

VIKING FLYER

934th Airlift Wing (AFRC) Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP Air Reserve Station, Minn. March 2010 Vol. 32, No. 3

One pilot's birdseye view of Haiti



934th Airlift Wing members pick up patients and drop off supplies at Toussaint L'ouverture International Airport, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 26. (Air Force Photo/Lt. Col. Craig Trammell).

By Capt. Brandon Schrader
96th Airlift Squadron

Starting the descent and approach into Toussaint L' Ouverture International Airport, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, you would have never guessed a major earthquake had recently struck and caused all the destruction that was reported on the news. The countryside is lush with vegetation and green; the city from our view didn't have the image I had conjured of a complete pile of rubble.

Once we were low enough to start making out

some details, you could see the tent cities and the people in masses gathering outside the airport waiting to receive humanitarian aid.

Taxiing into parking you could see the international response with Venezuelan, Russian, Canadian, British and U.S. aircraft delivering aid and supplies along with non-governmental organizations bringing in supplies with general aviation aircraft. The pace on the flight line was hectic with aircraft taxiing, loading and unloading, and fork lifts, All Terrain Vehicles and support vehicles racing across the

ramp to get to the next aircraft.

On this day, going into Haiti, we are there to pick up critically injured Haitians and deliver them to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. However, as we had experienced on previous missions, you should always expect changes. These changes came in the form of our final destination changing mid-flight to Tampa, FL, due to area hospitals in South Florida being overwhelmed with patients.

Upon parking and shutting down engines, our Aeromedical Evacuation crew from Scott AFB, Ill. coordinated with the expeditionary Aeromedical Staging Squadron on the airfield for our upload. We have no idea how many patients we would be hauling until talking with the medical personnel on the field. The back end is being rigged essentially front-to-back with litters, many more than anyone of us had ever seen.

"In my 24 years of flying airlift aircraft, I've never seen the cargo compartment of the C-130 filled almost completely with litters for patients," said mission navigator Lt. Col. Craig Trammell, 96th AS commander. "We were ready for as many as we could evacuate."

On this flight we hauled a total of 17 patients with 16 being on litters and one ambulatory, with an additional 14 family members.

Injuries included a crushed pelvis, amputated limbs, third-degree burns, head injuries and many other injuries necessitating hospital care in the United States. Due to the severity and specialty care required by some, we were required to carry a Critical-Care Air Transport team. Patients age ranged from a 4-year-old girl to an 80-something-year-old man. It is hard to imagine the feelings of nervousness and apprehension the patients must have experienced flying on an aircraft,

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By Col. Mark D. Vijums
934th Airlift Wing vice commander

Finance: Anyone win the Powerball?

Did you hear that I almost won the Powerball? I just needed five more numbers. Wouldn't that be nice to win the lottery? No more financial concerns. What would you do? Some would probably quit their job some would still work or perhaps take up some other kind of work. Who would you give money to? OK, it's time to snap out of it. You didn't win, sorry.

There's probably not one of us who hasn't in some way, shape or form felt the impact of this latest economic downturn. If you're like me, no matter what I had squirreled away took a big hit. I'm fortunate, I still have both of my jobs; one here at the 934th Airlift Wing and the other at Delta Air Lines. Despite the best intentions of employers, some individuals who deployed didn't have a job to come back to because the company shut down. Others got caught up in the mortgage mess and lost their homes. The aftermath hasn't ceased and will continue to strike.

Here at the 934th AW, we see the effects also. The hardest hit area is security clearances. Every time a security clearance comes up for review, a credit check is run through all three credit report agencies.

More and more, we've seen unpaid bills and liens posted on these credit reports. Mounting debts tend to steer individuals to readily available sources of income sometimes

found through illegal means. This ultimately threatens the security conscious of the individual in question. Not good if they're a member of the military and an integral part of national security.

When someone is in financial trouble and they're up for a security clearance renewal, the first step is to deny network rights dependant on the case. There aren't many jobs here on base that can be accomplished without computer access. Sometimes this step involves removing the individual from the work area itself. Ouch. Ultimately, the goal is to get the member back on their feet with a financial plan. There are plenty of solutions.

