

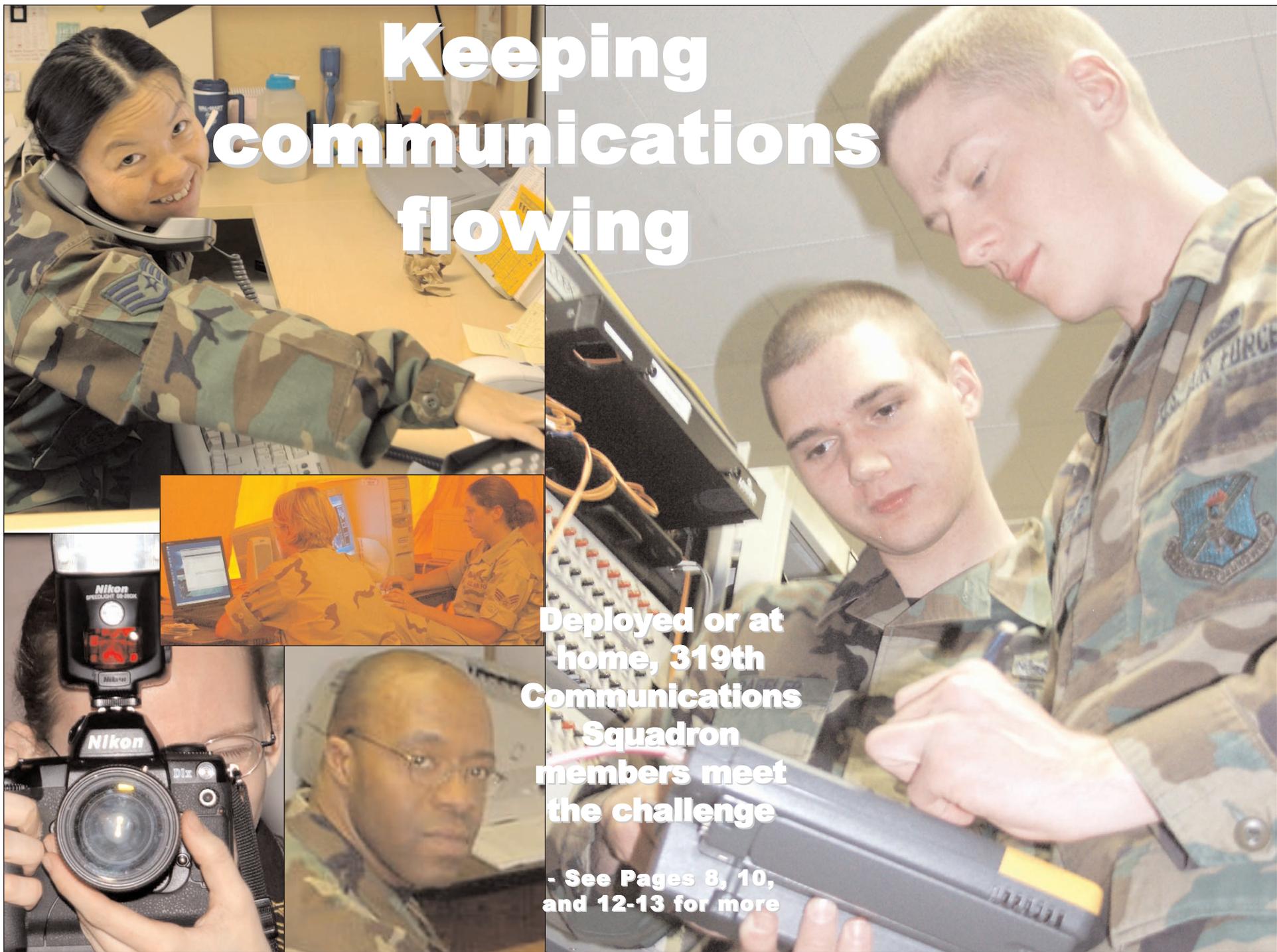


THE LEADER

Vol. 39, No. 12

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

March 26, 2004



Keeping communications flowing

Deployed or at home, 319th Communications Squadron members meet the challenge

- See Pages 8, 10, and 12-13 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

Inside:

Weekend weather

Today	45/32	Partly cloudy
Saturday	50/33	Mostly cloudy
Sunday	54/34	Partly cloudy
Monday	56/37	Clear



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

AMC extends space-A travel test Page 3



Wing annual winners recognized Page 6



HAWC celebrates National Nutrition Month Page 15



Town hall questions, answers

Q: I wanted to know when we can stop doing the fraud alerts with credit reporting over the TRICARE theft issue.

