



# THE LEADER

Vol. 39, No. 3

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ <http://public.grandforks.amc.af.mil>

Jan. 23, 2004

## COLD WEATHER WARRIORS



Warriors of the North thrive in winter operations

- See Pages 10-11 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

### Inside:

#### Weekend weather

Today	5/-9	Snow
Saturday	1/-12	Snow
Sunday	3/-8	Flurries
Monday	2/-14	Flurries



Weather information courtesy  
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

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alert at  
work**

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# Members of the 'Frozen Chosen'

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

This past weekend I was going through some old magazines and I ran across a "Sports Illustrated" magazine with a picture of Chicago Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood on the cover. The thought of watching baseball immediately gave me warm thoughts of summer.

But that whole thinking process was interrupted when my 10-year-old daughter came thumping back in the house from the youth center and said how cold it was outside. All I could think of was when I was her age and I had to walk everywhere no matter what the weather was like.

Just so you know, it wasn't the walking five miles uphill in a raging blizzard with no shoes on story, but pretty darn close.

In my adolescent years, I was a newspaper delivery boy in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. We had to go out and do our job no matter what the weather and when my daughter came in the house that day, it immediately reminded me of one instance when it took me so long to deliver 28 newspapers on Harrison Street in Wakefield, Mich.

I'm not quite sure what year it was (on purpose), but I remember I was 13 years old, and the temperature was somewhere around -20 degrees Fahrenheit.

The outfit I was wearing was befitting of something like that worn by the character Kenny on the television show "South Park." Back then I had one of those full-length snowmobile suits with a parka-like hood. Underneath that I had about five layers and walking was like being a piece of maple lumber with the limbs still attached.

In a situation that normally would have taken me about an hour after school to do, it took almost two-and-a-half hours to deliver newspapers that day. And even though I had enough layers of clothing on for five people, I still was a shivering pile of person when I got back home.

That whole memory is quite comparable to what I have witnessed at this base over the past five winters in the sense of how the Warriors of the North get the mission done.

I've seen summer operations on this base be as busy as can be, and I've seen the warriors here carry

- See Chosen, Page 7

## Action Line

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.

For questions about current events or rumors, call 747-4522 and leave a message.

Questions will be answered in the order they are received.



Col. Mark Ramsay  
319th Air Refueling Wing  
commander

## Town Hall meeting answers

**Q:** Is there any chance of having a multi-child discount at the child development center?

**A:** The Air Force doesn't offer a reduction for the second, third, etc. child in the family because it costs just as much to take care of the second or third child in the family as it does the first.

If a reduction were offered to families with two or more children, families with one child would have to pay more to make up for the reduction offered to families with two or more children.

Usually the second or third child in a family is an infant and toddler and the cost of providing care for children in this age group is higher than for children in the preschool age group.

**Q:** Is there any chance of getting a paintball field on base?

**A:** The base facility board has identified a site for a wing paintball field, and is in the process of gaining final approval.

We hope to have our first paintball competition sometime this summer.

**5**

Consecutive  
DWI-free days

**85%**

Mission  
effectiveness rating



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

### Cover

A member of the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron sprays deicing fluid on a KC-135R Stratotanker Tuesday on the Charlie Ramp. Scenes like this take place daily during the winter at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

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# Deployed transient alert keeps airflow moving

By Capt. Brus E. Vidal  
376th Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFPN)** -- Unlike the old saying which goes, “jack of all trades, master of none,” the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing’s transient alert team are “airmen of all aircraft, masters of most.”

The team is primarily responsible for meeting the fuel, cargo and maintenance needs of military and commercial passenger and cargo aircraft as well as distinguished visitor aircraft not assigned to their base.

Affectionately known as the “third Aircraft Maintenance Unit”, the team of six troops handles an incredibly large workload compared to their counterparts in the C-130 Hercules AMU and the KC-135 Stratotanker AMU, said Capt. Denny Lozano, the KC-135 AMU officer in charge, who also supervises the transient alert team.

“They’re making the mission happen with about a half-dozen people,” Captain Lozano said. “Think about it. I have approximately 70 maintainers here for the KC-135 mission, and there are roughly 65 maintainers in support of the C-130 mission.”

The transient alert airmen handle everything else -- all commercial planes, mostly 747s and DC-10s, military aircraft like the C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III and C-37A, and multinational jets.

“There isn’t an aircraft out there that they can’t catch,” the captain said.

And “catching” an aircraft can involve a wide range of



Photo by Capt. Brus E. Vidal

**Staff Sgt. Christopher Smith de-ices an aircraft on the flightline of a deployed base for Operation Enduring Freedom. He is assigned to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing's transient alert team.**

potential tasks, testing the crew’s diplomacy and problem-solving skills at almost every turn. Besides working directly with aircrew members from around the world, the team has to coordinate internally with more than 10 agencies and also with the host nation for every aircraft not assigned to, but transiting, this deployed base.

Key in this process is handling maintenance issues. The team has no tools, components, or money to buy parts.

If they need tools, they borrow them. So, they are frequently challenged with repair issues and must work maintenance miracles to fix problems on the spot, get the parts in so they can fix it, or make the aircraft suitable to fly to another location and receive the necessary maintenance, he said.

