohio. The 910th currently flies eight C-130Hs.

Col. Richard Moss, 913th AW, Willow Grove Air Station, Pa., has been selected to command the 934th. Moss, a command pilot, has served as commander of the 913th since September 1992.

Moss served eight years on active duty as an C-135 pilot. He joined the Reserve in 1979, flying the C-123K at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio. He became an air reserve technician there in 1986, serving in positions including pilot, flight instructor, training officer, tactics officer, aerial spray pilot and chief of standardization/evaluation. In 1988, he became chief of tactical airlift operations at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga.; and in April 1990, he became deputy commander for operations, 932nd Aeromedical Airlift Group, Scott AFB, Ill. He was promoted to his present rank in 1994.

Born in Kokomo, Ind., Moss is married to the former **Cathy Elliott** of Fort Wayne, Ind.

See a special interview with Gjede, Page 7. Details on range of command ceremonies were not available at press time.



Moss

Base construction projects begin

Cherie Huntington

Public Affairs

The 934th Airlift Wing plans a busy spring as several major construction and renovation projects begin.

Projects include a military clothing sales store, fitness center, 18-line laser indoor firing range and renovation of the lodging facility, according to "**Dodd**" **Sadeghi** and **Les Canarr**, base engineers.

► Site work for a 2,500 square foot military clothing sales store has already started, located across the street from the Base Exchange at the north end of the parking lot. The facility will service all military branches, making room in the main BX for other merchandise.

► Tentatively planned for a June start date, a 7,600 square foot fitness center will be located at the south end of the tennis courts, currently part of the BX parking lot. The facility will feature half-court basketball, a racquetball court, an extensive weight room, a mezzanine for ergometry bikes, lockers and storage area. The current base fitness center, located upstairs in the fire station, will be returned to the wing's 30 firefighters for their use.

► The laser firing range, now in progress behind and to west of the headquarters building, will be built by a 934th BEEF team along with teams from New York and Alabama.

► Renovation of base lodging began Jan. 5 and should be completed by May 1. "This is the second of a two-phase project," said **Sadeghi**. Improvements include new carpet, wall treatments, bathroom repair and lighting replacement.

Other projects include:

► The base tennis courts, recently repaved, will see artificial turf this spring. "It will feature a material like indoor/outdoor carpet filled with sand," said **Canarr**. "It's new technology, and the turf should be very durable."

► A drain line replacement project will close the Fort Snelling Officers Club, Feb. 15-28.

► A military vehicle washrack will begin in April or May, located east of the NCO Club.

► A 7,000 square foot aircraft corrosion control facility will be built near the fuel cell hangar, a year-long project slated to start in April or May.

Also, soil testing took place in December for a new Naval Readiness Command 16 headquarters building, to be located in the large field across from Bldg. 760.

Medical technicians seeking commissions see rules change

Tech. Sgt. Janet Byerly

Public Affairs

For some medical technicians and flight nurses in the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, a recent shift in requirements has left some wondering what to do next, while others will continue their education in the hope it will pay off in the future.

"Oh goodness," said **Master Sgt. Karen Carlen** when she found out the two-year nursing degree she is working on will no longer be enough to earn a commission. "I'm pursuing my associate's in nursing. I'm going to have to go ahead with it because I'm too far into it now."

"The Reserve will now be the same as the active-duty force, which requires all their nurses to have four-year degrees," said **Lt. Col. Lou Anne Page**, director of nursing services. "They have to be a registered nurse, and they have to have a four-year college degree to be a candidate for commissioning."

Some enlisted members had been counting on the larger officer paychecks to finance their education, while others knew the change was coming and resigned themselves to reality.

"My thought was I'd get my two-year degree, get my commission and use that extra money to pay for my additional two years," said **Carlen**. "I've only got one year left on the GI Bill. Are they going to offer me more money or what? I've got 12 years in, and I've got some good time to give. Maybe I won't give up my stripes then — maybe I'll just got for chief instead of trying for butter bars [second lieutenant]."

(Continued on next page) ►

News bytes

(Continued from previous page)

Staff Sgt. Kelly Bochniak learned the news in a "Viking Flyer" article appearing a year ago.

"I just sat down after reading that article and thought, 'Oh my God — I'm halfway there and they

change it on me,'" she said. "It was pretty depressing. That was my goal: get my degree, get commissioned and continue my education."

Bochniak, a single mother who works full time and attends school full time in addition to her Reserve job, the change means her goal is a little harder to reach. She said she will be facing a tough decision after she takes her nursing boards in June.