Has there been an update or have the TriWest Healthcare computers been recovered?

A: Regrettably, the computer equipment that was stolen from the TriWest office in Phoenix, Ariz., during December 2002 has not been recovered.

However, on a good note, there haven't been any reported cases of identity theft or any other types of misuse of personal information related to the TriWest computer theft.

Since the computer equipment hasn't been recovered, it's recommended those who concerned with identity theft initiate and maintain their fraud alert through one of the three major credit bureaus listed below:

❑ **TransUnion** – Located on-line at www.transunion.com.

Their fraud victim assistance department phone is 1-800-680-7289 and the fax

number is 1-714-447-6034.

Their address is: P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834.

❑ **Equifax Credit Information Services** – Located on-line at <http://www.equifax.com>.

Their consumer fraud division phone is 1-800-525-6285.

Their address is: P.O. Box 105069, Atlanta, GA 30348.

❑ **Experian** – Located on-line at <http://www.experian.com>. Experian's national consumer assistance phone number is 1-888-397-3742.

Their address is: P.O. Box 1017, Allen, TX 75013.

Q: We showed up at the base tax center to get our taxes done at 15 minutes before our time and there were people who had already been waiting there for one to two hours.

We were told that we would be seen in about an hour and 20 minutes after our scheduled appointment.

Is there any way to fix this problem?

A: Customers at the base tax center did experience some delays during the first

Action Line

Call 747-4522

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.



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

8 Consecutive DWI-free days <small>Goal is zero DWIs.</small>	95% Air Refueling Effectiveness <small>Target is 90 percent.</small>	100% Air-Land Effectiveness <small>Target is 92 percent.</small>	97% OPR/EPR Timeliness <small>Target is 90 percent.</small>	100% Mishap Reporting Timeliness <small>Target is 95 percent.</small>	82% Awards, Decoration Timeliness <small>Target is 92 percent.</small>	93% CDC Completion Rate <small>Target is 95 percent.</small>
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Current as of Tuesday's wing stand-up meeting

week of operation.

The delays were caused by a number of factors.

The primary reason for delays was an attempt to handle customers who stated on the phone that they only needed help with 1040 EZ forms with half hour appointments.

History showed this was a sufficient time for the volunteers to handle these relatively simple cases and the

center staff tried to proactively handle as many of these "eager" filers as quickly and efficiently as possible.

However, many of these customers turned out to have more complicated issues necessitating the use of other forms.

In a few cases, some of the EZ filers also had state tax issues that needed to be addressed.

A slow-working, defective

printer that sometimes took as long as 15 minutes to print returns did not help the situation either.

That said, all appointments are now booked for an entire hour and a new printer has been purchased and is in operation.

We have not had a recurrence of delays.

Customers are nearly always seen at their appointment times.

THE LEADER



Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher, Airman 1st Class Jennifer Wallen, Airman 1st Class Anthony Williams, Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol, and Airman Patrice Clarke

Cover

The 319th Communications Squadron has people who keep critical information flowing both at home station and while deployed. This issue of *The Leader* looks at some squadron areas and accomplishments.

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Stateside ‘space-A’ travel test extended

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Diamond
Air Mobility Command public affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. (AMCNS) – The one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired personnel traveling within the Continental United States was extended, according to a Feb. 24 message released by Air Mobility Command’s Air Transportation Division.

In the message, Lt. Col. Darcy Lilley, Chief of the Air Transportation Division’s Passenger Policy Branch, said the extension will allow the test to continue while the Office of the Secretary of Defense completes its evaluation of the test.

Under the “Space-A” test phase, the family members of active-duty and retired military people are able to travel “Space-A” aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors, according to John Lundeby, AMC Passenger Policy Branch. He said the test does not apply to “gray-area retirees” – Guard and Reserve members who are retired, but are not yet eligible for

retired pay and benefits.

