



THE LEADER

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Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ www.public.grandforks.af.mil

July 30, 2004

Essential ingredient

– See Pages 12-13



319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

Inside:

Weekend weather

Today	75/55	Partly cloudy
Saturday	81/61	Partly cloudy
Sunday	82/59	Partly cloudy
Monday	82/63	Partly cloudy



*Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight*

What a Bash!



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Community, base unite



Page 6

Fun run



Page 15

Use your government travel card properly

By Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing Commander

The Government Travel Card Program continues to mature as a means for Department of Defense employees to pay for reimbursable expenses accumulated during official government travel. A recent change in the program includes mandatory split disbursement, which requires travelers to determine the amount of money charged on the card during official travel, and put this amount on the top of each voucher before filing. This amount is credited directly to a member's GTC account, which should prevent delinquent accounts if calculated correctly.

Unfortunately, we continue to have members with delinquent GTC accounts. Within Air Mobility Command last month, more than 400 airmen had accounts that were delinquent by more than 60 days, with a value of about \$200,000. Attention to detail and following some simple rules and procedures will prevent future delinquent accounts.

The first way for most airmen to avoid delinquent accounts is to use the GTC only as it was intended...for official government travel where the member is on military orders and will be reimbursed by the government for travel expenses. Unfortunately, during the past year, 12 Warriors of the North mis-

used the GTC by paying for items or getting cash from ATM machines when they weren't traveling on official orders. It seems that misuse of the GTC program occurs more frequently during holiday periods, especially over the Christmas and New Years season. Misuse of the GTC has to stop.

I highly recommend you put your GTC in a separate place in your wallet or purse to prevent inadvertent illegal use. Whatever technique you use, think before you use your GTC. You must be traveling on official orders or withdrawing cash for an official trip to use your GTC.

The second best way to prevent a delinquent account is to follow a few basic rules of the GTC program to ensure timely payment of your account. If you are traveling for less than a month, make sure you file your travel voucher immediately upon returning to Grand Forks AFB. Calculate the amount you charged to your GTC and place this amount at the top of your voucher in the "split disbursement" block. Travel Pay will send this amount directly to the GTC bank to pay off your account long before it becomes delinquent. You will receive payment for any remainder of your travel settlement.

If you will be on an extended temporary duty or deployment longer than about a month, file an accrual voucher before you depart Grand Forks. You

can do this quickly and easily at our new "One Stop" customer service counter in Bldg. 101. If you depart on very short notice, work with your unit as soon as possible to make sure you set up an accrual voucher. Through the accrual voucher process your account will be reimbursed on a monthly basis by Travel Pay to reduce or eliminate the chances of ending up with a delinquent account.

The bottom line is we have to manage our GTC accounts to ensure compliance with federal law and Department of Defense policy. Using the GTC card for personal use is illegal. When using it for official purposes, take a few extra minutes to accurately calculate your split disbursement amount on your official travel settle-

ment voucher. If you will be gone for an extended period, a quick trip to travel pay "One Stop" before departure, will likely prevent a delinquent account as well. When you return from an extended temporary duty, the experts at "One Stop" will help you complete an accurate settlement voucher if you need help.

Finally, take the time each month to check your GTC bank statement to ensure you have been accurately billed, and that split disbursement and settlement payments have been credited to your GTC account. By using the GTC card as it was intended and taking a little extra time in checking your account on a monthly basis, we'll stamp out GTC problems. I know all Warriors of the North are up to this task!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

Action Line

Call 747-4522 or E-mail
commandersactionline@grandforks.af.mil

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base. For questions about current events or rumors, leave a message.

Questions will be answered in the order they are received.

12

Consecutive DWI-free days

Goal is zero DWIs.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

Cover: Read Pages 12-13 to find out why 1st Lt. Russell Walter and Master Sgt. Ken Jacobs, 319th Contracting Squadron, are essential ingredients to the 319th Air Refueling Wing and Air Force mission.