"It's difficult," she said. "I'm juggling my daughter, the Reserve, school and my job. I'm thankful I have a lot of support from my family, or I wouldn't be able to do this. But I'll have 10 months left on my enlistment this summer, and my GI Bill benefits run out soon. What do you do?"

ASTS has been the only unit in which officers were commissioned with less than a four-year degree, according to **Senior Master Sgt. Kay Martin**, senior recruiter.

"There was such a shortage of nurses a few years back, but now there's a glut," she said. "There has been a lot of interest here, so I don't anticipate a problem attracting qualified applicants."

Martin also noted non-prior service nurses can be commissioned up to age 47, and current unit members, depending on how much time in service they have, could be commissioned beyond that age.

Those already commissioned with a two-year degree are not home free, either. They have until 2002 to complete their four-year degree — or lose their commission, according to Page.

"I should have my degree by then, so I'm not overly concerned," said **1st Lt. Ed Hawkins**, a flight nurse. "I'll be honest — the Air Force isn't the only reason I'll be going back to school in the fall. I've got eight years experience, but the degree makes a difference. There's a real emphasis on the four-year degree in my civilian nursing job."

For **Capt. Mark Zollinger**, a bachelor's degree is a personal goal he has been working toward on a part-time basis, but with 24 years military experience under his belt, the new requirement is not a great concern.

"I'll be doing a master's program after that because it's my personal goal," he said.

Unit members noted commissioning requirements have varied over the years, depending on the availability of nurses.

Focus group spurs new cafe plan

Findings from a recent focus group survey on the NCO Club spurred a recommendation for a "fast track" construction project for a new, casual dining service called the "Wright Brothers Cafe."



Mark Davidson

That sunny sky is deceptive — maintenance members cranked up the BT400 ground heaters to warm the C-130 engine oil and melt ice from the engine controls on an icy morning recently.

"The new menu will have rotisserie-style meats, soups, homemade hot meals, expanded cold food, grab-and-go items and desserts," said **Melissa Blaeser**, marketing director for 934th Services. The cafe will be located in the area now occupied by the stage.

Once final approvals are given, the cafe could be operational sometime this fall. It will replace the current hot line on weekdays; however, the hot line will be open for contra meals.

Maintenance control splits

Mark Davidson

Public Affairs

The maintenance control function, or MCF, is now part of the wing command post, a consolidation directed by the Air Force, according to **Chief Master Sgt. David Chapman**, maintenance operations superintendent for the 934th Logistics Support Squadron.

The MCF monitors the flying schedule and maintenance planning events, managing aircraft status reporting and coordinating for support and emergency action notification.

"The coordination function of aircraft maintenance will not be permanently located in the command post," said **Tech. Sgt. Greg Johnson**, 934th Airlift Wing. "I've performed this function during mobility exercises and contingency operations before, so it's not a new experience."

The dispatch and debriefing function of maintenance control now is located in the flightline office, part of the 934th Maintenance Squadron's aircraft generation flight, according to **Tech. Sgt. John Bruns**, 934th LSS.

"My responsibilities will be to dispatch maintenance technicians to support the operational needs of the maintenance squadron," he said, "and to debrief aircrews after flight on the aircraft's maintenance status."

The realignment mirrors current Air Force structure. □

Taking a look back

After nearly six years, Gjede bids farewell to 934th

Mark Davidson
Public Affairs

VF: What were your first impressions of the 934th in 1992?

CC: I was able to observe the 934th for three years while I was at Fourth Air Force. I knew it was a strong, hard working, rock-solid unit. I also was painfully aware of the small problem the unit had on its previous Operational Readiness Inspection and that I would have to deal with that problem.

VF: What is your impression of the unit as you leave it?

CC: The people assigned to the 934th, both military and civilian members, continue to make this a strong, hard-working, dedicated wing. I'm amazed at the contributions of the traditional reservists. Air Force Reserve units are measured, particularly on the flying side, by their response to the "big" deployment and contingency taskings from the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve. When we get C-130 E-model taskings, such as in Southwest Asia, the 934th always pulls its share, or more, of the tasking. In spite of the ops tempo and taskings for flying or non-flying contingencies, the reservists of the 934th always step up to the plate to do their fair share and then some.

VF: What are some of the highlights of your command here?

CC: The quality of life and construction projects stand out. It's a long process to plan a building or renovation, to get the money and finally build something. Quality of life



Mark Davidson

Gjede

is very important, and I see the new fitness center, combat arms training facility and military clothing sales store – all with springtime start dates – as a huge improvement for the quality of life for our people. Hopefully, a new lodging facility is on the horizon. I'm very proud of the labor/management partnership that we've developed here. The awards we've received such as the Environmental Excellence Award, the Hennessey Award, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award also stand out. And I'm very pleased about the success of all the inspections over the last five years. It's a credit to the caliber of people at the 934th.