Lundeby explained that in December 2000, the commander of U.S. Transportation Command outlined the proposed test as a way to improve quality-of-life privileges for military service people and their families. After reviewing the proposal, Defense officials approved the one-year test period.

“Prior to the test, regulations prohibited family members from flying space available within the CONUS,” said Lundeby.

“This privilege was available only to active-duty and retired military people. During the test period, dependents can accompany them.”

To register for space-available travel, active-duty sponsors must be on leave or a pass and remain in the status while awaiting travel and through the entire travel period.

Additional Space-A travel and signup information is available through the AMC headquarters passenger policy branch Internet site at <http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>. A list of passenger terminals and phone numbers can be found there.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Military family member Jenna Roper places her handbag on the scanning machine at the base mobility processing center in April 2003 prior to going on a space-available trip. Ms. Roper was the first family member at Grand Forks Air Force Base to take advantage of the space-A test phase.

Briefs

Court-martial

On March 9, Airman Richard B. Rowland, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was convicted at a special court-martial of one specification of wrongful use of marijuana and one specification of wrongful introduction of marijuana onto a military installation in violation of Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Airman Rowland was sentenced to confinement for 65 days, forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months, and a reduction to E-1.

New SVS 'returned check' procedures

Beginning this month, all services squadron activities accepting personal checks from customers will be using electronic resubmittal procedures for dishonored checks, Air Force Services Agency officials said. Checks returned by the customer's bank for insufficient funds will be electronically resubmitted two additional times to the customer's bank for payment.

Services will not be providing "returned check" notices to customers. The customer's bank will be treating each submittal for payment as normal and should notify the customer of any charges associated with presenting the check in accordance with their policies.

Should the check fail to be paid after the third presentation, the customer's military pay account or other government pay account may be debited for the amount of the check. In the case of non-military customers and other civilians, the customer's future federal income tax refund may be debited to collect any outstanding funds.

Tax center

The base tax center is open offering free tax assistance to people with their federal and state taxes, which are due April 15. Make your appointment with the tax center now by calling 747-3473.

Also, if anyone electronically filed their taxes more than 3 weeks ago and they have not received their direct deposit yet, make an inquiry at the tax center regarding the status.

The tax center is located inside the

community activities center. For details call Mr. Lloyd Schmidt at 747-3473.

Motorcycle training courses

The 319th Air Refueling Wing safety office is now accepting registrations for the basic rider's course, or BRC, and the experienced rider's course, or ERC, for the 2004 base motorcycle training season. Military and family members (for example a spouse or family member over the age of 14) who would like to learn the basic skills of motorcycle riding should stop by the wing safety office, on the east side of Bldg. 607, and register to attend a motorcycle training class. Classes are expected to begin around mid-April.

All active duty personnel operating a motorcycle on or off base must complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation-approved course. All civilian personnel who will be operating motorcycles or mopeds on Air Force installations must also complete a motorcycle safety course.

Course registration fee is \$25 per person, which will be refunded after the successful completion of the course. The MSF provides the motorcycles for the BRC at no cost to students and courses are taught by the American Bikers Aiming Toward Education of North Dakota. ERC students will learn additional safe riding techniques on their own motorcycles.

For details call 747-3368.

Beautiful baby, child contest

The family advocacy new parent support program is observing Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Young Child in April with "Beautiful Baby/Child Contest."

The contest takes place 10 a.m. to noon April 6 in Liberty Square where they will be photographing children of all ages. There will be crafts and parenting information available at this event. A photograph display of all the children will be set up 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 15 in the community activities center.

For details call Ms. Karen GreyEyes at 747-7347.

Briefs

Kindergarten round-up

Kindergarten registration for the 2004-2005 school year is April 6 at Carl Ben Eielson Elementary School. Children are eligible to attend kindergarten next fall if they will be five years old by Aug. 31. All kindergarten age children living on base will attend Carl Ben Eielson School. Beginning next school year, kindergarten will be a full-day, every day program.

Parents and children are asked to go to Eielson School April 6.

Families whose last name begins with A through L should go at 10 a.m. and families whose last name begins with M through Z should go at 1:30 p.m.