Editorial staff

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1st Lt. Ashley Gee _____ Deputy chief, public affairs
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Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke _____ Associate editor

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News



Deployed Warrior

Tech. Sgt. Steve Hughes

DEPLOYED TO: Site 14

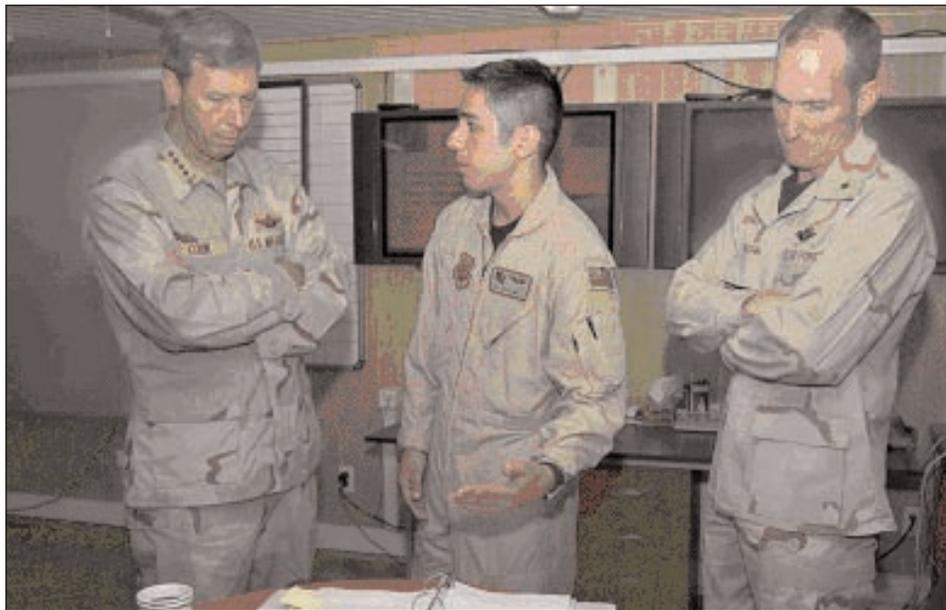
HOME STATION: Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

HOMETOWN: Saginaw, Mich.

JOB TITLE: Hydraulics Technician

BEST MEMORY SINCE ARRIVING: The friendships created and meeting new people.

BEST ON-THE-JOB SUCCESS: Teaching the young Airmen how to isolate aircraft problems and how to deal with stress while not at home station.



Star struck

It's not often that an airman fresh out of mission qualification training finds himself the center of two generals' attention in a combat zone ... and it be a good thing. Well, that's exactly where Airman 1st Class Robert Willis, boom operator from the 905th Air Refueling Squadron, found himself recently at Site 50. Airman Willis was chosen to brief Gen. Donald Cook, the Commander of Air Education and Training Command and Brigadier General Gilmary Hostage, director of plans and programs at AETC. General Cook was meeting with the troops at Site 50 to understand the demands of the combat environment and how Air Education and Training Command's programs are meeting the warfighters' needs. Airman Willis provided his "From High School to Combat" brief to the generals in the operations center of the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. Don't think about coining Airman Willis any time soon ... he can trump you with his new shiny coin with four stars on it!

Cold War echoes strengthen trust between former adversaries

By 1st Lt. Michael Meridith
Public affairs

Close to a decade and a half after the fall of the Berlin Wall, an early morning phone call resonated with echoes of the Cold War.

James Bolton, Chief of the 319th Air Refueling Wing's Treaty Compliance Office, was notified early June 24 that a Russian inspection team would be visit-

START Treaty Facts

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, signed by the United States and the former Soviet Union in July, 1991, has been in force since December, 1994. START reduced the levels of nuclear warheads deployed on ballistic missiles (both land- and sea-based) and long-range bombers from Cold War levels of more than 10,000 to 6,000 at the end of 2001. It is a Treaty unprecedented in length, complexity and the extent of its verification regime. START I will remain in force through at least 2009, and may be amended to unlimited duration.



ing Grand Forks Air Force Base within a few hours. It was the first such visit since last August.

The purpose of the visit was enforcement of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty signed between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1991. Under the treaty, both nations agreed to short-notice inspections of designated military facilities in their territories.

The phone call kicked off a flurry of activity for Mr. Bolton, from notifying base leadership and arranging escorts to restricting movement at several areas on base.

"One hour after being notified we had guards blocking and controlling entry into inspectable areas," Mr. Bolton said, attributing the quick reaction to a mock inspection coincidentally held a few days earlier.

The Russian team arrived less than seven hours after the first phone call. After a brief opening ceremony, they began a comprehensive set of inspections lasting nearly six hours.

"They inspect any area that was once identified as Minuteman III-related. Even if a building no longer exists, the area where it once stood is inspectable. If you build something new in that area, it becomes inspectable too," Mr. Bolton said.

According to Mr. Bolton, the inspections went well, leaving both sides satisfied. He attributed the success to the support of organizations and individuals from across the base and their willingness to quickly pitch in to what he considers an important endeavor.

