

NORTHSTAR Guardian

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Minnesota Air National Guard

133rd Airlift Wing, St. Paul, Minn.

Vol. 47, No. 5/May 2002

Wing members return, deploy

□ □ **Swap out:** *Wing members returned safely from the first rotation as others have gone to take their places.*

Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette Public Affairs

Family members gather, as does the excitement in the hanger. After over an hour of anticipation, the C-130 carrying long awaited loved ones banks victoriously in the sky overhead. Family members, who have now gathered in front of the open hanger door, break out in cheers waving homemade signs and U.S. flags.

Moments later, as the C-130 taxis up to the waiting crowd, the cheers grow deafening. As military members emerge from the aircraft, their family members lose control crying, cheering, hopping over the rope and running for their loved ones.

Through a series of six different highly emotional arrivals and departures, members of the 133rd Airlift Wing returning from the first rotation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom passed the torch to members leaving on the second.

Departures took place April 26, May 1 and May 4. Two arrivals took

place May 4, followed by one on May 5.

During arrivals and departures, Guard Family Network provided refreshments and entertainment for children, such as poster making and cartoons.

Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti, state adjutant general and **Col. Terry Heggemeier**, 133rd AW commander, attended each of these events, along with other members of the Wing, to encourage members heading out and congratulate those coming home.

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Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

1st Lt. Thomas Gillen, navigator, 109th Airlift Squadron, holds a flag and waves to the crowd of ecstatic family members awaiting their loved ones' return from the first rotation on one of the C-130s that flew missions into Afghanistan during past three months.

Northstar Guardian

133rd Airlift Wing
Minnesota Air National Guard
"Projecting peace proudly since 1921"

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Deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, May 19.**

FUTURE DRILL DATES

- May 18-19
- June 13-16 (Thu-Sun)
- Aug. 17-18
- Sept. 21-22

\$ May drill pay date should be: **May 29**

Call the 24-hour finance hot line to confirm pay dates:
(612) 713-2559

Patriotism

Love and devotion to one's country

Col. Terry Heggemeier
Wing Commander

This month our nation celebrates and remembers our armed forces. May 18 is Armed Forces Day. A day set aside by President Harry Truman to honor all who wear the military uniform.

On May 27, Memorial Day, our thoughts will be on sacrifices made in previous wars. Particularly this year, we remember the daily perils our troops are facing around the world, especially the men and women of the 133rd Airlift Wing.

Our nation is asking a lot from us. And as predicted, each of you, in true minuteman fashion, responds to the challenge. With no less dedication or enduring hardship, you are devoted to this call to arms.

Our April Northstar Guardian comments from those in Southwest Asia say it best. From **Master Sgt. Scott Peterson**, "It's an honor and a privilege to be apart of what I believe to be an important mission"; from **Staff Sgt. Tom Treiber**, "I'm honored to be here and I want to make a difference in the war against terrorism." **Staff Sgt. Dan Bergin** said, "I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to serve my country in a war which has a just cause"; and **Tech. Sgt. Tracey Maassen**, "I feel like I'm really doing something to serve my country." **Staff Sgt. Amy Gibson** remarked, "I feel proud that we, the 133rd AW, are the ones that are supporting the missions

in this area of the world" and **Tech. Sgt. John Bernier** expressed, "I feel like I'm fulfilling my obligation to my country."

Your devotion to serve, to fulfill an obligation is also evident in the many recent media articles on the 133rd AW. One that touched me was **Staff Sgt. Josh Meister's** March 17 Star Tribune article titled; "It's time for my generation to sacrifice". I ask you, could any of us Baby Boomers, or those who came before us, be any more proud of this Generation Xer's and others devotion to country?

F. H. Hankins in his 1920 article on "Patriotism and Peace" wrote, "Of all the emotions that move men to action, patriotism is the most capable. When it is aroused there is no other social force comparable to it in the completeness with which it dominates all men. It lifts the average man up out of the concerns of a work-a-day world into the noblest spirit of devotion."

May is a month to honor all who wear the uniform. It is a time to remember those who gave their life for our country and to remember those who are serving in harm's way. It is also a month to be proud of the patriotism you express daily as we win this war on terrorism. Thanks.



Heggemeier

Finding God during war

Chaplain (Capt.) Bruce Krogstad
Protestant Chaplain

One of the questions asked during times of conflict and human tragedy, is "where is God in all this mess?" After September 11 and after recent events in the Middle East, perhaps this question is one that is on your mind.

Some would seek to answer this question with one line expressions such as might be found on a bumper sticker.

While I believe most religions have ventured to wrestle with the question, any response to such a

(CHAPLAIN, continued on Page 4)

Just asking ... How are you going to celebrate Mother's Day?

Staff Sgt. Donna Loeffler
133 SFS

"I am having tacos because that is what my 10 and 8 year old daughters know how to make."



Loeffler



Moss

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Moss
133 CF

"I will work at a church running media systems for the services and then I'll have brunch with my family."

Staff Sgt. David Dragert
133 MDS

"I bought my wife a swing set so she can send the children outside."



Dragert



Shegstad

Master Sgt. Jim Shegstad
133 SFS

"I'm going fishing with Niel Poter from the 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron."

Airman Basic Lynn Olkives
133 SFS

"I plan to go to brunch with my 16-year-old daughter, 12-year-old son and 11-year-old stepson to Timothy's."



Olkives



Chambers

Tech. Sgt. Dave Chambers
133 MSF

"I reflect on fond memories of past Mother's Days when my mother was still with us."



Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

Welcome home

Family members display homemade signs and wait patiently for the aircraft carrying their loved ones to arrive.