In the past few months the team has parked and handled about two dozen different airframes among more than 170 aircraft - military and civilian, cargo and passenger, American and foreign.

But turning aircraft is not the team’s sole mission. They also maintain the base de-icing fluid tanks and ensure the fluid is readily available for all. They are responsible for the Condor High Reach work platform vehicle - the only vehicle capable of reaching the tail section of the C-5 and C-17 aircraft. The team also recently engineered a “snow squeegee” to remove snow from aircraft before de-icing. The use of this invention now allows much faster aircraft de-icing.

The team’s versatility makes them a “special breed,” Captain Lozano said. Most maintainers specialize in their systems, but these airmen face problems everyday most maintainers do not have to face.

“My people know the KC-135 like the back of their hand, how it works and its maintenance history,” Captain Lozano said.

“We have the right tools, parts and supply system. The T/A crew doesn’t have that, they don’t know what to expect -- every time a new mission comes in, it’s a different scenario.”

Despite the challenges and high-operations tempo, Staff Sgt. Christopher Smith, the team’s day shift non-commissioned officer in charge, said the mission is the most fulfilling one he has had in his Air Force career.

“It’s extremely satisfying, when it comes down to it, because we see the end result of what we do in each and every mission,” Sergeant Goubeaux said.

## Colonel selects

Congratulations to **Lt. Cols. Eddie Douglas**, 319th ARW director of staff, and **Barr D. Younker**, 319th Air Refueling Wing judge advocate, on their recent selection to colonel.

## Speaker visit

Bestselling author, inspirational speaker and former Air Force enlisted member Dave Pelzer will give a presentation Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the base theater. His books have been best sellers and have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Pelzer's unique and intriguing outlook on life, coupled with his "Robin Williams-like" wit and sense of humor entertain and encourage men

and women to overcome any obstacle while living life to the fullest.

## Refuse, recycling

This is a reminder for all housing occupants to use the provided bins for what they were intended.

The recently provided brown bin is for refuse and the exsisting green bin is for recyclables . Housing inspectors are still seeing several piles of garbage in yards, on the curbside and not in the bins. Additionally, it is the occupant's repsonbility to remove bins from the curbside after the contractor makes the pickup.

## Briefs

For details call the housing office at 747-3035.

## Education grants

The Air Force Aid Society provides \$1,500 grants to selected sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with 20-plus qualifying years of service, and deceased Air Force members; spouses (residing stateside) of active duty and Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased, for their under-

graduate studies.

Visit the family support center or the Society's Web site at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) for details and application for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

For details on this and any other FSC program, call 747-3241.

## Base-wide garage sale

The community center is hosting a base-wide garage sale Jan. 31 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The registration fee is \$10 per table.

Any personal items can be sold as long as they are not regulated by the state such as guns, alcohol, or in-home business products.

For details call 747-6104.

# Air Force officials ask troops to hold off embroidering logo on jackets

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Air Force clothing office officials are asking airmen to wait a few weeks before having their lightweight blue jackets embroidered with the Air Force logo.

"We've had an overwhelmingly positive response in regards to placing the logo on the jacket," said Libby Glade, Air Force clothing office chief.

"However, we have also received numerous questions from embroidery vendors and private individuals about the logo. We are revising the technical data to obtain an embroidery software format to ensure a high-quality, consistent appearance," she said.

A contractor is currently working on a digitized pattern, which will be available online at [www.af.mil/airforcestory](http://www.af.mil/airforcestory) by the first week of February, Ms. Glade said. This pattern should be compatible with 90 percent of the embroidery software programs used by vendors.

"We are advising vendors and individuals to hold off on embroidering until further guidance is available," she said.

Besides the digitized pattern, complete, updated specifications for embroidery will be available online. These specifications will include a diagram of logo placement and design elements, such as thread color and number, font style and size, stitch style and count, and spacing.

Ms. Glade said those individuals who have already had their jackets embroidered based on the current Web site logo guidelines and the previous news article are authorized to wear their embroidered jackets.

"However, we are advising that since this software will ensure conformity with the Air Force logo guidelines and provide uniformity across the Air Force, it would be best if individuals refrained from having their jackets embroidered until the software is available," she said.

## Rotation to provide right mix of forces

WASHINGTON (AFIS) -- Possibly the largest rotation of military forces in United States history is about to take place, as thousands of troops prepare to relieve units that have been in Iraq and Afghanistan for as long as a year, the director of operations for the Joint Staff said here today.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz said the rotation will involve all varieties of active duty and reserve combat and support forces. He said the goal of the rotation will be to satisfy the needs of ground commanders for the right kinds of forces -- especially civil affairs, military police and intelli-

gence units.

Schwartz said units heading for the theater will be "a little less heavy" than they were before the war, and "a little more mobile, more 'infantry-centric.'"

Schwartz said a few units will have to remain in the theater a bit longer before returning home.