"This shows the world that we are not afraid to open up our country, that we aren't hiding things. We put our cards on the table and so do they. The real value of this is in the trust it builds," he said.

AF approves Humanitarian Service Medal for OEF

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - The Air Force has authorized wear of the Humanitarian Service medal for Operation Enduring Freedom.

During OEF hundreds of Airmen participated in the packaging and delivery of nearly 2.5 million individual Human Daily Rations that were air-dropped to beleaguered Afghans.

The medal recognizes the humanitarian operations that took place from Oct. 7, 2001 to May 31, 2002.

To qualify for the medal, Airmen must have been individually assigned or attached to a unit participating in the humanitarian efforts and have provided direct, hands-on participation in the relief actions that affected locations within the land area, airspace, or waters of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Gulf of Oman, or the Arabian Sea designated as 20 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude.

Other Airmen, such as aircrews, who may be approved are those who were in direct support of OEF humanitarian operations from stateside locations, or deployed overseas and were assigned to or working from one of the following locations: Combined Air Operations Center, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Regional Air Movement Control Center, Al Udeid, Qatar; 437th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron or 37th Airlift Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; 351st Air Refueling Squadron, RAF Mildenhall UK; 2nd Space Operations Squadron, Falcon Air Force Base, Colo.; 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.; 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, McChord AFB, Wash.

For more information, contact the local military personnel flight's awards and decorations section or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

Summer Barn Bash 2004



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Gamble

Staff Sgt. Melinda Bruce, 319th MDOS, carried the American flag during the playing of the national anthem during the opening ceremonies of Summer Bash July 22. Summer Bash is the base's annual summer festival event put on by the 319th Services Squadron.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

The 319th Civil Engineer Squadron won the annual bed race for the second year in a row.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Gamble

Many people took advantage of the hayrides this year. This was the first time that hayrides were offered.

(Right) Airman Young Lee, 319th Comptrollers Squadron, carries the 65 pound hose used in the tough-man part of the fire muster competition held at summer bash.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke



Photo by Christine Davis

Firefighters with the 319th CES practice battling the car fire during Summer Bash. During the demonstration, firefighters also used the Jaws of Life to extricate a "victim."



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Members of the Hatton, N.D. Fire Department saturate the area with water. They were one of a half-dozen fire crews responding to the off-base exercise held July 21.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Members of the Mayville and Hatton, N.D., Fire Departments assess the situation as new crews arrive on-scene.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Darcie Ibiidipo

Tech. Sgt. Paul Schmidt, 319th Security Forces Squadron, coordinates via cell phone with local authorities after the formation of the disaster control group, while watched by an exercise evaluation team member.

Community, base unite

Base officials worked with local law enforcement and emergency response units in an off-base terrorist incident exercise July 21.

The exercise involved the simulated crash of a KC-135R Stratotanker after being struck by a shoulder-fired missile in a designated area six miles west of Hatton, N.D.

“The exercise provided an opportunity for local law enforcement and emergency units to work with base teams in the event an incident or accident like this were to occur off base,” said Maj. Charles Huhtala, 319th Air Refueling Wing Inspector General office. “During this exercise we were able to learn more about this process and build on our partnership with those initial response agencies.”

News Briefs

MPF closure

The Military Personnel Flight customer service section closes from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 23 for computer system upgrades. They won't have the capability to issue identification cards, accomplish Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System updates or give out Rapids Reports. For details call 747-4902.

Promotion video 'demystifies' process

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER

— In an effort to educate all Airmen on senior enlisted promotion boards, the Air Force Selection Board Secretariat and the Enlisted Promotions Branch here have partnered to produce a new video to help shed light on the inner workings of the selection board process.

A copy of the video, entitled "How Senior NCOs Are Promoted to Senior and Chief," will be distributed to each Air Force installation public affairs office, military personnel flight, command chief master sergeant, as well as to all NCO academies and the Senior NCO Academy.

The video provides an insider's view of boardroom activity at the Air Force Personnel Center, including how records are scored and what board members actually do when evaluating candidates for promotion.

For details call the military personnel flight promotions section at 747-4995.

USAF Test Pilot School selection board date set

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER

— The Air Force plans to hold its next test pilot school selection board here Nov. 15.

The U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School trains pilots, navigators and engineers to test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems.

Applicants from all aircraft types and backgrounds must have strong academic and technical experience, along with a desire to help develop the next generation of Air Force weapons and weapons systems.