The sessions last approximately 45 minutes. Parents should bring their kindergarten students with them, however other siblings should remain at home.

Parents must bring their child's birth certificate or passport, Social Security card and immunization records so that dates and numbers can be verified and recorded on the child's permanent school record.

For details call 787-5000.

Twining spring auction

The Twining Elementary and Middle School spring auction, sponsored by the Twining Parent-Teacher Organization, is April 2. A free spaghetti feed starts at 6 p.m. in the new gymnasium and a silent auction will follow at 7 p.m.

Up for auction will be baskets put together by the teachers and students at Twining, including a fishing basket, "Sponge Bob" basket, Italian basket, candle baskets, and more.

Also, hand-made quilted items, home-cooked meals, paintings, hand-thrown pottery, and other items will be auctioned.

For details or to make a donation for the auction, call Mrs. Cappy Younker at 594-9448.

UND pow-wow

The University of North Dakota Indian Association cordially invites all base members to the 35th Annual Time Out Wacipi. Wacipi is the Lakota word for powwow. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The grand entries are scheduled for: April 2 at 6 p.m.; April 3 at noon; April 3 at 6

p.m.; and April 4 at noon in UND's Hyslop Sports Center.

For details call Senior Airman Cristina Moreland at 747-3865.

AFOSI seeks new agents

Military members looking to cross-train into a challenging and rewarding career field should look no further than becoming a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Headquarters AFOSI recruiters will conduct a briefing in the community activities center auditorium April 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be scheduled interviews April 8 from 8 to 10 a.m. at AFOSI Detachment 320 on base. Interested individuals who attend the April 7 briefing need to bring a records review sheet with them. A records review can be requested from unit orderly rooms.

Senior airmen with less than six years time in service, staff sergeants through master sergeants with outstanding records and fewer than 12 years of military service are eligible.

For details call 747-3852 or go on-line to www.dtic.mil.

Base members participate in ArtWise celebration

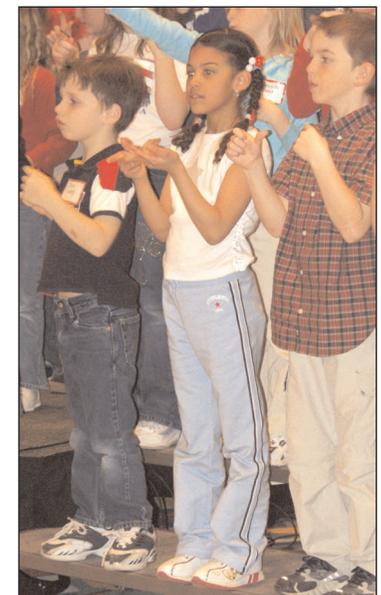


Photos by Airman Patrice Clarke

Students from Eielson Elementary School sing a patriotic tune during the Grand Forks ArtWise celebration opening ceremonies Tuesday in the Alerus Center. ArtWise showcases youth art and is put on to celebrate youth involvement in the arts.



(Above) Col. Steve Wayne, 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, provides some opening remarks during the show. (Right) More children from Eielson Elementary sing along to another tune. More than 200 base children and adults helped support the ArtWise event that ended Thursday.



Wing names annual award winners

Compiled from staff reports

The 319th Air Refueling Wing recently held their annual awards ceremony highlighting the wing's top performers for 2003.

Following are the winners.

319th Air Refueling Wing Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Aaron Leroy 319th Communications Squadron



Airman Leroy skillfully coordinated with Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, and Grand Forks International Airport authorities ensuring all FAA specifications were met or exceeded. His vital work correction on a critical range azimuth beacon monitor provided air traffic controllers accurate aircraft positions for all mission sorties.

This superior troubleshooting ability was evidenced by the 99.2 percent uptime rate for the year, exceeding the Air Force standard of 97 percent. Additionally, he was a designated driver for Airmen Against Drunk Driving during the 2003 Air Force Ball and unit holiday party, providing safe rides home.

319th ARW Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Tech. Sgt Wanda Jenkins 319th Medical Group



Sergeant Jenkins distinguished herself in 2003 as NCO in charge, medical equipment repair, 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron. Sergeant Jenkins deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the biomedical maintenance element chief for the 506th Air Expeditionary Medical Squadron, Kirkuk, Iraq.