## Photos from around the force



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Gangemi*

**SERVICEMEMBERS LAID TO REST (AFPN) -- Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray presents a flag to Staff Sgt. Carrissa Walkup during a full-honor mass funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Walkup Jr., and four other military members were killed when their MH-53M Pave Low helicopter crashed Nov. 23 in Afghanistan.**



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Rich*

**MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. (AFPN) -- Airman 1st Class Danny J. Nash is in position during a recapture exercise Jan. 14 at a missile launch facility near here. The exercise tested the base's ability to handle intruders at the launch facility. Airman Nash is assigned to the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron.**

## Spaghetti dinner, auction at Eielson



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol*

(Left) Eielson Elementary School first grade teacher Nathan Tangen serves spaghetti during the annual parent-teacher organization spaghetti dinner and auction Jan. 15 at Eielson. (Above) A family enjoys some spaghetti at Eielson. (Below) Base family member Zach Valentine helps prepare baskets for auctioning. During the dinner and through the auction, the PTO raised more than \$1,300 for the organization to do school projects. Baskets were built by each of Eielson's classes.



# School bus drivers use extra caution during winter months

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

Every winter in North Dakota means a greater need for busing children to school. Sub-zero temperatures and occasional blizzards create hazardous walking conditions for children going to and from school.

Ed Vita, project manager for the base school bus contractor BMAR and Associates Inc., said he takes extra precautions in making sure the buses are ready every morning and afternoon to transport the children.

“Normally in the morning, I try to get in by 6:45 a.m. so I can fire all the buses up and give them about an hour running time so every bus can be warm inside,” Mr. Vita said. “I’ll also do a quick check of the buses to make sure there is nothing obviously wrong with them.”

Mr. Vita said when all the bus drivers arrive, they take each bus through a thorough safety inspection.

“Daily, they each do a safety inspection of all lights, glass, tires, body and many others,” Mr. Vita said. “We actually have about 56 different things we check each day to make sure the buses are safe and ready to transport the students.”

Including Mr. Vita, there are nine bus drivers who transport hundreds of stu-



**Ed Vita, project manager for base school busing contractor BMAR and Associates Inc., sweeps off a bus Tuesday.**

dents every day from Carl Ben Eielson Elementary School and Nathan R. Twining Elementary and Middle School to their homes on base.

Mr. Bob Thompson, who has driven buses on base for the past three years, said winter presents the driving challenge of ice and snow.

“You have to be more careful when you are driving in those conditions,” Mr. Thompson said.

Ms. Cheryl Dilks, another bus driver who is also a military family member, said road conditions and moving vans are her biggest challenges while driving in the winter.

“You really have to be aware of the road conditions and of things in the road,” Ms. Dilks said. “The moving vans I see on my routes are usually in spots I can maneuver around, but the folks who are there with them are very cooperative about moving them if I need to get through.”

Ms. Dilks, originally from the southern United States, said some days can be awfully cold to deal with, but she does what she has to.

“Being from the south, any winter in North Dakota is too cold,” she said. “But we make the best of it. As long as the buses run, we don’t have any problems.”

Mr. Steve Clegg, another bus driver and military family member, said he has noticed some safety-related things between drivers on base and the winter conditions.

“Because this is a military base and people are coming in from all areas of the country, there are people who may not be aware of the dangers involved with winter driving,” he said. “Like when you’re driving your car and you approach an inter-



**Base school bus driver Cheryl Dilks prepares for her afternoon pick up of students Tuesday.**

section, you can’t just hit your brakes hard upon approach -- you’ll slide right through the intersection.”

All the bus drivers agree that other drivers on the road need to be aware of when school buses are out. Snowy and icy conditions

make for harder stopping and when a bus is stopped, it means children are walking near the bus.

“I tell the kids that if I honk the horn while we’re stopped that they need to stop moving immediately,” Ms. Dilks said.

“We are watching traffic from the front and the rear and someone doesn’t stop, honking the horn warns the children of an approaching vehicle.”

Mr. Vita said that if he knows the driving conditions are going to be more treacherous than normal, he tells the drivers to “take it slow.”

“If it takes us a little longer to get to our stops, that’s okay,” Mr. Vita said. “Driving safe in the winter is especially important. We have children we are driving around and it is our priority to make sure they stay safe the whole time they are under our care.”

## Chosen, from Page 2

that same level of operations tempo right through every winter.

One maintenance production superintendent I recently

talked to, who has been here even longer than me, said he was “simply amazed” at the obstacles the people of this base have tackled over the years in the cold weather with continued success.

I realize many people here have their own “been

there, froze that” story as well and that’s why we all consider ourselves a part of the “frozen chosen.” Now with just seven more months of winter to go (just kidding), I just need to drag out my military version of that old snowmobile suit.



## Base theater

**Today, 7 p.m.**

***The Last Samurai (R)***

Tom Cruise plays Civil War vet Nathan Algren, who travels to Japan in the 1870s to help organize and teach the emperor's troops during a time of feudal conflict on the islands. Algren comes to understand and appreciate the complicated system of honor under which they live and finally has to choose which side to fight on.

**Saturday, 7 p.m.**

***Stuck on You (PG-13)***

Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear play conjoined twins, one of whom has dreams of making it big in Hollywood. They decide to head west, and when they arrive in town, they're cast on a television show starring Cher.