First, there are numerous free financial counseling services available to help formulate a debt free plan. Airmen and Family Readiness is a good source for those contacts including John Peterson in Security Forces building. Also, AFR has a limited amount of financial assistance for emergency situations when the cash isn't there. Military One Source also has numerous avenues available for financial assistance.

Above all, make sure your first sergeant or commander knows of the situation. We've all been there, and most of the time I've found the situation can be remedied from within the unit. We all need a leg up once in awhile.

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Wing commander's hotline:

612-713-1555

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

IG/Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline

The primary responsibility of the IG is to sustain a credible Air Force IG system by ensuring the existence of responsive complaint investigations, and Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) programs characterized by objectivity, integrity and impartiality.

934th AW FWA Hotline

(612) 713-1180

AFRC FWA Hotline

(800) 223-1784 extension
7-1513

SAF/IGQ FWA Hotline

(800) 538-8429

DoD FWA Hotline

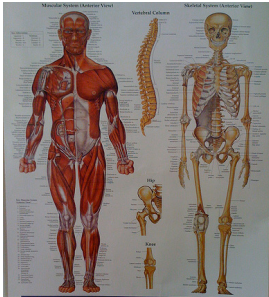
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934th AFSO21 program vectored for success

Problems usually occur due to bad processes not bad people. Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century is a tool that evaluates current processes that looks for ways to eliminate waste and make our jobs easier. The 934th Airlift

Wing starting using AFSO21 last summer defining the next year's priorities and improvement goals. The following five teams have been established and are currently working to make these goals a reality:

Improve Physical Exam Process



*Initial meeting
Jan. 12-14*

*Results to be
presented in May*



Team Champion: Col. Phil Sweet
Team Leader: Senior Master Sgt. Becky Hanson
Objectives/Desired Outcomes:
* 4 hr physical (1 period)
* Eliminate "no-shows"
* 100 percent health assessment prior to physical
* Fitness profiles separated from physicals
* Address walk-ins
* Timely reception of 1042's

Streamline Medical Waiver/Determinations



*Initial meeting
Dec. 8-10*

*Results to be pre-
sented in July*



Team Champion: Col. Toby Hammer
Team Leader: Master Sgt Rob Knight
Objectives/Desired Outcomes:
* Expeditious routing
* Explore outside tracking and timeliness
* Timely identification of medical issue when would affect worldwide duties
* Maintain efficient LOD process
* Three month process completion of flying physicals

Expedite Uniform Supply Issue



*Initial meeting
April 6-9*

*Results to be pre-
sented in Decem-
ber-January*



Team Champion: Col. Mike Ochs
Team Leader: Mike Dressen
Objectives/Desired Outcomes:
* Efficient issue of clothing
* Have uniform before departure for school or temporary duty
* Ready availability upon replacement
* Address any additional Organizational

Consolidate Personnel Deployment Process



*Initial meeting in
May*

*Results to be pre-
sented in Novem-
ber-December*



Team Champion: Col. Mark Vijums
Team Leader: Capt Troy Fiesel
Objectives/ Desired Outcomes:
* Establish standardized processing for future use
* Efficient comprehensive plan —standardized reception
* NCAT testing
* Yellow Ribbon Implementation

Establish/Educate UFR Requirements



*Initial meeting May
4-6*

*Results to be pre-
sented in Novem-
ber*



Team Champion: Col. Ron Wilt
Team Leader: Patty Boettner
Objectives/Desired Outcomes:
* Educate and streamline process beginning with RA's
* 100 percent timely execution
* Reduce last minute changes/updates due to paperwork process

In Memory



Tech. Sgt. Donald E. Patterson came to the 934th Airlift Wing (Then, the 934th Airlift Group) on Aug. 1, 1990 and was an Air Reserve Technician in the Propulsion Flight. Don

passed unexpectedly Jan. 25, just two days short of 23 years of service in the Air Force Reserve where he was an extremely proud and dedicated member.

Within a week of arriving here he was deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield. Sergeant Patterson supported the 934th Maintenance Group for almost 20 years with outstanding propulsion expertise at home station and around the globe. Some locations Don deployed to were Guam, Canada, St. John's New Foundland, Germany, Norway, Sweden,

England, Bosnia, Romania, Puerto Rico, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and many states in the continental U.S.