Selected officers enter AFIT for a special program, followed by the regular test pilot school curriculum 15 months later.

Completed applications must arrive no later than Sept. 24 at HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West Suite 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733.

Applicants should advise their commanders and/or supervisors who are provid-

ing comments on an AF Form 1712, Special Flying Programs Recommendation, of the application deadline.

All officers eligible in accordance with AFI 99-107, Test Pilot School, may apply. However, only those available for reassignment who also meet time-on-station requirements will be considered.

Applications received after Sept. 24 will not be considered by the selection board.

For details on application procedures, call 747-4906 or visit <http://www.edwards.af.mil/TPS/>.

U.S. forces move

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Department of Defense officials announced July 23 that South Korean and U.S. representatives finalized agreements to remove all U.S. forces from the Seoul metropolitan area.

Nearly 8,000 U.S. servicemembers will move about 43 miles south to the Pyongtaek area near Osan Air Base.

The decision was reached during the 10th round of the Future of the Alliance talks held in Washington recently. The agreement fulfills a commitment made by President Bush and President Roh Moo-hyun at their summit meeting in Washington in May 2003.

Officials expect the relocation of U.S. forces will be complete by December 2008.

Guardsmen rescue pilot, dog after plane crash

CAMP DENALI, Alaska (AFP) -- Pararescuemen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron rescued a pilot and his dog following a crash July 21 in a steep canyon near Knik Glacier, 40 miles north of Anchorage.

The Piper Cub pilot, in his late 60s, encountered a sudden downdraft and crashed his plane in the valley near a river around noon. He reportedly injured his back and dislocated an elbow during the accident.

Rescue Coordination Center officials received a report of an emergency locator beacon signal from the vicinity. Subsequently, a search aircraft and crew from the Civil Air Patrol spotted the wing of a yellow J-3 Piper Cub upside down in the canyon just south of the glacier.

Pararescuemen aboard an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter got the call to help. The pilot and his dog were flown to a medical center. He later called the pararescuemen to thank them for his rescue.

Secretary Rumsfeld sends message to troops

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The following is a message to the troops from Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld on why the United States is fighting in Iraq:

“More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

“As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the president are deeply grateful.

“In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues -- none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

“The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

“On September 11, 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies. The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against

other civilized societies. This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

“These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent peoples’ heads to try to intimidate great nations. They have murdered citizens from many countries – South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others – hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people.

“Theirs is an ideology of oppression and subjugation of women. They seek to create radical systems that impose their views on others. And they will accept no armistice with those who choose free systems.

“They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.

“Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

“The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolu-

tions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the UN about his weapons programs. He ignored every one.

“Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified. The U.N. resolutions had called for "serious consequences" should Saddam not comply. He did not.

“The president issued a final ultimatum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

“By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start.

“But most importantly, your fight – and ultimate victory – against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

“You are accomplishing something noble and historic – and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.”

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m. Sunflower Chapel

Weekday Mass: Weekday Mass resumes Monday

Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 a.m.

Sunday, Sunflower Chapel, or by appointment by calling 747-5673.

For details on educational programs, call Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

CCD registration: Begins Aug. 8 following Mass

PROTESTANT:

Traditional Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sunflower Chapel

Contemporary Worship: 6 p.m.

Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel

Men of the Chapel Bible Study: Noon Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel conference room

Young Adults: 6 p.m. Friday, Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Swain's home. Call 747-4359 for details.

Women's Bible Study: 7 p.m. Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel. Call 594-3916 for details.

Sunday school registration: Begins Aug. 8 classes start Sept. 12

JEWISH:

Call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, ORTHODOX, OTHER:

Call 747-5673 for details.

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

Two Brothers (PG)

Twin tigers, one bold and one shy, are born in a city of ruins in French Indochina and are soon captured. The bold brother is forced to become a circus performer, while the shy sibling becomes the companion of a governor's son. But an accident leads the governor to sell the animal to an adventurer (Guy Pearce), who reunites the beasts as combatants pitted against each other in a fighting match.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Dodgeball: A true Underdog Story (PG-13)

When corporate workout center Globo Gym moves to town, locally owned fitness center Average Joe's loses so much business that its manager, Peter (Vince Vaughn), can't make the mortgage payment. Faced with going under, the crew from Joe's enters a high-stakes dodgeball competition, in which they face Globo Gym's Purple Cobras, led by White Goodman (Ben Stiller).