VF: What is your leadership philosophy?

CC: First and foremost, take care of the people and listen to them. Most people know what their job is and

how to do it. I can give them the tools, point them in the right direction, and let them do their job.

VF: What are the strengths of the 934th?

CC: There are many strengths, but three that really jump out are the depth of talent of the people, the work ethic of the people and the outstanding attitude of the people.

VF: As you see it, what is the future of the 934th?

CC: In my opinion, the 934th has a bright future. There will be some pain and suffering with A-76 and possibly the base closure drill again, but I think the 934th will survive and continue to work and serve.

VF: What have you personally gotten out of your command here?

CC: Being commander of this wing has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life both professionally and personally. It's an outstanding wing, made up of outstanding people doing an outstanding job. It's gratifying to test your leadership style and get positive feedback.

VF: Anything else?

CC: This has been a fabulous assignment for Jeri and me. I'll always have a special place in my heart for the 934th, and I really mean it. I thought this was a fabulous place when I got here five years ago, and it has turned out to be that and more. The 934th vision is to be a world class wing. I think we are a world class wing, and it's because of the people, both military and civilian, and their desire to be the best. □

Five members earn honors in annual competition

Best of the best '97

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Jeremy Bethke

Unit: 934th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Job responsibilities: Liquid fuels maintenance, repair of all above and below ground piping systems.

Education: Enrolled in Community College of the Air Force.

Hobbies: Snowmobiling, jet watercraft skiing, woodworking.

Civilian occupation: Manager, Mahowald Sports, New Prague, Minn.

Professional organizations: Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association, Snow Barons Snowmobile Club.

Goals: "To be shop superintendent, achieve the rank of chief master sergeant and earn a bachelor's degree in business."

Family: Single; live in Lonsdale, Minn.

Comments: "I'm pleased to be nominated by my unit for this award."



Bethke



Bethke (left) with girlfriend, Cathy Goldsmith, also a senior airman in the 934th Civil Engineer Squadron

Courtesy photos

Woolery and
Annette (back)
their sons, M
Josh (front)

NCO of the Year Tech. Sgt.

Unit: 934th C

Job responsi
equipment op
grader, front-e
backhoes, dump
advisor.

Hobbies: Car
snowmobiling

Civilian occu
worker, City of

Professional
VFW, Disabled
America.

Goals: "To co
hope to someo

Family: Wife
live in Little Pa

Comments: "I
selecting me t
the outstandin
a unit full of o



wife,
with
t and
left to
right"

Master Sgt. Ron Woolery

... Engineer Squadron.
... Job responsibilities: Heavy
... ator and trainer —
... d loader, bulldozer,
... truck; unit career

... ing, fishing,
... winter camping.
... tion: Utility service
... t. Cloud, Minn.

... ganizations: Air Force Association,
... merican Veterans, Boys Scouts of

... inue to progress in both of my careers. I
... r be a chief master sergeant."

... nnette; sons, Josh (13) and Matt (11);
... t, Minn.

... ould like to thank my squadron for
... epr... at them. CES recently received
... n... ard, so to be selected to represent
... tanding people is a great honor." □



Woolery

Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Rebecca Ogden

Unit: 934th Airlift Wing.

Job responsibilities: Air reserve technician; provide administrative support and assistance to the wing command section and train reservists.

Hobbies: Golf, fishing, flying.

Professional organizations: Air Force Sergeants Association, NCO Club, Human Resources Development Council.

Goals: "Within the Reserve in 1998, I would like the challenge of mentoring a junior enlisted person as well as successfully preparing for the Unit Compliance Inspection, Unit Self Assessment and readiness exercise."

Family: Husband, Dwaine; adult son, Trevor, daughter-in-law, Heidi; grandchildren, Kailee (5) and Nicolas (2). Three homes: Minneapolis; Bemidji, Minn.; and Morson, Ontario Canada.

Comments: "I feel very honored to have received this award and thank those who supported me. I will do my best to instill integrity, service before self and excellence in all that I do."



Ogden



Ogden's grandchildren, Kailee (left) and Nicolas

(Continued on next page) ▶

First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt.
Robert McGonigal

Unit: 934th Logistics Support Squadron.

Job responsibilities: Oversee commanders' programs such as weight management and family member care; serve as counselor to unit's 80 members.



McGonigal

Education: Bachelor's in science education — earth/space science, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va.; master's in science education, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Hobbies: Swimming, jogging, bike tours, volksmarching, coaching swimming, astronomy, reading.