Sergeant Patterson participated in Operations Volant Oak, Desert Shield/Storm, Joint Forge/Enterprise, Enduring/Iraqi Freedom and AMC driven Tactical Airlift Command and Control missions.

Sergeant Patterson was laid to rest on Feb. 4 in Mount Hope Cemetery near the Tuscarora Indian Reservation.

"Sergeant Patterson was a vital part of our mission in the propulsion flight, the maintenance squadron and the maintenance group," said Senior Master Sgt. Phil Qvamme, 934th Maintenance Squadron propulsion shop chief.

He will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

Information provided by Senior Master Sgt. Phil Qvamme.

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Provided by Staff Sgt. Michelle O'Dean

Welcome new unit member Medical Technician Airman Stephanie Klinek.

Welcome back Tech. Sgt. Rachel Snook who has been deployed to McDill AFB in support of Haiti humanitarian relief.

Congrats to Master Sgt. Kelly Kay, 934th AES first sergeant, who received the Air Combat Command Civilian Pharmacy Technician of the Year award.

Master Sgt. Kevin Cassidy recently received a letter of appreciation for his role in arranging the Regional Disaster Medical Assistance Team exercise in Florida. Based on the exercise the teams feel they are well prepared should an event occur in Florida or nationally.

The South Florida Regional DMAT teams are currently deployed with their mobile hospital system in response to the Haitian relief efforts.

Civil Engineers

Provided by Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson

Members from the fire department recently returned from a deployment to Southwest Asia and were recognized and thanked for their contributions:

Master Sgts. James Lockwood and Roger Pattie, Tech. Sgts. Donald Doose and Paul Long, Staff Sgts. Justin Kevelin, Joseph Hillstrom and Tobie Arfstrom. Welcome new first sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Kraft. Four members from the emergency management flight completed hazardous materials operations at Dobbins AFB, Ga. Master Sgt. Richard Taylor, Staff Sgt. Matthew Sutton and Senior Airmen Andrew Pederson and Thomas Lyon.

Staff Sgts. Joseph Hillstrom and Justin Kevelin both received the Air Force Achievement Medal for their exceptional work during a recent deployment.

Senior Airman Jason Nelson was presented a plaque for achieving an outstanding score of 99 percent on his Career Development Course.

Communications Flight

Provided by Tech. Sgt. Christian Krug

Welcome back Staff Sgt. Sean Stretch, returning from Southwest Asia after back-to-back deployments. Sergeant Stretch also was awarded the Air Force Commendation Award for his service during Operation Enduring Freedom.

934th Airlift Wing Official Public Website:
www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil

HAITI

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probably for the first time, and receiving medical care from people who they do not understand and being in an environment that is noisy and full of vibrations. After our two hours of ground time we are loaded up and ready to depart to Tampa, FL, to deliver the patients and their family members to receive the care needed to survive.

During our time supporting the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center, we provided airlift operating out of MacDill AFB, FL, delivering critical relief supplies to the people Haiti by transporting 131,000 pounds of cargo to different airfields in the Dominican Republic to be trucked into Haiti. For many of those involved in the two-week mission it was a humbling and gratifying experience to support Operation Unified Response and the people of Haiti. "I am proud to be associated with such professionals as the Airmen of the 934th AW; and blessed to be the Commander of the 934th Operations Group where the 96th Airlift Squadron is assigned," said Col. Ron Wilt, 934th Operations Group commander. "Missions like this- in supporting our fellow man - make all our efforts in being Mission-Ready worthwhile."

Routine AT turns real world contingency

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

It was supposed to be a routine annual tour for 37 members of the 27th Aerial Port Squadron, but due to a devastating earthquake in Haiti, it turned out to be a contingency operation instead.

The aerial porters left Jan. 17 for Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., to perform their long-scheduled annual tour training, but were diverted to Homestead AFB, Fla., shortly after their arrival to augment the 70th Aerial Port Squadron with shipping supplies to Haiti, which suffered the effects of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake less than a week before.