She was chosen ahead of 318 peers as the 506th Air Expeditionary Group NCO of the Month.

Additionally, Sergeant Jenkins installed a \$1.2 million expeditionary deployable oxygen concentration system, the first unit of its kind in Iraq supplying on-demand oxygen for the 506th AEG and six U.S. Army medical field units.

She also authored the healthcare insurance portability and accountability act medical device instruction, integrating new standards into a \$2.8 million account while maintaining an annual 96 percent work completion rate. Her dedication and pursuit of excellence greatly contributed to the mission success of OIF, the 319th ADS, and 319th ARW.

319th ARW Senior NCO of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Collins

319th Maintenance Squadron



Sergeant Collins' job performance, efficiency, and knowledge are truly outstanding. His leadership ability has earned him the distinction as the first choice by 319th Maintenance Group's leadership of 92 senior NCOs to hold the distinguished position of the maintenance operations flight superintendent.

This position is the single most influential position in authoring, establishing, and enforcing aircraft fleet health, and utilization standards.

His drive and dedication made him a natural choice to host the daily maintenance production meeting.

His knowledge of daily maintenance indicators and input to the meeting sets the pace and priority for over 900 maintenance personnel.

His direction and leadership resulted in a complete overhaul of the wing's generation flow plans and sequence of events schedules.

This exceptional and forthright leadership directly led to the 319th ARW earning an "outstanding" in the area of communications and control and an "excellent" wing rating during an operational readiness inspection.

319th ARW First Sergeant of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Harry Walker



319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

As first sergeant for the second largest squadron on base, Sergeant Walker's diversified management skills and leadership were instrumental in ensuring good order and discipline to more than 320 enlisted personnel. The wing's point man for Operation Warmheart, he was directly

responsible for the appropriation of \$12,000 worth of funds distributed to 120 families base-wide.

The brainstorm of Operation Thank You, Sergeant Walker worked a combined effort with the chiefs and first sergeants groups to personally visit more than 100 downtown businesses to personally thank them for their contributions to the base.

319th ARW Company Grade Officer of the Year

Capt. Jeffrey Johns 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron



Captain Johns distinguished himself throughout 2003 as the 21A3 maintenance operations officer.

Captain Johns was the wing's number one choice for the elite Air Force Intern Program. He managed a \$7 million 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron equipment account; executing three OIF deployments with 10,000 pounds of cargo in only eight hours.

Following OIF, he created a recovery plan for 54 KC-135s, decreasing delayed discrepancies from 9.3 percent to 4.4 percent – the best in AMC.

Captain Johns is progressively pursuing his master's degree in management while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

His dedication and pursuit of excellence has greatly contributed to the mission success of the 319th MOS and the 319 ARW.

319th ARW Honor Guard Member of the Year Staff Sgt. Garry Richard 319th CS

Sergeant Richard has been an invaluable asset to the base Honor Guard for 2003. As NCO in charge of the base Honor Guard, Sergeant Richard leads a team of 45 volunteer members ranging from airman basic to first lieutenant. Sergeant



Richard was directly responsible for the coordinating, scheduling and performance of more than 270 funerals, retirements, and colors ceremonies in 2003.

A poster child for the base Honor Guard program, Sergeant Richard is asked for by name to perform in base and community Honor Guard functions where he's "always showcasing true pride and professionalism."

319th ARW Category 1 Civilian Program Specialist of the Year

Ms. Rhonda Olheiser

319th Comptroller Squadron

Rhonda Olheiser is responsible for the administration of the wing's civilian pay program. Her expertise was critical to the accurate and timely payment for the wing and GSU's 500 civilian employees. Her section's 99 percent customer satisfaction rate far exceeds the AMC standard of 92 percent. Ms. Olheiser is an active volunteer for the American Society of Military Comptrollers and does not hesitate to serve the wing and local communities in a variety of roles.



319th ARW Category 2 Program Manager of the Year

Mr. Scott Rudolf

319th Civil Engineer Squadron

Mr. Rudolf made a huge impact to the entire base through his effective management of 155 individual construction projects valued at more than \$78 million, one of the largest programs in 20 years. His aggressive execution of \$30.7 million worth of facility projects at fiscal 2003 year-end earned a gold star from the AMC.