Civilian occupation: Earth and physical science teacher, Brooklyn Junior High School, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Professional organizations: Air Force Sergeants Association, Minnesota Federation of Teachers.

Goals: "To improve my teaching techniques and the unit's weekend by efficiently and



McGonigal (right) and his wife, Barbara, at a local race last June

compassionately solving problems as they arise."

Family: Wife, Barbara Steinbrecher McGonigal; adult children, Kary and Amy McGonigal; live in Bloomington, Minn.

Comments: "I really enjoy helping people solve problems. I also enjoy writing awards and seeking ways to improve morale."



The Canarrs, from left: Joshua, Les, Annette and Amie

Junior Officer of the Year
Capt. Leslie Canarr

Unit: 934th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Job responsibilities: Unit supply officer, unit financial officer, assist with special projects.

Education: Bachelor's in mechanical engineering, North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D;

currently working on master's in materials science from National Technology University, Fort Collins, Colo.

Hobbies: "I like to spend my free time with my family and working on the new house Annette and I just built."

Civilian occupation: Project engineer, 934th Base Civil Engineering.

Professional organizations: Reserve Officers Association as life member, secretary of the local chapter and junior vice president for the air section for the state chapter; Tau Beta Pi engineering education honor society, life member.

Goals: "To help keep the unit the best civil engineering unit in the Air Force as we begin the painful and sad process of downsizing. We will lose 55 people in the next fiscal year."

Family: Wife, Annette; children, Joshua (9) and Amie (6); live in Farmington, Minn.

Comments: "It's an honor to win this award. The unit and wing has bestowed many awards on me this last year, and I am both humbled and honored for all the recognition." □



Canarr

In-residence PME

These reservists elected to forego dry correspondence courses and head to the school house

Master Sgt. Tim Turner
Public Affairs

The old adage says you learn best by doing. Three reservists here who attended Professional Military Education schools recently are living up to that adage. So are many more base members who've opted to take a PME course in-residence rather than by correspondence.

"Correspondence courses are very dry, and for me they're difficult to take," admitted **Tech. Sgt. Chester Gronwold**, special handling technician with the 27th Aerial Port Squadron. He graduated from the eight-week Noncommissioned Officers Academy at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., last summer.

Last fall, **Master Sgt. Jean Hohn**, superintendent of standardization/evaluation for the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, attended the seven-week Senior NCO Academy at Gunter Annex, Ala. **Capt. Phyllis Price**, assistant officer-in-charge of standardization/evaluation for AES, graduated from the seven-week Squadron Officers School at Maxwell AFB, Ala., in December.

All three reservists had varied reasons for attending their respective PME schools.

"I didn't attend because I needed a PME school to put on tech sergeant," Gronwold maintained. "My attitude is: I went for career advancement — not rank advancement.

"The other reasons I went was to bring my military bearing back into focus," he

continued. "The NCO Academy reminded me of proper military dress, chain of command, things like that. It also broadened my knowledge of the total quality management process; we spent a lot of time on TQM principles."

"I wanted to learn supervisory skills from human beings — a correspondence



Gronwold



Hohn



Price

(Continued on next page) ▶

Academy anxiety

Course wins school-dodger's heart

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Brown
Chief/Training, 439th Airlift Wing
Westover Air Reserve Base,
Mass.

I have been in the military for 17 years and have always done my best to dodge Professional Military Education. Finally, this year, I strapped myself down and decided to go in-residence to the Noncommissioned Officers Academy for six weeks.

I felt a lot of apprehension and anxiety about attending this course. Some of the feelings came from horror stories of it being like basic training all over again. Or that you had to give a million speeches, perform drills and ceremonies every day, stand uniform inspections every morning, or God forbid, you had to study and research every minute of your time. Then, of course, there was the big question: "Do I want to leave my family and job for six long, grueling weeks?"

Let me put all those fears to rest. First off, I want to say that attending the NCO Academy in-residence was one of the best decisions I have made in my military career. The people I met and the friends I made will last

me a lifetime. The opportunity to coexist with the active duty, Air National Guard and other reservists provided me with a wealth of information that can never be digested through a correspondence course.

The in-residence curriculum is more adaptable to reality. Courses like "Situational Leadership," "Quality Leadership," "Human Relations" and "Leadership Behavioral Skills" offer hands-on training, as well as "Effective Writing" and "Speech Presentation."

Those horror stories about the academy being run like basic training are just plain bogus. Your peers run the academy, and everyone is treated equally. Yes, you do have to stand uniform inspections. However, they are not conducted to discredit students but to teach them how to wear the uniform as a professional and how to properly inspect subordinates.