**Jan. 30, 7 p.m.**

***Paycheck (PG-13)***

**Jan. 31, 3 p.m.**

***Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13)***

**Jan. 31, 7 p.m.**

***Something's Gotta Give (PG-13)***

**Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults  
For details, call 747-3021/6123.**



## Base chapel

**CATHOLIC:**

**Mass:** 9 a.m. Sundays, Sunflower Chapel.

**Weekday Mass:** Not held until Feb. 5

**Reconciliation:** 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sundays, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel

**CCD:** 10:45 a.m. Sundays at Twining School. Call 747-3073 for details.

**PROTESTANT:**

**Traditional Worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sundays, Sunflower Chapel

**Contemporary Worship:** 6 p.m. Sundays, Prairie Rose Chapel

**Sunday school:** Sundays at 9 a.m. in Eielson Elementary School

**PYOC:** 4 to 5:45 p.m. on Sundays at the youth center

**PWOC Bible Study:** 7 p.m. every Monday in the Prairie Rose Chapel conference room

**Men of the Chapel Bible Study:** Every Monday at noon in the Prairie Rose chapel conference room

**Young Adults:** Fridays at 6 p.m. in Chaplain Swain's Home. Call 747-6468 for details.

**JEWISH:**

Call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124 for details.

**RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:**

Call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540 for details.

**MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:**

Call 747-5673 for details.

## Perspective

### *Veteran's final choices show love for blue suit*

**By Maj. John J. Thomas**

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs  
Randolph Air Force Base, Texas

Reid S. Wyant is dying. His daughter called me the other day looking for help putting together the items so that he could be buried in his Air Force service dress uniform. He served 30 years as an airman. And it seems he's still one of us.

I got to thinking. What makes a person who has lived life as a civilian since 1980 want to be buried in his uniform?

I like to think maybe Service Before Self gets into your blood. After all, retired Senior Master Sgt. Wyant switched his cancer treatment from Eglin Air Force Base not too long ago because the war was forcing them to cut back care, and he wanted the active-duty people to get taken care of first. "Always thinking of others," his daughter says.

His daughter -- her name is Andrae Harris -- is helping care for him even as he edges closer to the end. She helps him plan it all out. Arlington National Cemetery was overruled by his wife, who wants him for eternity closer to family. Details like that.

Andrae says she always knew her dad was a hero. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for saving three swimmers' lives "in front of my very eyes, without a care to his own safety." He almost lost his own life doing it, she says. And that pales in comparison to his courage facing his cancer.

Sergeant Wyant might say it is the friends you find that make the Air Force something you want to be buried with. "I've never known anyone that did not like my dad," his daughter says.

A former commander, Col. Roger Andersen, still visits him at home. "They would both reenlist today," if they could, Andrae tells me. Reid Wyant's life with the Air Force began when the young Air Force had been around for just seven years. "His uncle was a rear admiral and told him to join the Air Force," Andrae says. Seems his uncle was a smart man.

She says, "He caught a bus to Pittsburgh and never looked back."

I think he's looking back now. Looking back on the people he met as a munitions maintenance specialist and first sergeant. Born and raised in Kitanning, Pa., he served in North Africa, in the '50s; Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos and Korea in the '60s. In 1971 he was in Thailand. And he was in plenty of stateside places in between. But no assignment was more important than the move from Denver to Bentwaters, England.

That's where a boy, dirt-poor and often mistreated by his grandfather, a guy who dropped out of school and put his kid brother through college -- well, England is where he met his wife, Doreen. To hear Andrae tell it, her mom's whole family fell in love with him. As much, it seems, as he loved the Air Force.

Upon retirement from his second career he moved from Dallas to near Eglin where he fried fish and chicken for squadron picnics. And where a couple of years ago they first treated him for cancer. And it was to Eglin that he went recently with his family to get all of his affairs together and prepare a final will.

I have never met Sergeant Wyant. But I have worked with people just like him every day of my 12 years in the Air Force. I have served with loyal members of every service. And I am off to Iraq soon to work again with the State Department and other agencies.

People tell me to keep my head down when I go to Iraq. Instead I think I'll hold my head high, out of respect for people like Sergeant Wyant and all those he represents, like my own dad, and my father-in-law.

When Andrae asked him the other day 'why the service dress uniform for the burial?' he said that is what he has always worn for important events, and he wanted his family to recognize him. His sense of humor is still healthy.

Maybe one day, I will ask to be buried in my service dress uniform, like Senior Master Sgt. Reid S. Wyant wants to be, "with full military honors."

In his case, the honor will be ours.

# SUB ZERO WARRIORS

## Maintainers brave elements to get mission done

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

When the mercury drops so far that even the thermometer freezes, it's likely people from the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are out working on the flightline.

"The beat never stops," said Senior Master Sgt. Philip Alerding, lead production superintendent for the 319th AMXS Knight flight. "Whether it's snow or temperatures below zero, we are out here getting planes ready for their missions."

Lt. Col. James Howe, 319th AMXS commander, said his troops show the toughness of true cold weather warriors.