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

Base Activities

Saturday

Arts and crafts

There is an Arts and Crafts night at the youth center at 6:30 p.m. for ages 6 to 12 and 8 p.m. for ages 13 to 18. Cost is \$1 for members and \$2 for non-members.

Sunday

Outdoor soccer registration

Registration for ages 5 and older at the youth center. Cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. Sports physicals are required. Volunteer coaches are needed for all age groups!

Before and After School Program registration

Open to children in grades kindergarten through sixth. Parents need to bring the child's current shot record, a current leave and earnings statement for working parents, Air Force Form 357 and an individual education plan if the child has special needs.

Fall classes registration

Piano for ages 6 and older Tuesdays and Thursdays, cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members per 30 minute session.

Gymnastics for ages 3 and older, cost is \$30 or \$37 for members and \$35 or \$42 for non-members per month based on number of classes. Days and times are to be announced.

Dance for ages 3 and older, cost is \$18 or \$24 for members and \$23 or \$29 for non-members per month based on number of classes. Days and times are to be announced.

Registration runs Sunday through the Aug. 15 at the youth center. Call 747-3150 for details.

Tuesday

August's club lunch

August is Super Sandwich and Salad Month. There will also be the pasta bar. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and club members receive a \$2 discount.

Youth Valley Fair trip

A Teen Valley Fair trip is planned for August 14 for ages 13 – 18. Cost is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members; includes transportation and ticket. Youth will need extra money for food and

drinks, and souvenirs! They will depart at 5 a.m. and return at 11:30 p.m. Youth must be signed up by Aug. 3, need 15 to hold. A parent permission slip is required.

Wednesday

Spelling bee

There is a spelling contest tonight at the youth center for ages 9 to 12 at 6:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 8 p.m. Cost is \$1 for non-members, free for members.

Upcoming

Summer Read by Mail Program

The Summer Read by Mail Program will run through Aug. 7. Youth grades kindergarten through eighth can participate in this program by stopping by the Youth Center to register online. Youth can read different books, take a test and watch their points go up over the summer. They can turn in their points to receive prizes. Please call 747-3150 for details.

Build a career

Become a Family Child Care Provider. For details call the Family Child Care Office at 747-3158.

Give parents a break

"Give Parents a Break" provides eligible parents a few hours break from the stress of parenting. The Air Force Aid Society provides funding, making it possible for the child development center to open and provide care for this special program. The next date is Aug. 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Once referred, it is the parent's responsibility to make reservations. The deadline is the Tuesday prior. In order to take advantage of this program families must be referred to the child development center by one of the following base officials:

- Squadron commander/first sergeant
- Chaplain
- Doctor or medical professional
- Family Advocacy personnel
- Family Support Center personnel
- CDC personnel

Eligible families include parents feeling stress due to... Military member is TDY or deployed; having a child with special needs; an emergency situation; a family has recently moved to base; or unique circumstances or hardships.

For details call the Child Development Center at 747-3042.

Area Events

Cats Incredible

East Grand Forks hosts the 17th Annual Cats Incredible fishing tournament and community festival Saturday and Sunday. The fishing tournament begins Saturday at 7 a.m. and ends Sunday at 4 p.m. One hundred fifty teams of two compete for the top prize of \$4,000.

Anglers from 11 states and Canada will participate this year. Volunteers are needed to serve as on-water officials (must have boat), ramp officials and fish handlers. Anyone interested in volunteering should call the East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce at 773-7481.

“Summer sounds”

Grand Forks, ND – Monday is the first day of a new live music program “Summer Sounds” at the Empire Arts Center.

The show features PluckStruck, Jon Fetch and PeatMoss. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students and may be purchased at the door.

PluckStruck is a unique chamber music ensemble featuring classical guitarist Jeff Anvinson and vibraphonist James Popejoy. The duo explores the sound palate of the guitar and vibraphone in a variety of settings.

Jon Fetsch’s music could be described

as a juxtaposition of scattered influences, maybe a kind of “joyful noise.” He enjoys experimentation and does not adhere to a fixed structure.

Gregory Norman, also known as PeatMoss, performs acoustic blues. He has been taking part in Showtime at the Empire live music program within the last year. Gregory Norman is also the MC for the Summer Sounds shows.

City photo contest

Grand Forks, N.D. – The City of Grand Forks Public Information Center is sponsoring the Third Annual Grand Forks 2005 City Calendar Photo Contest, with 12 winners securing spots on the city calendar. The calendar will be distributed to all Grand Forks households in December. The contest is open to everyone and will be judged by a panel appointed by the Public Information Center.