He delivered the wing's number one high interest construction project, a \$10 million repair of the main aircraft parking ramp, ahead of schedule, overcoming soil stabilization challenges.

He also volunteered more than 380 hours to coach the Larimore Public School junior high basketball team, leading the team to 19-1 record.

319th ARW Category 3 Senior Program Manager of the Year

Ms. Mary Giltner

319th Civil Engineer Squadron

Ms. Giltner routinely coordinated with AMC headquarters and other base, federal, state, and local governing agencies. Maj. Gen. Dean Fox, AMC director of civil engineering, stated, "Ms. Giltner is the best deputy civil engineer in the command, if not in the Air Force!"

Known as a total workhorse for the squadron and the wing, she took on base civil engineer and deputy duties for four months during Operation Enduring Freedom and OIF.

Additionally, she detailed the plan to go from worst to first in military family housing.



Just remember every penny counts

By Donna Pietron
319th Contracting Squadron

Planning ahead for an event is a given, however, do you think planning for a possibility is time wasted?

Imagine, if you will, being told you may or may not be given a sum of money to spend however you wish but would have very little notice to commence spending.

What would you do if you only have a short period of time to spend the money?

Would you visit the store ahead of time to familiarize yourself with the available products? Would you map out the route for priority items?

Or, would you wait to be notified of the shopping spree and just show up at the store and meander around while the clock was counting down?

How would you feel if your shopping time ended yet all the money was not spent? What if your cart was only half full and it was filled with low value items. Would you feel like you missed an opportunity?

There is an upcoming event that is similar to the scenario described above. The time is drawing near for all base resource advisors to prepare for the end-of-year closeout.

Be prepared, so if and when the money comes, the 319th Contracting Squadron can buy your requirements. It is critical that all RAs expend upfront effort so the contracting office can utilize the dollars available to Grand Forks AFB.

The development of a “contemplated” package or wish list is the most important thing you can do for those items not funded now but in anticipation of year-end fall-out money.

Since federal laws regulate time frames for much of the acquisition cycle, it is imperative that certain cut-off dates be met to ensure we obligate all available funds.

Due to these limitations, and in accordance with Local Purchase Program, Air Force Instruction 64-109, all funded requirements must be submitted to 319th CONS by the following cut-off dates.

Cut-off dates

❑ For all open market requirements estimated greater than \$100,000, the cut-off is **June 14**.

❑ For all open market requirements estimated between \$25,000 to \$100,000, the cut-off is **Aug. 2**.

❑ If design service is required, such as furniture layout, cut-off is **Aug. 13**.

❑ For requirements of any dollar amount against prepriced contracts, such as through GSA, UNICOR and others, the cut-off is **Aug. 13**.

❑ All open market requirements estimated less than \$25,000 is **Sept. 1**.

Although contracting works diligently year-round to provide the base with necessary services, construction and commodities, the end-of-year is always a wild ride.

Last fiscal year 319th CONS, with the help of the 319th Comptroller Squadron, obligated \$66 million.

In September alone, there were \$28 million worth of contracts awarded, which is 42 percent of the year’s effort accomplished in one month!

Like others on this base, the large amount of dollars executed last year was made possible by working many hours beyond the normal workday schedule.

The contracting squadron is the last link in a long chain of processes to acquire services, commodities, and construction for our base.

We do not want to leave any money unspent, but we need the help of the requesting activity. Remember, the resource advisor’s job is not done until the buy is made.

Work with us, help us to help you, be prepared, plan ahead, and reap the benefits at the year-end.

If you have any questions, help is just a phone call away and we will point you in the right direction.

Call Duane Mann at 747-5266, Graham Pritchett at 747-5273 or Donna Pietron at 747-5275 for details about 319th CONS year-end plans and procedures.

Deployed stateside: Comm officer recalls experiences for Operation Noble Eagle duty

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a farm field near Pittsburgh with hijacked civilian airliners killed nearly 3,000 people. Since those attacks more than two-and-a-half years ago, Operation Noble Eagle stood up to protect the homeland of the United States and to keep vigil of United States borders every day.