Spotlight on base councils: Chiefs Council

Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

Public Affairs

For years the Chiefs Council has been contributing to the quality of life at the 133rd Airlift Wing by facilitating events and programs such as: Family Day, the Outstanding Airman of the Year program and the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Refresher Seminar.

Chairperson **Chief Master Sgt. Pat O’Gara**, Secretary **Chief Master Sgt. Mike Vinup** and Treasurer **Chief Master Sgt. Doug Sell** currently head the council.

The following interview with O’Gara provides a brief description of the council’s origins, mission and activities.

NSG: How did the Chiefs Council get started?

O’Gara: The 133rd AW has had a Chiefs’ Council for many years. The exact year is unknown to me.

The council took on new importance when **Chief Master Sgt. John Solberg**, now retired, became the senior enlisted advisor to the state (the title is now command chief master sergeant). He developed the initiative for the State Combined Chiefs Council, which eventually turned into the

State Combined Chiefs and First Sergeants Council. Solberg had a leadership style that encouraged other Wing chiefs to attend the monthly Wing meetings.

Since that time, we regularly have 20 or more chiefs at the Wing meetings.

NSG: What are the requirements for membership on the council?

O’Gara: The only requirement is that you are a chief.

NSG: What is the mission of the council?

O’Gara: The mission of the Chiefs Council is to provide leadership to newly appointed chiefs and a forum for discussion of issues and concerns related to the enlisted force to include, but not limited to, skill development, training and mentoring.

NSG: What has the council done recently?

O’Gara: The council has recently reorganized into a team concept in order to better facilitate issues.

NSG: What is the council working on currently?

O’Gara: Currently, the council is involved in the processes for Family Day, the Outstanding Airman of the Year program, the Senior NCO Leadership Refresher Seminar and the Chiefs Executive Course.



O’Gara

Chaplain ...

(Continued from Page 2)

profound question would not be brief; therefore, I will not attempt to represent my own faith tradition in this forum. However, I would like to put forward one response that might cut across most religious traditions, one that may initially appear mundane and insignificant, but one that might make some sense.

Osama has concluded that Americans are driven only by self-interest and hedonism that is a desire to maximize pleasure and minimize pain. He has concluded that we do not have the moral fiber to engage in a prolonged fight against his forces.

Before September 11 I might have agreed. The shopping mall has indeed become the only god many Americans know. While this god feeds people physically it leaves them spiritually and morally malnourished. In so far as Americans’ prayers and creeds are defined by consumerism, Osama’s assessment of American lack of resolve is most likely accurate.

Since September 11, I have come to believe that this summary of the American spirit, while descriptive for many, is not applicable to all.

It was not true for a fire fighter named John who charged up the stairs of one of the Twin Towers and told me he would do it again if necessary.

Self-interest in the form of pay and college benefits has not been the primary motivator for many of the new recruits who have recently come to the chapel for in processing.

Tax-free income is not the principal reason why many of our colleagues have volunteered to serve in Southwest Asia.

It is in human acts of self-sacrifice that we see evidence of God at work in the world today. When humans do things that not only don’t help them personally, but also may actually bring them harm, then we realize that there is another force at work in the world. In the superhuman acts of courage and



Krogstad

self-sacrifice, such as people rushing into tall burning buildings, we are given a glimpse of some ways God is at work in the world.

On a smaller scale, whenever we are faithful in carrying out our calling to be the best teacher, student, pilot, mechanic, nurse or parent, we are doing a godly work. Through each of us being faithful in our daily vocations as courageous and compassionate citizens, God is making the world a better place. In a humble but strangely powerful way each of us individually and collectively has been given the opportunity to bear witness to the presence of the divine in the world. Thank you for your service to God, country and God’s world!

The chapel will be short staffed this summer, as **Master Sgt. Chris Mahlen, Father (Capt.) John Echert** and myself will be deploying to Southwest Asia for three months. **Chaplain Rob Lubben** and **Staff Sgt. Brad Trelstad** will still be available. Lubben will continue to serve full time. Worship services will be at the same times during UTA’s: 9 a.m. Roman Catholic, 10 a.m. Protestant.

Sr. NCOs grad. with refreshed skills

□ □ **Improving leadership:** A newly developed seminar on leadership graduated its first class this spring.

Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette
Public Affairs

"This is a great step toward building stronger leaders for tomorrow," said **Col. Terry Heggemeier**, 133rd Airlift Wing Commander.

On April 14, 20 senior master sergeants, 10 from the 133rd Airlift Wing and 10 from the 148th Fighter Wing, graduated from Minnesota's first Senior Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Refresher Seminar.

The seminar, offered to senior master sergeants eligible for promotion to chief, was created as a way to refresh skills learned during the Senior NCO Academy, which is often completed years before actually making chief.

"People felt like their skills had dwindled from the time they learned them to the time they were going to need them," said **Chief Master Sgt. Terry Lind**, Headquarters Minnesota Air National Guard historian and co-creator of the seminar.

Some of the subjects covered during the 16-hour course at Camp Ripley, which started at 6 p.m. April 12

and ended at noon April 14, included: Minnesota National Guard history, dress and appearance, communication, leadership style, resume writing and awards and decorations.

Subject matter experts from both Wings presented these subjects with an emphasis on active involvement and teamwork, which greatly improved students' learning experience.

"The format was overwhelmingly received," said Lind, who taught the history portion of the seminar. "The staff and students are what made it successful."

(Continued on Page 7)

Guardian Stars:

New LS, MSF Commanders selected

Maj. Deon Ford

Unit/position: 133rd Logistics Squadron, commander

Years service: 20

Education: Master of business administration, Metropolitan State University; bachelor of science degree in business administration and music, University of Wisconsin, Superior; associate of applied science degree in administrative management, Community College of the Air Force

Goals: "To achieve the position of logistics group commander, to retire at the rank of colonel, and to raise my son to be a conscientious, caring, ambitious, contributing and productive member of whatever community he is a part of."