The academy also teaches an abundance of information during each phase, and self discipline is needed for study habits. Students are required to research and write reports and speeches, but that does

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School briefs

▶ **Maj. Thomas Hueg**, 934th Operations Support Flight, has been selected to attend Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in residence. He will attend from August 1998 to April 1999.

▶ Members currently attending in-residence Professional Military Education include (all located at Maxwell AFB, Ala.):

▶ ▶ **Capt. Benedicto Bobadila**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Squadron Officers School, Jan. 5-Feb. 20.

▶ ▶ **Maj. School Russell**, 934th Security Forces Squadron, Air Command and Staff College, Aug. 13, 1997-June 1, 1998.

▶ ▶ **Lt. Col. Wade Farris**, 934th Operations Group, Air War College, Aug. 4, 1997-June 1, 1998.

▶ **Tech. Sgt. Thomas Arneson**, 27th Aerial Port Squadron, and **Staff Sgt. Lynette Petsinger**, 96th Airlift Squadron, are due to depart Feb. 24 for Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Goodfellow AFB, Texas. Their completion date will be April 2. **Tech. Sgt. Michael Bouchard**, AES, has a Sept. 21 academy class date at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

▶ The following members completed formal technical schools since Jan. 1:

▶ ▶ **2nd Lt. David Bloomquist**,

AS, combat and water survival courses, Fairchild AFB, Wash., Jan. 5-23.

▶ ▶ **Staff Sgt. Robert Buie**, 934th Operations Support Flight, information management course, Keesler AFB, Miss., Jan. 12-26.

▶ ▶ **2nd Lt. Caroline Campbell**, AS, C-130 mission qualification course, Little Rock AFB, Ark., Nov. 17, 1997-Jan. 26, 1998.

▶ ▶ **Capt. Kenneth Hanson**, OSF, combat intelligence system advanced user course, Goodfellow AFB, Texas, Jan. 6-23.

▶ ▶ **1st Lt. David Hanten**, AW, financial management officer course, Sheppard AFB, Texas, Jan. 12-26.

▶ ▶ **Staff Sgt. John Kopka**, OSF, information management course, Keesler AFB, Miss., Jan. 12-26.

▶ ▶ **Master Sgt. Donald Pederson Jr.**, SFS, First Sergeant Academy, Gunter Annex, Ala., Jan. 26-Feb. 6.

▶ ▶ **Lt. Col. Kristin Rudin**, 934th Airlift Wing, public affairs officer course, Fort Meade, Md., Jan. 5-16.

▶ ▶ **Staff Sgt. Annette Sandberg**, 934th Mission Support Flight, personnel course, Keesler AFB, Miss., Jan. 26-Feb. 6.

▶ ▶ **Staff Sgt. Michael Story**, CES, crash firefighting course, Goodfellow AFB, Texas, Jan. 14-Feb. 6. □

In-residence PME ...

(Continued from previous page)

course can't teach you that," said Hohn, explaining her reason for attending the Senior NCO Academy.

For Price, the primary reason she attended SOS — which also can be taken by correspondence — was promotion opportunities. "Squadron Officers School is a necessary step for captains wanting to be promoted to major," she explained. "That being said, the things I took away from SOS were invaluable — group dynamics, problem-solving skills and an in-depth study of U.S. military history, to name a few."

In addition, Price got to know people from career fields other than medicine. "When you're an aeromed, all the classes you take have to do with medicine," she said. "At SOS, I was the only nurse on my team — everyone else had a different career field. That exposed me to a lot of various military jobs."

All three would highly recommend attending a PME school rather than going the correspondence route. "My only word of advice, though, is be as computer proficient as you can before attending," Price said. "You'll be spending a lot of time doing your assignments on one."

Hohn and Price both admit some anxiety before their first day of PME school. But any misgivings dissipated once they got involved.

"My greatest fear was measuring up to the other people on my team," Hohn said. "Of the 13 people in my class, one had a Ph.D., seven had master's degrees and all of them had undergraduate degrees. Then there's me, working on an associate's degree in medical science from the Community College of the Air Force. Could I hold my own against a group with more education? The more I got to know my team members, though, the more comfortable I felt with them."

Price was leery of being accepted as a "part-timer" in a class overwhelmingly populated with active duty folks. "Of the 702 people in my class, only 20 were Reserve or Guard members," she pointed out.

"Plus, the active duty know what to expect from a PME school because they attend a lot more of them than reservists," Price went on. "But I got along fine with everyone on my team, and vice versa. We got to be pretty good friends; in fact, we still keep in touch by e-mail."