"My folks show great mental and physical toughness to deal with and succeed in the extreme cold," Colonel Howe said. "Add to that the inherently dangerous industrial flightline environment they work in and it equals a dedication to duty surpassed by none and only found in a flightline maintainer."

In the bitter cold on the flightline, Sergeant Alerding said everyone looks after each other. "We operate on a buddy system out there," Sergeant Alerding said. "In the cold weather, safety



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**A 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron maintenance troop stands ready to guide a taxiing tanker.**

of personnel takes precedence to anything else. Everyone needs to be wearing the right equipment, and they should not be over-exposed to the elements. Taking care of your people is more important than an on-time take-off."

Some of the coldest weather this winter was registered earlier this month by the 319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight. On Jan. 3, temperatures dipped to more than -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Base weather personnel measured a wind chill factor that morning of more than -50 degrees F.

"We actually suspended all outdoor activity on base at that point," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Bolin, weather technician. "We have a formula for calculating the wind chill, and any time we record it at minus 47, we issue a final weather warning so people don't go outside."

Staff Sgt. Brent Green, a KC-135R Stratotanker crew chief in the Knight flight who arrived here in August 1996 and is experiencing his eighth winter in North Dakota, said over the years he's gotten used to the winters on the flightline.

"You should have been here during the winter of 1996-97," Sergeant Green said. "I'm from southern California and with that being my first winter here, it sticks in my mind as being especially cold. We also had a lot of snow that winter, and those were the days before we had the anti-icing fluid we use now to clear planes of ice."

That winter saw several major blizzards and was the precursor to the 1997 spring flood which devastated the Red River Valley.

"I've been deployed some of the winters since then, but that one, at least since I have been here, seemed to be the coldest and the snowiest."

Airman Jamie Balasco, an aerospace maintenance apprentice who is experiencing his first winter in Grand Forks, said he is adjusting to the cold. "You work as fast as you can and as safely as possible," Airman Balasco said. "As far as what you wear, you wear anything - within regulations of course - that you can put on."

Airman 1st Class John Seeger, also an aerospace maintenance apprentice spending his first winter here as a military member, said working in cold conditions takes some adjustment. He said military members with similar jobs in other parts of the country don't know what they're missing.

"Compared to somewhere in the south, you really have to worry about the adjustment of being in someplace that is 50 degrees this time of year to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**Senior Airman Jared Currie, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, is one of more than 120 maintenance people who are out on the flightline every day braving the cold.**

someplace that has sub-zero temperatures for a daily high," Airman Seeger said. "I'd gladly work somewhere where the weather was much warmer than here in the winter."

Airman Seeger said he also got his first taste of being out in the elements this winter when he did his first deicing of a KC-135R Stratotanker.

"I didn't like it," he said. "It was windy and cold and when it's like that, the deicing fluid blows right back in your face. Overall, it was not a pleasant experience, but we did get the mission off on time. That's the ultimate goal in that situation."

Senior Airman David Ruddick, Knight flight crew chief in his third Grand Forks winter, agreed with Airman Seeger.

"If you have to deice in the wind on a really cold day, you get the shivers instantly," Airman Ruddick said. "And your first deicing experience is one you usually never forget, especially if you do it on a windy day. It's the taste of the deicing fluid that you can never get out of your mind."

Sergeant Alerding said that winter makes all the difference in operations on the flightline. "Say we get three inches of snow," he said, "it takes almost a day to recover because of the work it involves."

Sergeant Alerding said in the case of snow, first the 319th Civil Engineering Squadron screws have to remove snow from the ramps. Then maintenance crews have to blow the snow off the planes, and they also have to tow planes out of their parking spots so snow removal crews can get in and clear the area out.

"All of this happens while we continue to do our normal daily flying schedule," Sergeant Alerding said. "That's why winter is so much more work for us. It's really amazing these people can do all of this work in these conditions and have the success rate we have. Like I said before, the beat goes on and these guys make sure it does."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**(Above) Sgt. Craig Penas, North Dakota Army National Guardsman who is augmented with the 319th Security Forces Squadron, shows his daily wear while he works at the main gate. (Below) Military working dog Cindy goes out with her own cold weather gear. In this photo she's wearing her own set of boots.**



## 24-7: Security forces work through all weather conditions

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the way the 319th Security Forces Squadron does its job has changed in the sense of an increased presence and additional security measures. This means security forces spend more time outside of the squadron and the squad car.

"We're out here no matter what conditions there are," said Staff Sgt. Chris Kaemke, 319th SFS military working dog handler. "When we are outside we could be checking identification cards at the gate, doing vehicle searches at the gate, doing patrols, or simply checking buildings. The security of this base has to be maintained and we are the ones who do that job."

The base, which covers more than 4,800 acres of land, has expensive assets that require protection. In the winter, and particularly on those extremely cold days, Sergeant Kaemke said it's crucial to keep your focus on the mission.

"You really just have to be tolerant of the cold," said Army National Guard Sgt. Thomas Axtmann, a Carrington-based North Dakota Guard soldier called up to augment base security forces in 2003. "We have to be out there. We stay warm as best we can and we cover the mission. We simply get it done

no matter what weather we are facing."