Professional organizations: National Guard Enlisted Association, C-130 Logistics Group Division Executive Council, Acquisition Advisory Council

Community activities: Cub Scouts, Little League Baseball, Sunday school, Parent Reader

Hobbies: Playing with my son Jesse, music, various outdoor activities

Family/home: Son, Jesse, 7

Comments: "I'd like to extend a great big thank you to about a million people who have influenced me over the



Ford

course of my lifetime, from my parents and other family members, my school teachers, friends, co-workers, bosses, etc. They all played a part in my achieving this goal in my life."

Lt. Col. Terry Sieben

Unit/position: 133rd Mission Support Flight, traditional commander, full time director of personnel

Years service: 15

Education: Master's degree, Hamline University, bachelor's degree, Mankato State University

Professional organizations: National Guard officers and enlisted associations, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers' Association

Community activities: Commissioner, city of Hastings, Natural Resources and Recreation Commission

Family/home: Reside in Hastings with wife, Maureen

Comments: "I am really excited to be back at the Wing. The MSF is right in the middle of things, helping deploying and returning personnel and their dependents while still addressing our normal work load. I am excited and proud to be a part of such a group of fine men and women helping achieve the Wing's mission."



Sieben

Dr. from 133rd volunteers in China

Senior Airman Jayme Page

Public Affairs

Dr. (Col.) David Hamlar, commander, 133rd Medical Squadron, recently returned from a trip to China where he and a group of doctors from a volunteer organization called Face to Face performed several facial reconstructive procedures on Chinese children.

Hamlar said hundreds of children every day travel up to 500 miles for the chance to be treated at the small clinic in Linyi City. Only 27 people can be operated on in a day.

During the two weeks that Hamlar spent in China, he estimated operating on 100 children and triaging at least 500.

Various facial reconstructive surgeries were performed. Among the most common were revising the cleft lip and palate, and cranial facial operations.

Hamlar and his team also trained interns and gave seminars while in China.

"The experience was a fond one," said Hamlar. "One on one we do well with China, we've been invited back after the building of a new hospital. It's getting done because our visit caused a concern and opened eyes."

Hamlar's motivation for this type of work is his belief in giving back.



courtesy photo

Dr. (Col.) David Hamlar attends to a patient.

"I have a skill and I want to use it to better others," said Hamlar.

Sr. NCOs...

(Continued from Page 4)

Students not only learned the material during the seminar but also learned from interaction with one another and their instructors.

"It helped us to understand our



Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

Senior Master Sgt. Buzz Carroll, 133rd Aerial Port Squadron, takes notes during the seminar.

role as a senior NCO by interacting with other senior NCOs," said **Senior Master Sgt. Doug Ackerman**, first sergeant, 133rd Maintenance Squadron, and a recent graduate of the seminar. "We can find out if we're going in the right direction and/or know what we're talking about."

Senior Master Sgt. Paul Kessler, information technology manager, 133rd Communications Flight agreed with Ackerman.

"I had a chance to get to know the quality people we call chief," said Kessler. "The commitment and passion that was shown really motivated me to emulate them."

It took a lot of planning on the part of senior leadership to make this seminar a success.

"Care was taken in planning this," said **Command Chief Master Sgt. Todd Thompson**, 133rd AW. "It wasn't a shoot from the hip thing."

Command Chief Master Sgt. A.J. Long, HQMNANG, along with Thompson and **Command Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Jindra**, 148th FW, suggested the seminar during the Joint 148th FW/ 133rd AW

Chiefs' and 1st Sergeants' Council meeting October 2000.

From there, the council and other subject matter experts developed prioritized lists of things to be taught and passed them on to state staff members including Lind, who works as an elementary school principle, and **Senior Master Sgt. Joe Shafer**, NCO in charge of public affairs HQMNANG and junior high teacher, to be developed into blocks, lesson plans and objectives.

"We were fortunate to have professional educators to put this course together," said Thompson.

State headquarters funded printing and classroom materials, the Wings provided man-days and the chiefs council funded refreshments during the seminar. There was no cost to students.

"Overall the logistics were phenomenal," said Lind.

The seminar is slated to run twice a year to coincide with the Joint 148th FW/133rd AW Chiefs and 1st Sergeants Council meetings at Camp Ripley. The next one is scheduled for October 25-27.

Students show patriotism, support Teacher, airman deploys in support of OEF

Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

Public Affairs

"My plan on that day was to keep working, so I wouldn't think about it," said **Senior Airman Jonathan Kuch**, vehicle operations apprentice, 133rd Vehicle Operations Section. "All of the sudden in the hallway two trumpets started playing the national anthem."

Kuch teaches science to 125 sixth

grade students at Anwatin Middle School in Minneapolis.

When he found out he would be deploying on the second rotation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, he sent a letter home to let students and parents know and to thank them for the great year.

Kuch said quite a few of his students got really upset when he told them.

As a way of helping his students to understand where he would be going and some of what he would be doing, Kuch had a meal ready to eat party with them.

"The kids enjoyed learning how to heat the meal," said Kuch. "But most didn't eat it."

He also helped some of the students to research the unique creatures that live in Southwest Asia.

April 23, nearly a month before the end of the school year and two weeks before he was set to leave, Kuch planned to spend the day packing his classroom in preparation for summer cleaning.

Suddenly he heard trumpets playing in the hallway outside of his classroom. As he entered the hallway, he was met with the entire school band playing the national anthem and 70 students standing at attention and

saluting.

"That ruined my not thinking about it for the day, but it was very memorable," said Kuch, swallowing a lump in his throat. "I'll remember that the whole time I'm gone."