They were challenged with not only building up pallets for the humanitarian airlift operations, but were also responsible for building up a fully functional aerial port squadron in less than a week in order to accommodate the mission's needs.

"It was awe-inspiring that we had seven different Aerial Ports that gelled really quick," said Maj. Heather McCue, 27th APS operations officer. "It's great when you have a mission and it's amazing how quickly everybody gels.

"We had some extra chains, pallets and nets that came in here and there, and we went downtown (Miami) and picked up all the shrink wrap for some of the cargo. A lot of us brought our own kits down with forms and scales," she added. "We were fully functional about a week after our arrival but we were functioning way before then."

Staff Sgt. Chris Platz, air transportation specialist, was on his first deployment and was proud of his team's effort.

"There was no system in place when we got there and we set up the system," he said. "We got everything up and running into a fully functioning aerial port. We had very little equipment and within a week we had it humming. It was a lot of hard work but it was good."

Sergeant Platz was confronted with a language obstacle when he had to load a Japanese aircraft during the mission.

"None of the Japanese spoke English. It was tough trying to communicate with them just to get their plane loaded. They don't do it the same way we do," he said. "But hand and arm signals are universal, so I got their plane loaded that way"

Master Sgt. Bruce Anderson is no stranger to deployments and annual tours. He has been in the career field for 29 years between the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, and this was to be his last annual tour as he will retire Mar. 11.

"It was the best and most rewarding of all of it," Sergeant Anderson said. "We had to figure out how to set up all of this – a marshalling area and grid yard – when we were out in the middle of nowhere. It was a lot of work and great training."

Sergeant Anderson knew what they were in for as soon as they arrived at Homestead, since there were more than 100 semi-trailers of supplies that were waiting for them to unload, palletize and ship.

"We got to bed knowing our next day would be bright and early," he said. "We went from annual tour to a full-scale contingency operation. We don't get this kind of hands-on training much."

"We felt that as fast as we could get the product over there, whether it was food, medicine, tents, generators or cots, we were anxious to do as much as we could. It was nice to see the stuff we were doing going down range from us to help someone in need," Sergeant Anderson said.

With the exception of five of the members, the squadron returned home Jan. 30 with the mission complete.



Griffin top shooter again

Master Sgt. Matt Griffin, 934th Munitions, demonstrates one of the shooting positions with his customized competition rifle. Sergeant Griffin repeated his 2008 performance as the top shooter on the 2009 Air Force Shooting Team leading to him earning his Distinguished Rifleman Badge. At the Interservice Rifle Match, which is the national championship for military shooters, he bested the entire field at 600 yards by shooting the only perfect score. He is also the first Air Force Team member to win the Army Match Trophy. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Josh Nason)

General's excuse blossoms

By Master Sgt. Kerry Bartlett
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

It's origin, as the story goes, began many years ago when Brig. Gen. Jack Thames would go to the Officer's Club to get out of the house. His excuse was that he was going to take care of the flower garden which served as a good cover for the real reason, socializing with the members. It was the best kept secret in town. Little did he know this clandestine operation would last for years.

Today, it is known as the Flower and Garden Club. While socializing is at the heart of the organization, it truly exists for the benefit of today's service members. From April through December, the club hosts a variety of events including two golf tournaments, a hog roast and a dinner-dance to raise money for military organizations such as the service clubs and the Minnesota Armed Forces Services center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Throughout the years, the club has donated more than \$50,000 to various organizations, said Lt. Col. Jim Olson (Ret.), one of the original founders. Founded in 1981, the club today has more than 150 members, he added.

Pansy's by no means, the men and women of the club have already shown their mettle.

"The five original founders are all World War Two veterans," Colonel Olson said. "Two of them are still in the club today."

All branches and ranks of the military are represented in the club which also includes civilians, according to Larry Kleven, a retired school teacher who served in the Marines from 1953-1956.

"You don't have to be a member of the Officer's Club, we just use it as our base of operations," Olson said. Anyone is welcome to join."

They meet at the All-ranks Club (a.k.a Officer's Club) for fellowship and events planning. Mostly the fellowship as this annual pilgrimage reunites families of another order. And they plant a few flowers too.