Entrants don’t have to be expert photographers to win. Judging guidelines will be based mostly upon creativity in scenario selection. A well-composed, clearly focused picture will help judges better determine the qualities of the entry.

Entry forms will be available at the Public Information Center and throughout the community, or contestants can enter online at www.grandforksgov.com.

Or send photos, along with a name, address, daytime phone number, and a brief photo title and description clearly printed or typed on 8 x 11.5-inch paper to:

**Public Information Center
City of Grand Forks
2004 City Calendar Photo Contest
PO Box 5200 Grand Forks, N.D.
58206-5200**

Four to six inch glossy prints are preferred. Electronic entries, slides and matte prints may not be acceptable for publication.

The Grand Forks 2005 City Calendar Photo Contest opens Saturday and all entries must be received by 5 p.m. Aug. 27. Winners and media will be notified on or after Sept. 29.

Fire Hall Production

Fire Hall Theatre starts its 57th season and is holding auditions for “Love, Sex and the IRS” Aug. 9 to 10

at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall Theatre.

What are they looking for?

Teamwork, a good actor/actress has an ability to put personal skills like



imagination; emotional honesty and empathy at the service of a creative process. An ability to focus and listen, vocal training for greater power, expressiveness and clarity is a plus; physical training stressing general fitness, flexibility and grace; insight into the psychology of human behavior; a ready understanding of and love for language; high-level reading, research and text-analysis skills. Most of all, they are looking for someone with desire and commitment to create, learn and to assist the Fire Hall Theatre grow in the community.

For more details visit <http://www.fire-halltheatre.org>.

Fishing for Donors

The Dak-Minn Blood Bank holds its annual Fishing for Donors promotion through Saturday.

Fishing-related prizes will be given away during daily drawings.

The grand prizes, including a two-night stay at Ballard’s Resort, will be given away at the end of the event. Free cholesterol checks will be available in August.

For appointments call 780-LIFE (5433) or email espaeth@altru.org. During the summer, office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Contracting: Essential ingredient

By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke
Public Affairs

A cake can't be made without flour; lemonade can't be made without lemons; North Dakota winters require a very good jacket. Without the essential ingredients, the end result is impossible.

The 319th Contracting Squadron, one of the smallest squadrons on base, is one of those ingredients.

"When many people think of the contracting squadron they think of year-end spending and closeout," said Maj. James Bachinsky, squadron commander.

While year-end spending is an important part of contracting, it's not their bread and butter. The squadron's focus is to provide contracting support, and business advice to the base and ironically, to also go at times unnoticed.

"A lot of work is behind the scenes," said 1st Lt. Russell Walter, 319th Contracting Officer. "Many people do not notice what we do, or they associate what we do with other squadrons."

Although the fruit of their labor isn't always noticeable, the \$66 million in contracts to improve the base can be seen. The remodeling of the front gate, the new roof on the library, the runway and taxiway are all projects that can be directly linked to contracting.

From the Airey Dining Facility and Refueler Inn servers and cooks; custodians who clean the offices on base; grounds main-

tenance, which lays sod, mows the grass and plants trees; to the snow removal contract, contracting is a main ingredient. Contracting manages the franchise agreement for cable television services on base. These are some of the services contracting prefers to remain behind the scenes – by ensuring they operate smoothly.

"Base members come to us with problems and we provide the right answer, whether it be night-vision goggles, computer equipment, newspaper contracts, or grounds maintenance, we are a force multiplier," said Major Bachinsky.

At home station, contracting's mission focuses mainly on sustainment and improvement of the base. In a deployed setting, their focus shifts to initial build up and eventual sustainment.

"When we deploy to a bare base, it's our job to get everything needed to start up the base," said Airman 1st Class Adam Crockett, Contracting administrator.

"If we need cars, we go downtown in our host nation and buy cars," said Lieutenant. Walter. "Our job is to get everything nailed down so the base can run smoothly."

So if the cake is to rise, the lemonade is to be lemony or the new person is to survive that first North Dakota winter; the essentials need be in place.

When it comes to Grand Forks, one of the smallest squadrons on base is an essential ingredient to the end product.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke
First Lieutenant Russell Walter and Master Sgt. Ken Jacobs, 319th Contracting Squadron, perform a site visit to the Charlie Ramp project to check the progress and ensure the contractor is doing the work agreed upon in the contract.