The memory of the attacks also stayed fresh in Capt. Michael Schreffler's mind when he deployed stateside for ONE to the North American Defense Command's Northeast Air Defense Sector Headquarters in upstate New York as a communications and electronics officer from December 2002 to July 2003.

The work Captain Schreffler provided while deployed included major communications support for command and control and air traffic control operations for the sector headquarters' northeast United States responsibility and to other agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration and the 1st Air Force.

"I helped with all communications support and coordination for sector operations," Captain Schreffler said.

Prior to Sept. 11, Captain Schreffler said the sector's mission was to keep watch over the United States' borders in the Northeast and detect, track, intercept, and deter the nuclear bomber or fighter threat from the old Cold War adversaries.

"After Sept. 11, the mission changed to detect, track, intercept and deter any airborne threat to that region of the country – both inside and outside the border. That was a mammoth increase in responsibility



Photo courtesy 319th Communications Squadron Multi-media Center
Capt. Michael Schreffler

and work," Captain Schreffler said.

Supporting that "mammoth increase," and the homeland security mission, was something the captain said he never thought he'd find himself doing since he had an expanding family to think about.

"When I left for Rome, N.Y., I took my family with me for about the first six months," Captain Schreffler said. "At the time, my wife was pregnant with our fourth child. And it was there in New York where my youngest daughter was born.

"It was a little rough, but much better than the alternative," Captain Schreffler said. "I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to keep my family together for that time."

The captain's deployment of more than 200 days for ONE is part of an unprecedented duty ever seen in United States history, according to the Department of Defense. Immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks, the air mission for Operation Noble Eagle began. In the days and months since, there has been the formation

of U.S. Northern Command and the new federal department – the Department of Homeland Security. At no other time in U.S. history, officials said, has such a coordinated homeland defense strategy been in place.

In a March 17 American Forces Press Service story, President George W. Bush said terrorists hate and target every country that stands for democracy, tolerance and freedom in the world. The recent murders in Madrid have revealed, once again, the agenda and the nature of the terrorist enemy.

"They kill the innocent – they kill children and their mothers on a commuter train – without conscience or mercy," President Bush said in the story. "They cause suffering and grief, and rejoice in it."

Captain Schreffler said his stateside support, and those who continue to support the homeland defense mission today, involve much coordination and work with many different civilian and government agencies as well as active, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units.

All that coordination helps protect the United States from future terrorist attacks.

"There is still plenty of intelligence and activity out there indicating the United States is still a target for terrorism," Captain Schreffler said. "There is still a whole lot being done out-of-site, and out-of-mind to the average American to protect our citizenry and homeland."

The captain said the deployment was an excellent experience, and it gave him a new appreciation for what he does every day in the military.

"I don't know that I will ever get to work somewhere like that again," Captain Schreffler said.

"There is a team there and in this country made up of all the different military components, with active duty and Guard, military members from other countries, a number of different government agencies, and commercial companies all working together," the captain said. "They work the intricacies of controlling military and civilian aircraft to protect potential terrorist targets in our own country.

"To have been a part of that was great. I won't forget it."

An Air Force Operation Noble Eagle overview

Over the skies of America, airmen from the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active Air Force participating in Operation Noble Eagle have flown more than 27,625 fighter, tanker and airborne early warning sorties during the past 16 months. More than 7,000 aerial refueling missions have been flown, with 275 million pounds of fuel offloaded by nine active duty, nine Reserve and 18 Guard units.

Award winners, accomplishments highlight 319th CS administrative communications element's efforts

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

The 319th Communications Squadron administrative communications element serves a broad array of responsibilities for the base to include base records management, information management, and the official mail.

"Our administrative communications element – postal and official mail cen-

ters, base publishing, base records and others that you normally don't think of when you talk about the communications squadron, has had some outstanding achievements and changes in recent months," said Capt. Michael Schreffler, 319th CS information systems flight chief. "The processes we have are improving the base's ability to meet the demands of the 21st century Air Force."