For the last several years, military members and civilian guests have seen the fountain surrounded by flowers and the outside deck accented by potted arrangements.

"We have hostas, rose bushes, dalia's, a cherry tree and other bushes," said Kleven.

For those who can't even grow mold, members of the club have a wealth of knowledge to share. Kleven's wife, Grace, has been gardening for, well, many years and does a lot of the planting.

For all the hours of work, there are no salaries, only the silent appreciation of passersbys for a job well done. As with military service, it seems fitting that so many would benefit from the service of a few.

Like its origin, this club is a family of another order and it's the best kept secret in town.

Promotions to:

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Sanford	ASTS
Master Sgt. Andrea Burnett	LRS
Master Sgt. Bunny Jamison	APS
Master Sgt. Inez Morales	MXG
Tech. Sgt. Amy Gillette	APS
Tech. Sgt. Robert McDonough	APS
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Nodland	AW
Tech. Sgt. Edward Savage	AES
Tech. Sgt. Mackenzie Schroeder	ASTS
Tech Sgt. Kara Sundet	ASTS
Tech. Sgt. Jesse Werner	APS
Tech. Sgt. Roger Wescher	AES
Tech. Sgt. Mary Wetterstrand	AES
Senior Airman Joseph Bendlin	LRS
Senior Airman Jeffrey Butler	LRS
Senior Airman Alexander Hennen	MXS
Senior Airman Mary Lee	LRS
Senior Airman Paul Pulkownik	LRS
Senior Airman Christopher Thompson	MXS
Senior Airman Sung Yi	CES
Airman Dacine Robinson	SVS

UTA Dates

Month	934th	133rd	Navy, Marines
March	6-7	20-21	13-14/27-28
April	10-11	17-18	10-11/24-25
May	1-2	22-23	1-2/22-23
June	5-6	12-13	12-13
July	10-11	17-18	10-11/24-25
Aug.	7-8	21-22	14-15/28-29
Sep.	18-19	11-12	11-12/18-19

For information on Army training dates call ext. 3127

Sergeants Upp&Adam

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Johnson



Congratulations to the 934th Airlift Wing Outstanding Airmen of the Year



Senior Master Sgt. Vicki Kuntz
934th Operations Support Flight
First Sergeant of the Year



Master Sgt. Daniel Mellesmoen
934th Security Forces Squadron
Senior NCO of the Year



Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Hadden
934th Aircraft Maintenance
Squadron
NCO of the Year



Staff Sgt. Austin Kleinschmidt
96th Airlift Squadron
Airman of the Year



Clean machine

Jacob Gubrud, 934th Services Squadron, pulls dishes from the new dishwasher at the 934th Dining Facility, Feb. 7. The new washer provides higher capacity and quicker turnaround during Unit Training Assemblies. (Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah R. Johnson)



Spouse of the year

Jackie Newman (center) wife of Col. Brett Newman, receives the Military Spouse of the Year award, including a gift from New Beginnings spa, at the 934th Yellow Ribbon event Jan. 23. From left are Tiffany Sudbeck, the spa's customer service manager, Col. Vic Seaver, E.W. Rawlings Air Force Association president, Col. Ron Wilt, 934th Operations Group commander, and Melissa Sanchelli-Gabriel, the spa owner. (Air Force Photo/Capt. S.J. Brown)



A lot of baloney

Lt. Col. Sharon Simpson and Staff Sgt. Aaron Hommerding, both from the 934th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, prepare sandwiches as part of a Human Resources Development Council initiative to support the 363 Days program which provides sandwiches to homeless people in the Twin Cities. Colonels Toby Hammer and Mark Vijums provided the supplies - lunchmeat, turkey, cheese, mustard and bread. Vilson Wilson of the Services Club provided use of the club's kitchen for food preparation and storage. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams)

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**POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL, DO NOT DELAY
DELIVER IN HOME BY March 1.
To the family of:**

One stop shopping



Master Sgt. Alan McCann, 934th Maintenance Squadron, shows off the C-130 flight deck display to shoppers at the Mall of America Jan. 31. The display included a 934th Recruiting Squadron display and was part of the annual Government on Display event at the mall. (Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Paul Zadach)