When it is cold, even military working dogs wear cold weather gear. According to Sergeant Kaemke, they have boots and sweaters to cover the animals.

"They have to stay warm too," he said.

Senior Airman Lorie Hollis, installation entry controller, said when she is out direct-ing vehicle searches at the main gate in the cold weather, it's important to have all your gear on and be quick.

"When I am out there, I have nearly every piece of cold weather garment I've been issued on me," she said.

During vehicle searches in the cold, Airman Hollis said they do all they can to try and not inconvenience those people who are being searched. It's also the same situation when checking identification cards.

"We have to be thorough and fast," she said. "We do our job while minimizing the impact to those people who are affected."

Staff Sgt. Gabe Rodriguez, also an installation entry controller, said security forces will be out there even when many others aren't.

"When you know it's going to be that cold out, you just prepare for it," Sergeant Rodriguez said. "We pride ourselves on doing our job to the best of our ability. We will continue to do that no matter what conditions we face."

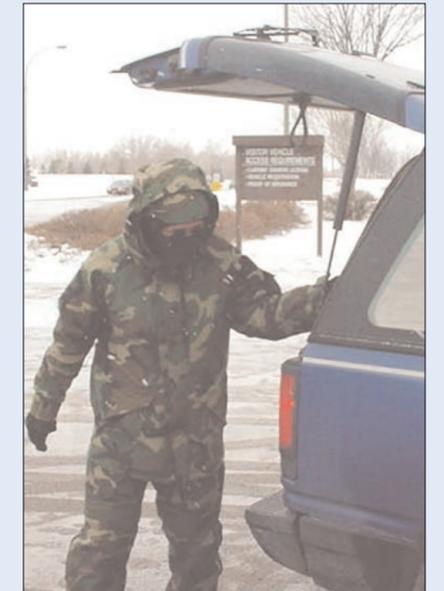


Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**Senior Airman Lorie Hollis, installation entry controller, checks a vehicle during a vehicle search at the main gate Tuesday.**

The winter weather at this base will continue for at least a few more months. In 2003, sub-zero temperatures continued all the way into March. Airman Hollis said it doesn't matter what month, hot or cold, they will be there.

"You'll see us out here on the coldest days," she said. "We will be all bundled up and we may not look the prettiest, but we will be out here doing what we do best -- protecting this base."

## Civil engineers put shivers aside; keep base up and running

By Airman Patrice Clarke  
Public affairs

In the Temptations song, "My Girl," one line said it best -- "When it's cold outside, I've got the month of May."

The members of the 319th Civil Engineering Squadron don't have the month of May, they just have cold. Despite the cold, the wind, and all the other elements, base civil engineers still strive to keep the base running as usual.

"I've been in the North Dakota, South Dakota area for 18 years," said Tech. Sgt. Joe Travis, 319th CES structures shop. "After you've been here for a while, you understand some of the tricks to working in the cold."

If power lines go out, or a gas line breaks, or water mains break, 319th CES members are available 24 hours a day to fix things like that as soon as possible.

"The cold wouldn't be that bad but when you add in the wind, that's what cuts through clothes," said Staff Sgt. Roman Padilla, 319th CES exterior electrical shop.

The exterior electrical shop on base is responsible for all exterior electrical equipment.

Before going out in the elements, 319th CES members prepare their equipment for the cold.

"If we are supposed to be painting or mixing concrete, we'll do all that indoors, then go outside do what we have to, and then come back inside," Sergeant Travis said.

Most of all, they said, safety is the most important thing to think of in the cold to the CE person. And like flightline maintainers, 319th CES crews have to be out on flightline to clear snow all winter long.

"Many people believe clearing the flightline is just taking the snowplow and clearing the runway like the contractors do in housing and near the dorm," said Senior Airman Troy Pietz, 319th CES heavy equipment shop. "Aircraft tires need the same traction as car tires, so just moving the snow around the flightline isn't going to get the planes off the ground.

"We also have sweeper trucks with metal brushes that sweep



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**A 319th Civil Engineer Squadron sweeper moves snow on the Charlie Ramp during snow removal operations Tuesday.**

the snow away so the flightline is always up and running," Airman Pietz said.

There are times when one part of CE makes work for other CE shops. "We'll be clearing the snow on the flightline and accidentally chop off some of the airfield lighting," said Airman Pietz.

"When they (heavy equipment) do that we are immediately called out to fix the airfield lights," said Sgt. Padilla.

"This connects with our job because sometimes they'll also sever a line and need a generator out there while they are fixing the lights," said Senior Airman Joseph Ganzzermiller, 319th CES power production shop.

"We'll have to come out there and set it up so they have the power they need to do their job," Airman Ganzzermiller said.

No matter what the temperature or the weather, the base can depend on 319th CES making sure business runs smoothly.

# Community

## Today

**WEB DESIGN/GRAPHIC ARTS FESTIVAL:** The youth center is looking for entries in the following age categories for the upcoming Web Design and Graphic Arts Festival.