After graduation, the three PME school "alumni" could more easily sum up the most important benefit they took with them.

"We all have to support each other — that's probably the biggest thing I learned at PME school," Gronwold said.

"We're all fighting for the same cause in the military," he went on. "The NCO Academy taught me to not be intimidated by rank — if you have a suggestion for improving your section or shop, speak up — regardless of the rank of the person you're speaking to."

For Price, what she learned in SOS was the value of working together as a team to solve a problem.

And Hohn? She could sum up her entire experience in one word: "Fulfilled," she said. □

Academy anxiety ...

(Continued from previous page)

not take all of a student's free time. Effective time-management is the key to success.

Probably the most important lessons to be learned are the development of personal

leadership and integrity.

Overall, I would recommend attending the NCO academy in-residence to everyone who is eligible. It is a great experience — one that will serve you well for the rest of your life.

(Courtesy the "Patriot," Westover ARB, Mass.) □

Too close for comfort

Flight engineer earns medal for courage in avoiding midair collision

Master Sgt. Tim Turner
Public Affairs

It's not every day a 934th member earns the Air Force Commendation Medal for potentially saving the lives of eight people.



Rudgers

Then again, what happened to **Tech. Sgt. Bill Rudgers** and his four fellow aircrew members during the November 1996 Operational Readiness Inspection was far from an everyday occurrence.

Rudgers, a flight engineer with the 96th Airlift Squadron, helped avert a midair collision between a base C-130 and a single-engine plane over Michigan. At the time, an ORI evaluator was assessing the aircrew on their low-level flying proficiency.

The crew was on a morning flight, having taken off earlier from Volk Field, Wis. — the ORI's headquarters.

"There's a thing called the 'Big Sky Theory,'" Rudgers said. "It essentially says, 'With so much room up there to fly in, how can two planes occupy the same airspace at the same time?' But it happened to us."

The C-130 began climbing from about 500 feet to 1,000 feet to secure radio contact with the airport in Flint, Mich. "We were on our way to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., to perform some engine-running-off-loads," Rudgers said.

As Rudgers recalled, the sky was crystal clear with not a cloud in sight. Because the weather was so favorable, the aircrew was operating on visual flight rules, or VFRs. "That means we weren't relying on our instruments to navigate — just our own eyes," Rudgers explained.

The plane was a few miles north of

the Flint airport. As it climbed, flying south toward the airport, a Piper Cherokee 6 single-engine plane approached from the same altitude off the C-130's left side. "The ORI aircrew evaluator was standing directly behind the pilot, so it was hard to see out that side of the aircraft," Rudgers said. "I happened to be looking over there when I saw the Piper; it was about 500 to 1,000 feet from us."

What transpired in the next few seconds is nothing short of a miracle, according to a fellow crew member, **Senior Master Sgt. Tom Foss**, 96th AS chief loadmaster.

"I was standing in the back by the left paratroop door when I heard Bill yell 'Dive! Dive! Dive!' into my headset," Foss recalled. "We nose-dived, and I was tossed about six feet in the air."

"As I came down, I started grabbing onto anything I could; I eventually got a hold of the anchor cable used to hook up the static lines," Foss continued. "Then I yelled into my headset, 'What the hell was that?'"

Foss's initial thought was the pilot — **Capt. Lindy Hollingsworth** — was diving to avoid a flock of birds. "It was only when I ran up to the cockpit and saw everyone as white as a sheet that I knew it was more serious."



Hollingsworth



Foss

"The copilot and I were both busy," Hollingsworth recalled. "I was clearing a message out of the flight director, and the copilot was talking on the radio. Our

attention was diverted for an instant.

"When Billy yelled," he continued, "I glanced to the left, caught a glimpse of the Piper and pointed the nose to the ground. What I worried about the most was the tail hitting the Piper as we nose-dived."

As the C-130 dived, the Piper sailed just above the plane's right wing.

How close it came to hitting the C-130 is indeterminate. What can be determined, however, is that if Rudgers had not yelled "dive," there would have been a collision, Hollingsworth said.

"Later, Bill told me the Piper had come so close he could make out the brand name on pilot's head set — David Clark — which is the same kind we use," Foss said.

As for the Piper pilot and his passenger, they continued on the same flight path, probably oblivious to the near disaster that Rudger's fast thinking had avoided, Foss indicated.

The increase of hobby pilots is becoming more of a challenge for 934th aircrews, Rudgers pointed out. "We're constantly checking for small aircraft," he said. "There are so many people now with a private pilot's license. Usually they fly only on weekends or a couple times a month, so their skills get rusty. I'm sure that was the case with the Piper pilot."