The following Friday, Kuch and **Senior Airman Andrew Olson**, vehicle operations apprentice, 133rd Vehicle Operations Section, went back to Anwatin to talk to the students wearing their desert battle dress uniforms. During the visit, some of the kids Kuch didn't think he was getting through to surprised him.

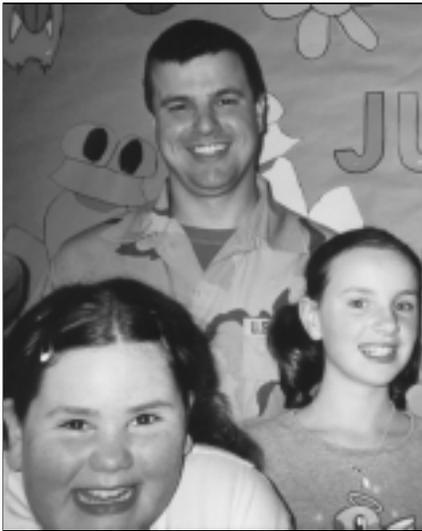
"Some of the roughest, toughest kids came up to me and said, 'Hey Mr. Kuch you'll be in my prayers'," said Kuch.

In addition to prayers, Kuch received numerous cards, gifts, bars and cookies from his students. One student made a chocolate cake and on it wrote "good-by Mr. Kuch" in frosting.

Kuch collected email addresses from many of his students and promised to send them mass mailings and to reply to their responses as long as he has access to a computer.

All in all, Kuch had a positive outlook.

"I'm a little nervous and excited, too," said Kuch. "This will help me out with future deployments. It will calm me down a little for next time."



courtesy photo

Senior Airman Jonathan Kuch, 133rd Vehicle Operations Section, poses with students Brittney Townsend (left) and Allissa Hiivala (right).

Wing...

(Continued from Page 1)

Those returning home certainly deserve congratulation. According to a memorandum by **Lt. Col. Tom Simonet**, commander, 133rd Logistics Group, while deployed in support of OEF, the North Carolina and Minnesota Air Guard aircraft did a year's worth of flying in 90 days. During over 3,000 hours of flying they transported over 8,000 personnel, and hauled over 4,000 tons of cargo.

"Few understand these efforts but those of us who witness your efforts cannot praise you enough," said Simonet in his memorandum to members deployed on the first rotation.

Members returning also felt that the rotation was a success.

"The deployment went very well overall," said **1st Lt.**

Jeffrey Smith, a pilot with the 109th Airlift Squadron. "While one can always find something to complain about, I think the

living conditions and missions here far exceeded expectations. Flying missions into the forward areas of the war provided great personal satisfaction."

Tech. Sgt. Brian Goebel, flight engineer, 109th Airlift Squadron, agreed with Smith.

"We are all going home from this deployment that started out and I think that is the most important," said Goebel, "considering where we were flying and the length of the missions."

Despite their pride in being a part of OEF, members were happy to be home.

"While I was happy and honored to serve in OEF, I am also very excited to be getting home to my family and fiends," said Smith. "This has been another eye-opening experience about how great we have it in the United States."

Goebel was also happy to be getting home.

"It will be great to be home with my beautiful wife and share what we did," said Goebel.

(see photos Pages 8-9)

Members return safe and sound from the first rotation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

□ Staff Sgt. Eric Furchner, 133rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, watches as his daughter, Abby, greets Chase, son of Tech. Sgt. Richard Ketterling, 133rd AGS.



Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

□ The C-130 carrying Wing members back from the first rotation executes a heroic fly-by before coming in for a landing.



Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

□ Tech. Sgt. Mark Norman, 109th Airlift Squadron kisses his daughter Danielle.



Guardians of Freedom



Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson



Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

□ **Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti greets Staff Sgt. Richard Underwood, 133rd Maintenance Squadron.**



Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

□ **Master Sgt. Timothy Burns, 133rd Maintenance Squadron, embraces his daughter, Kaityln, and son, Robert, for the first time in three months as a television news camera man looks on.**



□ **Family and friends wave flags and cheer as Wing members exit the aircraft.**

Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

ALCF: we're ready for round 4

Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette Public Affairs

The beaming sunlight and brisk wind of early spring seem not to affect the four desert-clad airmen passing in and out of the small storage garage at the back of the operations building while their family members stand by, recognizing their loved one's need to focus.

Tech. Sgt. Joel Eidem, Tech. Sgt. Lara Gjerstad, Senior Master Sgt. J.J. Lendway and Lt. Col. Paul Rogers, all of the 133rd Airlift Control Flight, deployed to Central Asia during April in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This is the fourth time members of the 133rd ALCF have been separated from their families since September 11.

Unit members agreed this deployment is the biggest challenge so far.

"We've never done an operation to this extent," said **Chief Master Sgt. Mike Forster**, command and control superintendent, 133rd ALCF.

The deployed location is under the highest level of alert, Force Protection Condition Delta, which indicates in the immediate area a terrorist attack has occurred or intelligence has been received that terrorist action is likely.

"Our job is to work efficiently and safely under hostile conditions," said Forster. "The most important thing is team safety, as it is a hostile area."

For protection of themselves and Air Force assets, members go to work armed with 9 mm pistols and M-16 rifles. For this mission a security police squad has control of the airfield.

"It gets hairy working on or around aircraft when you're armed," said Forster.

Airlift control members' mission is to accomplish Air Mobility Command global reach by taking control of non-Air Force airfields.

"We are command and control for the AMC," said **Lt. Col. Paul Rogers**, air operations officer, 133rd ALCF. "We are AMC's eyes and ears in that location."

Generally, taking control of these airfields requires airlift control members to come into a bare base and provide their own power, communications, security, and all necessary runway and ramp services including: maintenance, fuel and cargo.