319th CONS keeps contracts local

By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

Starting a small business can be risky, and the chance of success is often slim. More than 50 percent of small businesses fail in the first year and 95 percent fail within the first five years, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Marsha Williamson, the small business specialist of the 319th Contracting Squadron helps local small businesses succeed through a Congressionally-mandated led program that ensures they have a chance to compete with larger businesses for government contracts.

"Congress sets a goal for the amount of money allotted for small business to each agency (Air Force, Navy, etc.)," said Ms. Williamson. "The Air Force then sets a goal for each major command, and the command sets a goal for the base."

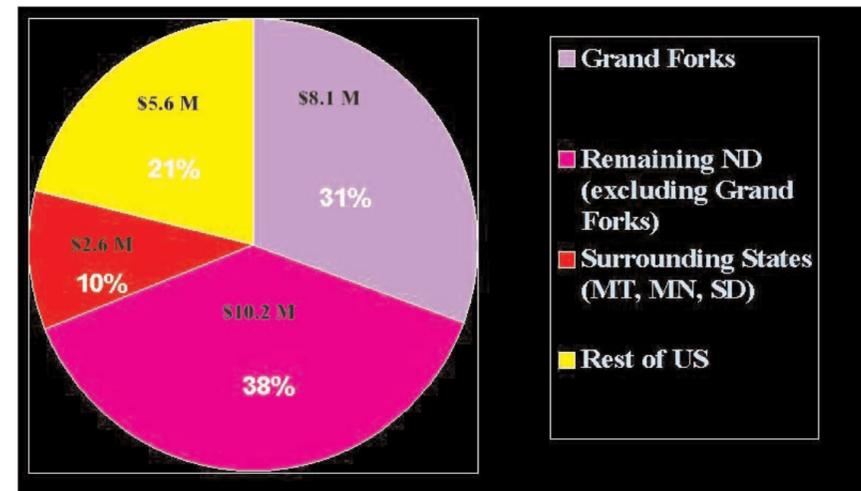
The goal set by the command is based on many factors, last year's performance being one of them.

"Some industries are mostly comprised of bigger businesses," said Ms. Williamson. "Like paving and concrete contracts. These are usually very high dollar contracts," she added.

Ms. Williamson mentors small businesses on how to apply for these government contracts.

"Before anyone considers large businesses for any contract, the decision to open the floor up to those businesses must be approved by me," said Ms. Williamson.

With Ms. Williamson help, many small businesses are being awarded the larger, high-dollar contracts. For example the grounds maintenance contract here includes all of the ground maintenance on base like watering the grass, planting shrubs and shelter belts, and laying sod. A small Emerado firm is currently the holder of that contract.



Pricing and contract performance are also an important factor in awarding contracts.

Contracting evaluates recent and relevant performance history of the companies who want the contract. Sometimes contracting must pay more money for a superior performer over a mediocre performer.

The local community and the State of North Dakota also reap the benefits of contracts awarded at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

In the 2003 fiscal year the base processed 676 contract actions affecting Grand Forks and other North Dakota businesses.

\$31.4 million in contracts went to Grand Forks and \$16.3 million went to other North Dakota firms.

Since October 2003 an additional \$3.5 million in contracts have been awarded to Grand Forks firms and another \$9.7 million to other North Dakota firms.

Ms. Williamson and the 319th Contracting

Squadron, keep businesses informed, with the interest of the base in mind.



Photo by 1st Lt. Russell Walter
Marsha Williamson and Duane Mann (Flight Chief) review documents at weekly squadron training session.

Airman spends millions

By Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke
Public Affairs

A Grand Forks Air Force Base Airman recently made purchases with government money totaling more than \$8 million. His shopping list: 20 sets of night-vision goggles, 200 tactical vests, three video-editing machines, three secure messenger terminals and five network analyzers along with security, custodial and fire protection services.

Senior Airman Adam Crockett, 319th Contracting Squadron, always wanted to go into business and says one day he will use his Air Force experience as a contract administrator to run his own business.

"My dad owns his own business," said Airman Crockett, "and it has been pretty successful. Besides,

I've always had a head for business."

The equipment Airman Crockett purchased helps the 319th Security Forces Squadron and the 319th Communications Squadron accomplish their missions. The services help Cavalier Air Station, N.D., which doesn't have its own contracting squadron.

At home station, Airman Crockett researches different businesses in order to determine the one that best meets the customer's needs; however, the final decision is made by a licensed contracting officer.