This will run at the same time as the Digital Arts Festival. The contest is open to youth ages 10 to 18 in these three age groups:

- ❑ ages 10 to 12
- ❑ ages 13 to 15
- ❑ ages 16 to 18

Call Cyndy Ryan at the youth center, 747-3150, by Jan. 23 for more information and specific formats.

Winners will be sent forward for a regional contest.

**PASTA BAR:** The Northern Lights Club offers a "pasta bar" along with the day's hot entree during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights

Club offers a steak special tonight from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Prices for three different steaks range from \$10.50 to \$13.50.

**GOLF COURSE BREAKFAST:** The Plainsview Golf Course offers breakfast of steak and eggs from 7 to 11 a.m. for \$5.75.

**FRAME CLASSES:** The skills development center will be offering framing classes Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Jan. 27 - 29 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost for both classes are \$20 plus supplies. All participants need to bring a photo to frame.

## Saturday

**CLUB KARAOKE:** The Northern Lights Club offers karaoke from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

**CLUB DANCING:** The Northern Lights Club offers dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. to 'club mix' music

with "DJ 'C.'"

## Sunday

**SUNDAY BRUNCH:** The Northern Lights Club offers Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Members pay \$5, nonmembers pay \$8.

## Monday

**BRIDGER BOWL:** Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to Ski Montana from Feb. 16 - 21.

Cost is \$325 which includes three days of skiing with hotel accommodations and transportation. A free ski rental package will be provided for those who need it. A minimum of ten people must be signed up by today for the trip to commence. For details, call outdoor recreation at 747-3688.

**PLANET PIZZA TRIP:** The youth center is sponsoring a pizza trip Jan. 31 at Planet Pizza for youth ages 6 to 12. Cost is \$10 per person which

includes transportation, pizza and sodas. The trip departs the youth center at 12:30 and returns at 4 p.m.

Game tokens and laser tag is extra. There must be 15 participants signed up to go. For details call 747-3151.

## Wednesday

**ESC MONTHLY MEETING:** The base Enlisted Spouses Club holds their monthly meeting Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. in the community center. All members are highly encouraged to attend as part of the meeting discusses the ESC's future. For details call Tracy Carter at 747-4518.

**BLUEBERRY PANCAKE FEED:** In honor of National Blueberry Pancake day, the Torch and TeenSupreme Clubs will be hosting this dinner which is open to all ages at the youth center from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per person.

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**GOLF COURSE LUNCH:** The Plainsview Golf course offers a mongolian barbeque for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights Club offers all you can eat tacos every Wednesday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$6 and members receive a \$3 discount.

## Thursday

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights club offers "steak night" from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members receive a \$3 discount.

## Upcoming

**ICE FISHING TRIP:** Outdoor recreation is sponsoring an ice fishing trip Jan. 31 departing at 7 a.m.

The cost is \$10 per person, which includes transportation, ice shanty with heater, use of auger, bait, and equipment if needed. The cost does not include fishing license. Dress according to the weather and bring something to eat and drink.

**BASE TALENT SHOW REGISTRATION:** The base talent show registration goes until Jan. 31 at the youth center.

Show dates are to be announced.

For categories and more details call the youth center at 747-3150.

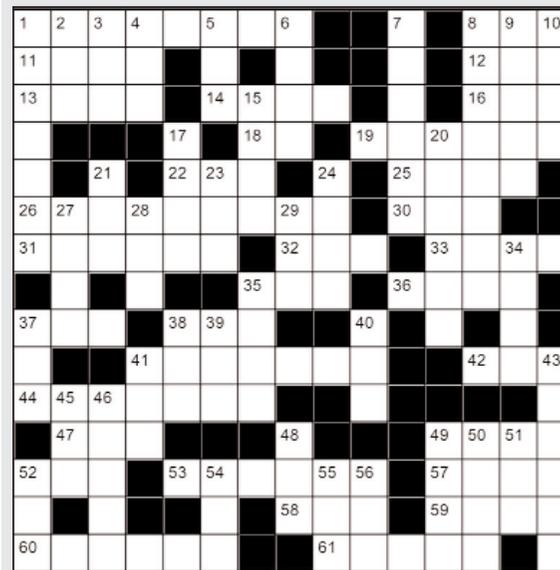
**LIFEGUARD CLASSES:** A lifeguard class is scheduled to start Feb. 1 at the base pool. Class is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a required swim test to be taken before the class. Classes will run Saturdays and Sundays. A requirements sheet for the class is at outdoor recreation. Call 747-3688 for class dates, times and pool rules and guidelines.

**PARENT-INFANT OR PARENT-TODDLER SWIM CLASS:** Classes will start Feb. 3 at the base pool. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday for four weeks. Cost is \$30 for the first child and \$25 for each additional child. Each infant/toddler must be accompanied by an adult. Evening classes will be starting in March.

For details call 747-3688.

**PTO BREAKFAST READING:** There is a parent-teacher organization-sponsored breakfast reading Feb. 18 from 7:30 to 8 a.m. in the Eielson Elementary School cafeteria. Bring your favorite book and read with your child. Muffins, fruit, milk, and juice will be served. Tickets are \$1.35 for adults and children are 75 cents, or you may charge to your child's account. For details call Lisa Bunce at 594-3351.