"We set up a mini wing," said Forster. "We bring along all required help on a need basis. Every mission is different so the make up of the team is always different."

In this case, Eidem, Gjerstad, Lendway and Rogers are joining six other members of the 133rd ALCF

"We've never done an operation to this extent."

Chief Master Sgt. Mike Forster
Command and Control Superintendent

(**Master Sgt. Deb Arnes, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hanson, Master Sgt. Dave Holtz, Master Sgt. Scott Dahl and Tech Sgt. Jason Stumph**) and taking over as lead unit on a partially structured base.

"We'll be staying in tents on an airfield," said Rogers. "It's like going to the wild west."

To prepare for this type of mission, members must gain and maintain extensive training and experience.

Just to get into the unit, members must be on their second enlistment and have at least a five skill-level in their current career field.

"Most people are cross trained from two or three other jobs," said **Master Sgt. Brad Smith**, airfield management journeymen, 133rd ALCF.

Many people who cross train into airlift control come from career fields that involve work in and around the aircraft.

"It really helps that we have people with aerial port experience, so we can unload and load the planes ourselves," said Forster.

Once admitted to the unit, members begin a lengthy formal training program.

"It takes two to three years to fully train a core member to function on their own," said Forster.

New members attend technical school followed by five mandatory one to two week schools put on by AMC at the Air Mobility Warfare Center, Ft. Dix, N.J.

In addition to this, members must stay combat certified by attending a seven-day course every four years where they learn basic combat skills.

"We fight right along side security police on airfield defense," said Forster. "The course teaches us an understanding of the principals of combat and how to protect ourselves and the Air Force assets we are responsible for."

Along with the formal training, unit members learn skills associated with almost every job involving airlift operations, cargo movement, and flight line operations.

"When a plane lands I coordinate whatever it needs, fuel, unload/load cargo, maintenance," said Lendway, who has 24 years in the Guard and nine years active duty, "and, of course, other duties as assigned," he added, grinning.

This is the norm in the airlift control flight.

"We all learn each other's and other people's jobs," said Smith. "We all learn basic crew chief skills: marshaling planes, parking, refueling planes."

On top of the lengthy training process members put in nearly six months of active duty time per year.

"Members deploy at least two times a year for training," said Forster. "The minimum has been 90 active duty days a year for any member of the unit between training and actual missions."

Besides serving missions in connection with OEF, airlift control flight members serve as Headquarters AMC Affiliation Training Managers training members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps from 17 high priority units in airlift responsibilities.

(Continued on next page)

Northstar Guardian

Guardians of Freedom

ALCF...

(Continued from previous page)

“The goal is to assist the airlift user in becoming more self-sufficient in preparing for air movement,” said Forster.

All in all, unit members have done a lot of training in preparation for this opportunity and seem to have a positive attitude toward this deployment.

“The best part about the job is all the travel,” said Forster. “You get to meet new people from different nations and make new friends. If this was a peacetime mission it would be a bonus trip.”

Rogers shares Forster’s positive attitude.

“It’s hard to leave my family,” said Rogers, “but it feels good to be a part of the mission.”

The four airmen took one last moment to say good-bye to their families, and then turned their faces towards the massive silver bird bathing in sunlight, waiting patiently to take them across the world on another mission.



Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

□ Senior Master Sgt. J.J. Lendway packs.



Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

□ Tech. Sgt. Joel Eidem loads a block of wood to be used to keep a truck from rolling while it is being transferred in the belly of a C-17.



Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

□ Keli, 7, and Cullen, 9, children of Tech. Sgt. Joel Eidem, take turns pushing each other while waiting to say good-bye to their daddy.



Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

□ Tech. Sgt. Lara Gjerstad uncoils a length of strap she will use to strap some boards to the floor of the C-17.

Unit roundup

• **133rd Aerial Port**

Airman 1st Class

Diane Meyer

In addition to preparing for an annual tour deployment, we focused on completing air transportation standardization and evaluation training files. The goal of the program is to get all air transportation squadrons, Guard, Reserve and active duty, trained and evaluated in a standardized manner under one Air Mobility Command. Members of our unit also supported the 109th Airlift Squadron during their night engine-running off loads at Camp Ripley.

• **109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron**

Staff Sgt. Patrick Clark

During May, members of the squadron will be taking part in a Spring Break Camporee. The Boy Scouts and other organizations will be able to see what our squadron does. In addition to this, we will be preparing for our June field training exercise scheduled to be held at Volk Field, Wis.

• **133rd Airlift Control Flight**

Tech. Sgt. Lara Gjerstad

No report.

• **109th Airlift Squadron**

Master Sgt. Dale Hauschildt

On Saturday we flew two aeromedical missions in the afternoon and then flew night missions to Camp Ripley to train using night vision goggles. The night vision goggle training allows the aircrews to land the

airplanes without lights in the darkness.

• **133rd Airlift Wing Headquarters**

Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

We have welcomed back our members who returned safely from the first rotation and sent our best wishes with those who have left on the second. Those of us who stayed behind this time are working on preparations for the third rotation.

• **133rd Civil Engineer Squadron**

Tech. Sgt. Betsy Brummer

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning shop is very busy this year with training. One person is cross training into the section, two people are going to seven level training and two people are training with the 104th Fighter Wing. They will put their training to use with the installation of the new HVAC controls system on base within the next year. The HVAC shop also had four people supporting Operation Noble Eagle and four people deploying to Germany.

• **133rd Communications Flight**

Master Sgt. Rosemarie Berkebile

We have one individual traveling to Ramstein Air Base, Germany to support operations there. The new help desk and base intranet page have been briefed to the senior leadership and are rolled out for base use.