After the near collision, the C-130 aircrew landed at Selfridge, performed its engines-running off-load/on-load, and headed back to Volk Field. The ORI evaluator nominated the entire aircrew for an Outstanding Performance Award for its quick, decisive action in averting a midair collision.

And last November, Rudgers received the Air Force Commendation Medal. He had been nominated for the medal by Hollingsworth.

"He deserved it," said Hollingsworth. "That was the closest call I've ever had as a pilot. Billy's the guy who essentially saved our butts that day." □

A gift of life

Retired reservist finds base support through family medical crisis

Cherie Huntington
Public Affairs

Once **Doug Dalbey** retired from the Reserve last November, he had no idea the base would play a role in helping him handle what had to be the biggest crisis of his life.

His 25-year-old daughter, **Debra**, was losing a year-and-a-half battle with life-threatening kidney disease. Then in September, that fight came to a crisis point: Debra had to have a kidney transplant.

And Doug's wife, **Diane**, was determined to be the best possible match.

"She had no hesitation," he said of his wife. "A nurse in the hospital told her it was like giving life to our daughter twice."

Financial pressure ahead

"How can you put a price tag on life?" said Dalbey regarding the financial pressures that loomed ahead for the family.

Dalbey, who was a technical sergeant and administrative technician with the 934th Operations Group, said he and Diane had faith they could handle her income loss for the two months needed for recuperation. Also, Dalbey had decided to retire from the Reserve to spend more time at home with his family through this crisis, so that income ended as well. However, with his civilian job at Hutchinson Technology in Plymouth, Minn., he had enough vacation time saved to allow him the time off he needed without losing pay.

"I told her, 'God will take care of the money,'" he said.

So on Sept. 24, Doug and his 15-year-old son, **Kellen**, waited and prayed during the three-hour surgery for Debra, then an hour-and-a-half longer for Diane. For his daughter, the change was immediate — and dramatic.

"It was like a prayer answered, a miracle," said Dalbey. "The pigment and glow was back in her face. It was just dynamite!"

Family lifeline

Both women went home within within five days for recuperation. Dalbey said he and his family received a flood of support from the base, relatives and friends. "There was a constant flow of people coming in," he said. "That really helped me and my son."

Several base members also reminded Dalbey of the Family Readiness Program as a possible source of financial assistance.

"I knew it was there, but I never needed it before," he said. After preparing a letter explaining his situation, Dalbey and his family saw their prayers answered.

The Fort Snelling Flower and Garden Club and the Air Force Association, Gen. E.W. Rawlings Chapter, both came



Doug Dalbey (center) and his wife Diane (right), received a check from the Fort Snelling Flower and Garden Club, presented by their treasurer, Ken Clough.

Courtesy photo

forth with checks to help the Dalbeys. By the holidays, both mom and daughter were back at work, and the family Christmas revolved around the special gift of life.

"I told my wife I didn't need a Christmas present," Dalbey said. "I have the best present of all — birthday, Christmas and everything together!" □

Cash connection

Program helps provide aid during crisis

Emergency aid facilitated by the 934th Family Readiness Program over the past nearly four years has ranged from \$30 to \$1,500, according to **Patricia Botkins**, FRP director.

Though some of the money was repaid by recipients, all went toward handling emergencies such as fires, floods and family crises.

The "fund connection" comes through Friends of Family Readiness, a nonprofit organization operated by the FRP's volunteer program. The funds custodian is **Robert Hatz**, a retired air guardsman with Chapter 858 of the Air Force Sergeants Association.

Any active or retired military member of any branch of service, their families and

Department of Defense civilians are eligible for help. For active duty members, connections are established with special agencies. Local people should talk first to their supervisor, first sergeant or commander, who will set up an appointment with a FRP coordinator to complete necessary paperwork.

Agencies contributing money include AFSA and its Women's Auxillary; Air Force Association; Airmen's Memorial Foundation; Fort Snelling Flower and Garden Club; Trinity Mission, Minneapolis; People Reaching Out to People, Eden Prairie, Minn.; 27th Aerial Port Squadron and 934th Communications Flight. FRP fundraisers also boost the fund. □

People

Medals

Aerial Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Scott Rian, AES

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. David Olafson (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), OSF