In a deployed situation, Airman Crockett's buying power increases tremendously: he becomes a contingency contracting officer which gives him the purchasing authority of a commander.

"I deployed to a base that was already up for two years," said Airman Crockett. "We were still buying

things that were needed, but we were also making files on reliable contractors in the area and completing setup procedures for the next people who came through."

Airman Crockett said that one of the things he enjoyed most was the pace of a deployed setting.

"The pace is so fast when you deploy," he said. "Our customers need different things and it's our job to get it to them."

The contracting squadron here is half civilian and half military to allow for continuity.

"I think working with the civilians gives us a realistic view of business," Airman Crockett said. "Working with the civilians helps us [servicemembers] get into the minds of the contractors.

"We get stuck in the way of the Air Force and forget everyone doesn't live by our set of rules and ways," said

Airman Crockett. "The civilians give us that balance."

Contracting and business isn't the only thing that drives Airman Crockett, a member of the base honor guard almost since he arrived on station.

Airman Crockett said that while his Honor Guard duties can often be challenging, he enjoys the opportunity to get involved.

(Right) Senior Airman Adam Crockett, 319th Contracting Squadron, made more than \$8 million in purchases with government money. He bought night-vision goggles for the 319th Security Forces Squadron; computer equipment for the 319th Communications Squadron and security, custodial and fire protection services for Cavalier Air Station, N.D.



Sports & Fitness

Sports shorts

Annual Junior Bike Race

Mark your calendars for outdoor recreation's Junior Bike Race August 14. Start time is 10 a.m. from the FamCamp (registration begins at 9:30 a.m.). Cost is \$2 per participant.

Age groups are as follows: four and under with training wheels, 6 and under big wheels and tricycles, 6 and under bicycles, 7 to 8, 9 to 11, and 12 to 14. Race distance for each age group is four & under – quarter mile, 8 and under – 1 mile, and 9 to 14 – 2 miles.

Call outdoor recreation for more information at 747-3688.

Red River canoeing trip

Date: Saturday, August 14

Depart: 7 a.m. from Outdoor Recreation

Return: Same afternoon, late

Cost: \$25 per adult, \$15 per child 12 and under

Boater safety course

Want to rent a boat? Outdoor recreation requires this free class before you can rent powered watercraft from us.

North Dakota law requires youth ages 12 to 15 to pass an approved boater safety course before they can operate watercraft over ten horsepower, including personal watercraft. Additionally, many

insurance companies offer a premium discount to boat owners who complete this course. Sign up at outdoor recreation.

Class dates: Aug. 11, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Air Force Marathon

The Eighth annual Air Force Marathon is Sept. 18, at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Several new award categories have been added including Top Male and Female major command finisher's and total major command participation. The 26.2-mile course traverses historical places including the USAF Museum, the AF Institute of Technology, Huffman Prairie Flying Field and the Wright Brothers Memorial Monument.

General John W. Handy, Air Mobility Command commander encourages AMC participation in this "fit-to-fight" event.

Festivities include a two-day sports exposition, pre-race pasta dinner, race day opening ceremony, and a post-race party.

For details go on-line to <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>.

Fun run

Warriors of the North pound the pavement for the annual fun run in conjunction with Summer Bash. More than 140 runners participated in the fun run this year.

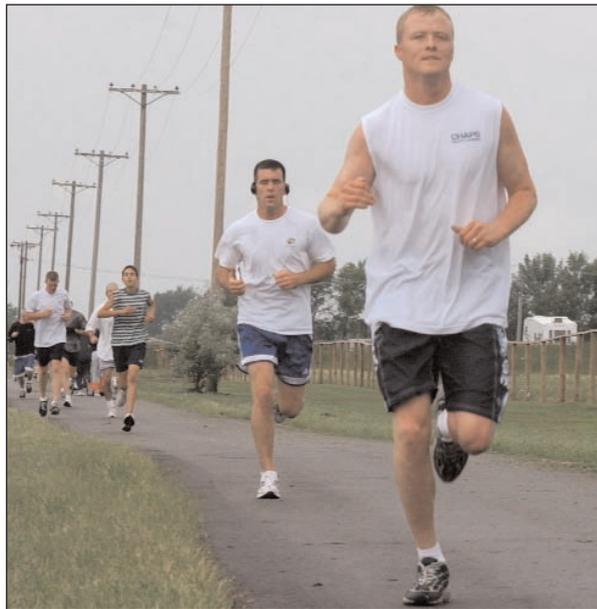


Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Gamble