• **133rd Logistics Squadron**

Staff Sgt. Loney Gronskei

The vehicle maintenance section completed off season scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on the civil engineering snow removal equipment. Vehicle operations did real world 10 kilogram forklift training on simulated aircraft and transported the P-9 fire pumper to Camp Ripley to replace the P-4, which needed major maintenance. We would like to thank **Senior Airman Andrew Olson** and **Senior Airman Jonathan Kuch**, both of the vehicle operations section, for volunteering to be deployed on the second rotation.

• **133rd Logistics Support Flight/133rd Logistics Group**

Senior Master Sgt.

Georg Fischer Jr.

The unit prepared for the next rotation as well as for the return of one of the aircraft that was deployed. The isochronic inspection should be complete for the aircraft scheduled for May. We will also be performing a weight and balance check on the aircraft.

• **133rd Maintenance Squadron/133rd Aircraft Generation Squadron**

Senior Master Sgt.

Doug Ackerman

We continue our efforts to ready aircraft and personnel for deployment to Southwest Asia. We will also have specialists involved with local flying and cross-country trips throughout the month.

• **133rd Medical Squadron**

Tech. Sgt. Jim Luke

The unit continues to support those preparing to deploy overseas.

• **133rd Mission Support Flight**

Master Sgt. Eric Kerber

The flight has been busy processing members who have left on rotation as well as those who have come home.

• **133rd Operations Support Flight**

Staff Sgt. Jeunai Bents

The flight made preparations to deploy personnel for the second rotation and aircrew for upcoming missions in the area of responsibility.

• **133rd Security Forces Squadron**

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Britt

No report.

• **133rd Services Flight**

Staff Sgt. Zach Brewer

Services unit members spent a busy weekend qualifying in small arms and preparing food.

• **208th Weather Flight**

Tech. Sgt.

Christopher Peterson

No report.

• **210th Engineering Installation Squadron**

Senior Airman Lucas Schaan

No report.

• **State Headquarters**

Tech. Sgt. Doreen Johnson

Congratulations to **Senior Master Sgt. Frank Bucar** who was promoted in April. We are drilling in Duluth this month. Welcome back to all those who have returned from the first rotation and godspeed to all personnel who have left on the second rotation to Southwest Asia.



Official travel:

May

133rd APS: Hawaii, Texas
109th AES: Nebraska, Maryland, Texas, Washington, Bosnia
133rd ALCF: Southwest Asia
109th AS: Southwest Asia
133rd AW HQ: Kuwait
133rd CES: Washington D.C., Montana, Texas
133rd CF: Germany
133rd LS: Alabama
133rd LSF: Georgia, Southwest Asia
133rd MXS/AGS: California, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Southwest Asia
133rd MDS: Mississippi, Texas, Southwest Asia
133rd MSF: No report.
133rd OSF: Florida, Southwest Asia
133rd SFS: Southwest Asia
133rd SVF: No travel.
208th WF: No travel.
210th EIS: No report.
State HQ: No travel.

Above are official travel destinations. For space-available travel information, call the 109th Airlift Squadron, Ext. 2450, or the Reserve wing, Ext. 1741.

GFN activities scheduled

- The Guard Family Network is interested in building a library of games, books, audiotapes, DVDs and videotapes that can be sent with Guard members deploying. Please drop off donations at Bldg. 631, Rm. 225.

- The Guard Family Network will host a breakfast social on June 1 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the base dining hall for families of Guard members on active duty orders, either deployed or at home station.

- The monthly Guard Family Network meeting will be held **Saturday, May 17**, 3 p.m., Bldg. 631, Wing conference room.

All base personnel, retirees and family members are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

Worship services set

- **Sunday, May 18**, worship services at the base chapel will be as follows: Catholic Mass, 9 a.m., and Protestant worship, 10 a.m., both followed by fellowship in the chapel annex.

- **Saturday, May 17**, Catholic Mass will be at 11 a.m. The sacrament of penance is available any time or by appointment.

- **Catholic Mass** will be offered every Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m., indefinitely. The sacrament of penance or any other assistance will also be available Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Also, there will be an **Ecumenical** parables and prayers gathering every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

- The chapel staff will be bringing a DVD player and projector on the next rotation for morale purposes. If you have DVDs to donate, please contact **Master Sgt. Chris Mahlen**, at Ext. 2520.

Positions announced

- Applications are being accepted for a **flight nurse officer position**, 046F1, within the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, until filled.

Applicants must be eligible to be commissioned by age 47 or already commissioned as a nurse, possess a

four-year registered nursing degree from an accredited school, be currently licensed and practicing as a nurse and be able to meet all commissioning and flying class III physical standards.

- Applications are being accepted for a **communication and information officer position** within the 210th Engineering Installation Squadron until filled.

Applicants must be eligible to be commissioned by age 35, possess qualifying Air Force Officer Qualifying Test scores and have a four-year college degree.

Undergraduate academic specialization in electrical engineering is required.

- Applications are being accepted for a **budget officer position** within the 133rd Airlift Wing Headquarters.

Applicants must be eligible to be commissioned by age 35, possess qualifying Air Force Officer Qualifying Test scores and have a four-year college degree. A minimum of 12 semester credits in economics, accounting and statistics (six of which must be in accounting).

Closing date to submit an application is June 1, 2002.

□ For an application or further details on officer positions, call **Master Sgt. David Paynter**, Ext. 2032.

The following positions are available for Wing members interested in cross-training:

- **Paralegal**, 5J0X1, within the 133rd Airlift Wing judge advocate office. Applicants must possess a five-skill level in any Air Force specialty code, have a clean background history and be able to type a minimum of 25 words per minute.

□ For further details or to apply, call **Tech. Sgt. Jodi Rogness**, Ext. 2509.