## Hometown USAF (Vol. 2)



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman  
Alaskan Command public affairs

### ACROSS

1. Maryland AFB home to 113th WG; a/c tail marking of DC
5. Alaska AFB home to 354th FW; a/c tail marking of AK
10. \_\_\_\_-jay Carson Daly
11. Sick
12. Aloha gift
13. Current space project (abbrev.)
14. City in south central Germany
15. Place to rest
16. From the Orient
18. See
19. Founding of a com-

pany (abbrev.)

20. Never
22. Nation wide radio (abbrev.)
24. Inventor Whitney
26. South Korean AB home to 51st FW; a/c tail marking of OS
28. Military trenching tool
31. Greek god of love
32. Worship
34. Colorado AFB home to 50th SW
37. Illinois AFB home to 375th AW
39. Car repair organization (abbrev.)
40. Nebraska AFB home

to 55 FW; a/c tail marking of OF

43. California AFB home to 9th Recon Wing; a/c tail marking of BB
45. Neither's partner
48. Slang for 1K
51. Statement given during enlistment/commissioning
54. Stock offer (abbrev.)
57. Lyrical poem
58. Military commander's place of responsibility (abbrev.)
59. School in Carbondale, Ill. (abbrev.)
60. Arkansas AFB home to 314th AW
61. Everything

62. Lord of the Rings character
63. California Army fort
64. Try (as in eating)

### DOWN

1. Italy AB home to 31st FW; a/c tail marking of AV
2. Untouchable Elliot \_\_\_\_
3. Lucy's partner
4. Alike
5. Alaska AFB home to 3rd WG; a/c tail marking of AK
6. Bugs' nemesis
7. DiCaprio and Burmester

8. Tot watcher
9. Nevada AFB home to 57th WG; a/c tail marking of WA
14. Card game
17. Actress \_\_\_\_ - Margaret
21. Secret clearance type (abbrev.)
23. Each
25. Pirate's bounty
27. Title for Hon. James Roche (abbrev.)
29. USAF helicopter MH-53J \_\_\_\_ Hawk
30. Summer drink
33. Italian family who governed Ferrara (13-16 century)
34. Type of military security officer (abbrev.)
35. Hoist
36. Football stat (abbrev.)
38. Car fluid
41. Someone who swaps goods
42. Finish
43. Texas AFB home to 311 HSW
44. Bother
46. Greenland AB home to 821st ABG
47. Arouse
49. Candy brand
50. Geek
52. Military for fast
53. Plow
55. Sewing item
56. Giants great Mel \_\_\_\_
58. Tail marking for aircraft assigned to 177th FW (NJ)



photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

## Got it!

Base members play basketball at the sports and fitness center during their mandatory fitness time at the gym recently. Playing basketball is one of many activities people do to stay in shape. For more details on what the sports and fitness center has to offer, stop by the center or call 747-3384.

# Warriors smack down opponents

Compiled from staff reports

The base Warriors men's basketball team continues their quest for the top spot in City League play by dominating the Red Pepper Restaurant 109-53, Jan. 14.

George Fowlkes paced the team with an all-around performance, nine points, 11 assists, six rebounds and six steals; Eric Williams poured in 24 points and five assists; Matt Wireman had 18 points and four steals; Adonis Ball added in 16 points and eight rebounds; Javron Rushing had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds; and Derrick Jones finished with nine points and six rebounds.

The Warriors are now 4-1 in City League play and 9-9 overall. They are playing their best basketball of the season.

"Our maturity is starting to show," said coach D.J. Lemelle. "By watching tapes of our previous games, the game is starting to slow down for our players. Everyone is starting to recognize and accept their role on the team...this will help us to be even more successful."

The Warriors are paced by the play of their five guards, Fowlkes, Wireman,

Williams, O.J. Oden and Russell Mackey. After 18 games, their play is impressive.

"Fowlkes, Wireman, Williams, Oden and Mackey are tremendous. They are playing better than some of the best college guards in the state," said Lemelle.

"They are really turning some heads, by the way they run the offense and how they ensure everyone is involved."

Not to be underestimated, the Warriors post players do bang-up job rebounding and setting the interior tempo on offense, despite the height of most teams they play.

"We give up, on average, six to 10 inches of height on the interior to almost every team we face," said Lemelle.

"But that doesn't stop them from battling hard they hold the name true ... Warriors."

The Warriors hit the road this weekend when they battle Jamestown College's junior varsity team Friday night in Jamestown.

They then travel to Minot for games on Saturday and Sunday against Minot Air Force Base.

Note: Jamestown College's varsity team is the number one ranked team in

## 12 Days of Fitness participants

The sports and fitness center would like to recognize the following participants who completed their 12 Days of Fitness Program. Recognition goes to: **Senior Master Sgt Harry Walker, Lt. Col. Eddie Douglas, Tech. Sgt. Tim Olson, Staff Sgt. Lethuy Clegg, Ms. Mary Behm, and Ms. Margaret Franklin.**