Promotions

Senior Airman Jessica Alioto, APS

Tech. Sgt. Crystal Bell, MXS

Staff Sgt. Robert Braesch II, MXS

Tech. Sgt. Robert Cluka, APS

Master Sgt. Lawrence Corrigan, CES

Staff Sgt. Robert Ennis, CES

Staff Sgt. Allan Garnett, APS

Staff Sgt. Clifford Hanson, MXS

Senior Airman Bruce Huinker, AES

Master Sgt. Robert Howell Jr., MXS

Capt. Christine Kiraly-Thomas, LSS

Staff Sgt. Laura Kruse, APS

Tech. Sgt. Richard Loesch, CF

Tech. Sgt. John Peterson, SFS

Staff Sgt. Christopher Rieland, AS

Master Sgt. Donald Roach, SFS

Senior Airman Trisha Robinson, AES

Tech. Sgt. Marian Smith, AES

Staff Sgt. David Stevenson, SFS

Staff Sgt. Clinton Wittlief, MXS

Achievements

The following members completed correspondence courses, October-December 1997:

▶ Staff Sgt. Robert Arkulary, MXS, Noncommissioned

Officers Academy

▶ Senior Airman Ryan Dunphy, ASTS, NCO Preparatory Course

▶ Staff Sgt. Clifford Hanson, MXS, NCO Prep

▶ Senior Airman Peter Klempay, SFS, NCO Prep

▶ Staff Sgt. Laura Kruse, APS, NCO Prep

▶ Capt. Donald Kom, CES, Squadron Officer School

▶ Staff Sgt. Michael Leary, SFS, NCO Academy

▶ Master Sgt. Rebecca Ogden, AW, Senior NCO Academy

▶ Staff Sgt. Christopher Rieland, AS, NCO Prep

▶ Staff Sgt. David Stevenson, SFS, NCO Prep

▶ Capt. James Swartz, AS, SOS

▶ Senior Airman Daniel Wetsch, APS, NCO Prep

▶ Staff Sgt. Clinton Wittlief, MXS, NCO Prep

▶ Capt. Timothy Wollmuth, AW, SOS

Newcomers

Senior Airman Brian Barclay, APS

Staff Sgt. Tracy Batt, APS

Airman 1st Class Jason Blanchard, MXS

Senior Airman Michael Bollinger, AES

Senior Airman Charles Brynteson, AS

Senior Airman Michael Butzlaff, MXS

Senior Airman Brian Doll, ASTS

Staff Sgt. Marty Dunbar, AW

Senior Airman Mark Ellis, AES

Staff Sgt. Gregory Jacobson, MXS

Airman 1st Class Kevin Miller, APS

Airman 1st Class Kristina Puffer, AES

Lt. Col. Kristin Rudin, AW

Staff Sgt. Lyle Rust, SFS

Staff Sgt. James Rutz, SVS

Senior Airman Sonia Taylor, ASTS

Air reserve technicians

Capt. Daniel Anderson, AES

Civilians

Christopher Neitzel, SV□

Family readiness selects volunteer of the quarter

Patricia Botkins

Family Readiness Program Director

Our volunteer for the quarter is retired **Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Walter Hed**, who has been volunteering for the FRP since the new center opened last May.

He retired from the 88th Readiness Support Command, Army Reserve, in 1993 after 28 years of service. He continues to work as a chaplain at Minnesota Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center, Moose Lake, Minn., and a consultant at the Hazelden Foundation, Center City, Minn. He serves on call for Lutheran parishes in Cambridge, Minn., where he lives.

"I enjoy working at the family readiness center," said Hed. "The interests and skills I learned in the military can continue to be put to use. My involvement has been to help with crisis situations that seem to come frequently in the center."

Hed makes follow-up contacts regarding military members who may be separated from their families during such events as deployment to Bosnia, evacuation from a foreign country or on emergency leave for a death in the family. Reservists have reported how much they appreciated receiving his caring calls, perhaps just to see how they are doing in dealing with some type of major life change or challenge.

"The military is concerned about families, and it's good to be part of this," the chaplain said.

We are truly thankful to have Chaplain Hed as a volunteer and appreciate all the valuable time he donates.□



Hed

Services Briefs

▶ **Winterfit '98**, an annual fitness competition for base teams, continues through Feb. 27. Teams consist of four members and one substitute, made up of any combination of active duty, reserve forces, their family members or base federal civilian employees.

▶ **The 934th Logistics Support Squadron** won the Commander's Sports and Recreation Trophy for 1997.

▶ **Bernadette Koehle**, 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, won the Pig-Out Cardio Challenge with 18 pigs.

▶ **A pool tournament** will be held during the March drill. Sign up at the fitness center.

▶ **Embroidered 934th Airlift Wing shirts and hats** are available for sale at the NCO Club and base lodging.

▶ **Ice fishing equipment** is available for rent, plus Buck Hill lift and equipment rental discount tickets may be purchased at the fitness center.□

934th Recreation Services
Bldg. 302, Ext. 1121 or 1665