- **Equal opportunity and treatment specialist**, 3A1X1, within the 133rd Airlift Wing military equal opportunity office. Applicants must possess a five

(Continued on next page)

skill level in any Air Force specialty code and have no record of disciplinary action or financial problems.

□ For further details or to apply call **1st Lt. Craig Peterson**, Ext. 2513.

• **Safety apprentice**, 1SO31, within the 133rd Airlift Wing Safety office. Applicants must be promotable to staff sergeant and have at least a five level in a previous AFSC. The deadline for applications is June 16.

□ For further details or to apply, call **Senior Master Sgt. Bill Cordell**, Ext. 2552.

Increased legal hrs.

The base **legal office**, located in Bldg. 631, now has staff available for legal assistance on a full-time basis. The office will also be open Thursdays from 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. The expanded office hours are in response to the growing demand for legal services

A judge advocate or a paralegal will be available for mission-related legal assistance.

□ For further details or to make an appointment, call Ext. 2509.

Pay info.

available payroll information is available online. The Employee/Member Self-Service online system allows members to view and change some payroll information, leave and earnings statements, change addresses, view and change federal withholdings and much more.

□ <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/>

□ For questions contact the military pay

office, Ext. 2568.

Email accessible

Wing network users are now able to access their on-base email from any computer with internet access from the following Web site:

□ <https://mail.mnsta.ang.af.mil/exchange>

□ For questions or help, contact **Master Sgt. Rick Voeller**, Ext. 2013.

Toolkit available

The "Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Programs Toolkit" is available online at the following Web site:

□ <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit>

Specials offered

The following Web site contains information on a variety of special offers now available to military members:

□ <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceSubmitted/FileView?file=discounts.htm>

SFS info. request

Just a reminder, please let 133rd Security Forces Pass and Registration section, located in Bldg. 631, know when your license plate or vehicle color changes.

MNANG job access

Information on full-time employment opportunities open within the Minnesota Air National Guard and other military agencies is available at the following web site:

□ <http://www.dma.state.mn.us/employ.htm>



Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette

Wedding bells in 631

Master Sgt. Cheepchuchai Yodsing, 133rd Aerial Port Squadron, married his wife Suparat for the second time on April 17 in Building 631. Yodsing and Suparat were originally married in Thailand during Operation Cope Tiger a year ago. However, due to immigration laws, it was faster for the couple to get married a second time in this country than to get their original marriage validated in this country. Senior Airman Anthony Johnson, 133rd Security Forces Squadron, preformed the ceremony.

Youth Camp to start

The Minnesota National Guard will hold its 12th annual youth camp Aug. 11-12 and 2nd annual teen camp Aug. 4-10.

Youth camp is open to ages 10 to 12 and teen camp is open to ages 13 to 15. Participants must be dependents of active and retired Guard members. Nieces, nephews and grandchildren may also attend if the Guard member volunteers.

Approximately 64 active and retired Guard

members and their spouses are needed to staff each of the two seven-day camps. Various positions are available in areas such as: swimming, canoeing, rifle safety, archery, confidence course, overnight camping, sports, logistics and administration. The camps are also in need of counselors-in-training ages 16 to 18.

For more information visit the National Guard Youth Camp Web site:

□ <http://www.dma.state.mn.us/>

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Northstar Guardian

youthcamp or call **Rich Kemp** at 651-296-4469.

Frequent flyer change

The President recently signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act, allowing military members to collect for personal use frequent flyer miles accumulated on official travel.

To take advantage of this, members may open a frequent flyer account with any airline, then have official travel miles credited.

For more information call Traffic Management office at Ext. 2635

Fun Run scheduled

The sixth annual Fun Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday of the June drill at 2:30 p.m. There will be a registration fee of \$12. Additional information and registration forms will be made available during April drill.

□ Please contact **Senior Airman Dan Colon**, Ext. 2433, with questions.

Tuition reduced

Cardinal Stritch University is offering a 25 percent tuition discount to all service men, women, veterans and their spouses.

□ For more information contact **Jody Wentz**, 952-835-6418 or email jody.wentz@apollogrp.edu.

Free membership offered

YMCA of metropolitan Minneapolis, association services is offering free six-month family memberships to all current active National Guard and reservists activated since Sept. 11.

Governor to hold event

Governor and Mrs. Jesse Ventura are hosting an Armed Forces event at the Mall of America on May 18 starting at 11 a.m.

Military appreciated

May has been named National Military Appreciation Month. For more information visit the following Web site:

□ <http://www.nmam.org/>

May 2002

TSP opens season

Open season for the Thrift Savings Plan has come around again. The TSP allows members to contribute a percentage of their before tax pay to investment funds. Currently, members may contribute up to 7 percent, increasing to 10 percent by 2005. Members may enroll online or through either the finance office or the military personnel flight.

For additional information, see the following TSP site:

□ <http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html>

Orientation scheduled

The base Newcomers' Orientation will be held **Saturday, May 18** from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wing conference room located in Building 631. This informational briefing is required for all newly assigned members to the Wing.

□ For more information contact the base **retention office**, Ext. 2031 or 2067.

Retiree address changes

A reminder to all retirees: if your address changes you must report the change directly to public affairs in order to continue receiving the Northstar Guardian.

□ For more information contact **Staff Sgt. Heather Gillette**, Ext. 2516.

Scholarship offered

Federal Children's Scholarship Fund college scholarship applications for the 2002/2003 academic year are now available for children of current and former federal employees, as well as children of active duty and former members of the U.S. Military on their Web site.

□ <http://www.fedscholarships.org/>

For complete names of units, see Page 12.

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Sandra Best, AW

Lt. Col. Gregory Haase, AS, second oak leaf cluster

Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Parlin, MXS

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Ryan, MXS
Lt. Col. Roy Shetka, MDS, first OLC

Air Force Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. Cordt Jamison, CF

Senior Master Sgt. Paul Kessler, CF

Tech. Sgt. Mona Morrissey, MDS, second OLC

Air Force Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson, CF

Senior Airman Peter Lendway, CF, first OLC

Tech. Sgt. Dale Myhers, CF, first OLC

Capt. James Quiram, MDS

Promotions

Senior Airman John Bayer, LS

Tech. Sgt. Dan Bergin, MSF

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Brekke, AS

Staff Sgt. Trudy Christiansen, AW

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Coen, MDS

Staff Sgt. Kevin Eckert, CES

Master Sgt. Nicole Fagula, AS

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Fernaays, CES

Senior Airman Joseph Girtz, EIS

Staff Sgt. Vaughn Hanson, AES

Staff Sgt. Scott Johnson, SFS

Staff Sgt. Tera Kazek, MDS

Staff Sgt. Marsha Knudson, EIS

Tech. Sgt. Richard Krivanek, AS

Airman Justin Lansdowne, SFS

Tech. Sgt. Chadrick Larsen, LS

Senior Airman Nicole Martland, SFS

Master Sgt. Timothy McCann, AS

Staff Sgt. Cory Redder, MXS

Staff Sgt. Michael Wollenzien, CF

Enlistments

Senior Airman Michael Duzy, MXS,

prior service 934th Airlift Wing

Airman 1st Class Taryn Halverson,

MXS, *non-prior service*, **referred**

by Lt. Col. Charles Rodke, MXS

Senior Airman Andrew Halvorson,

MDS, *prior service Air National*

Guard, **referred by Capt. Michele**

Roban, MDS

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Madison, APS, *prior*

service Idaho Air National Guard

Airman Basic Tyrell Parrish, EIS,

non-prior service, **referred by**

Tech. Sgt. Dale Myhers, CF

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People

Senior Airman Stacey Specht, SF, *prior service Ohio Air National Guard*
 Airman Basic Luke Tajima, AES, *non-prior service*
 Staff Sgt. David Ward, WF, *prior service Army Reserve*
 Staff Sgt. Debbra Zimny, HQ, *prior service Maryland Air National Guard*

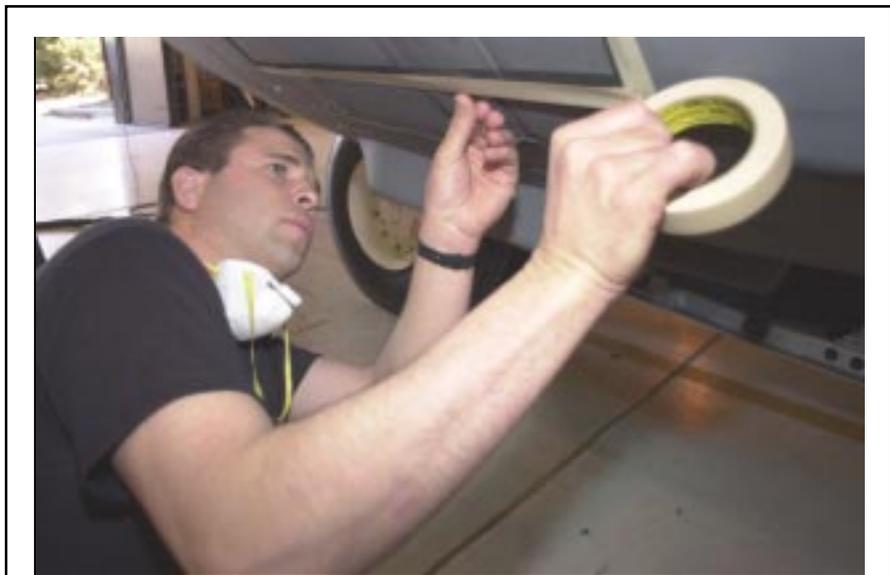
New positions

The following selections have been made for full-time positions:

- **Senior Master Sgt. Greg Anderson**, LS, management analyst
- **Senior Airman Michael Duzy**, MXS, sheet metal mechanic
- **Senior Master Sgt. Georg Fischer**, LSF, environmental scientist
- **Staff Sgt. Zachary Gappa**, LS, materials handler
- **Tech. Sgt. Connie Henke**, MXS, aircraft mechanic
- **Tech. Sgt. Jason Hull**, MXS, aircraft engine mechanic
- **Staff Sgt. Paul Kusmitch**, AGS, aircraft mechanic

Achievements

- **Staff Sgt. Jeunai Bents**, OSF, earned a bachelor of science degree from University of Wisconsin, River Falls, Wisc.
- **Staff Sgt. Sarah Miller**, CES, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Mankato State University, Minn.
- **Capt. Matthew Peterson**, AES, was selected as the Air National Guard Outstanding Medical Services Corps Officer of the Year.
- **1st Lt. Julie Ritz**, AES, was selected



Staff Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

Tense Taping

Staff Sgt. Troy Jonas, 133rd Maintenance Squadron, concentrates as he tapes near the nose of one of the 133rd Airlift Wing C-130s parked in the north hanger, preparing it to be painted.

as the Air National Guard Outstanding Readiness Officer of the Year

- **Staff Sgt. Jesse Rouse**, MSF, graduated from in-residence Airmen Leadership School

Giving back to America

- **Master Sgt. Susan Malecha**, AES, is volunteering in the alzheimer's ward at the Minneapolis veteran's home.



Peterson

Family matters

- **Dan Hudson**, CES, and his wife, **Barb**, MDS, have a new son, **Nathan Douglas**, born April 4, weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces.
- **Shel Massey**, MDS, and his wife, **Nancy**, have a new daughter, **Eva Kathleen**, born March 29, weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces.



Ritz

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