The base official mail center, or OMC, and records management personnel were recognized recently as "outstanding performers" during an Air Mobility Command unit command inspection. Outstanding performers included **Master Sgt. Joseph Allen**, **Staff Sgt. Michael Holman**, and **Senior Airman Leda Cary** from the

– See **Efforts**, Page 12

Air Force's chief of enlisted force development discusses changes, progress

By Master Sgt. Scott Davis
Public affairs

The Air Force's chief of enlisted force development provided insight to the future of the enlisted force during briefings here March 22.

Chief Master Sgt. Michael Gilbert was invited to Grand Forks to speak at the Chief's Induction Ceremony. He also took the opportunity to address 319th Air Refueling Wing Airmen.

In his position in the Air Force Senior Leader Management Office, or AFSLMO, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters Air Force, Chief Gilbert leads efforts to examine enlisted assignment, training and education policy and develops recommendations to senior leaders.

Some of his team's recent projects include revamping chief master sergeant management, adding a new top-level of enlisted professional military education, and implementing senior enlisted development courses.

One of the biggest changes is how the Air Force will manage chief master sergeant assignments, which will now be managed by AFSLMO instead of the Air Force Personnel Center. This change has been met with some concerns.

"People have natural concerns about anything that

involves change," Chief Gilbert said. "Change can be scary. But these changes are aimed at better meeting important Air Force requirements and will provide more leadership opportunities to more chiefs than ever before. They're a good thing."

The chief said his team didn't want to take a cookie cutter approach to force development, but wanted to "provide the opportunities and encourage people to take advantage of them."

They interviewed chiefs who have served as far back as the 1970s and chief master sergeants of the Air Force going back 25 years. They also queried those in the assignments business over the last 40 years.

"There are great people in our service doing great things; everything we've asked them to do, but to meet the expectations that our people and our leaders place on a chief demands a breadth of experience that normally cannot be attained in a limited number of assignments," he said. "We're not telling everyone they have to move, but if you're going to serve in certain key positions,



**Chief Master Sgt.
Michael Gilbert**

you're going to have to have the experience, the proven leadership ability at a variety of levels and missions, even commands. Assignments are an important part of gaining that critical experience."

To further prepare the chiefs for their positions, the team has recommended an additional level of PME. The added level of education will better prepare them to handle their duties at Air Staff, a major command, or in the field.

The Air Force will also ask for a three-year commitment from those selected for promotion to chief in the future. "Promotion to CMSgt isn't a reward, it's the careful selection of our very best NCOs to serve at the top of our enlisted force," Chief Gilbert said.

Overall, he said that force development is just a part of our natural progression as a service.

"We can't achieve our full potential as an expeditionary, F-22 Air Force, with a Cold War, F-4 force development system," Chief Gilbert said.

"Our mission, our technology, our way of operating, continues to evolve. But as our top leaders have said repeatedly, it's our people that really enable us to be the world's greatest Air Force. The development of our people must evolve right along with the other elements of our force if we are going to reach our full potential," Chief Gilbert said.

HAWC holds healthy cooking demo

By Capt Patricia Lang
Public affairs

"We'll take food groups for 200," said the team of five assembled at noon in the health and wellness center March 19.

The group, nicknamed the "Anti-Oxidants" by "Nutrition Jeopardy" host Staff Sgt. Shaleika Anderson, was in the midst of chowing down on healthy foods as they battled their opponents, another group of five called the Beta-Carotenes.

Sergeant Anderson said she came up with the Nutrition Jeopardy idea to teach people more about nutrition and "to do something differently than we normally do."

The teams, really individuals attending the HAWC's quarterly free lunch whom by virtue of sitting down at the HAWC table became contestants, were feasting on crab quesadillas, lemon chicken salad, and a layered strawberry, blueberry, lemon yogurt and whipped cream dessert.

"We want to get people away from the idea that healthy food is disgusting," Sergeant Anderson said.

Attendees were drinking "Spring Break in a Glass," a blended concoction of 1 cup skim milk, 1 cup pineapple sherbet, half-cup crushed pineapple, and a half-teaspoon coconut extract, garnished with a pineapple chunk. Actually, Sergeant Anderson and Mrs. Lillian Newton, the HAWC information manager, substituted rainbow sherbet for pineapple sherbet because it was fat-free.

"We taste as we go and adjust as we need

to," said Mrs. Newton. "They're all really good recipes."

The recipes often come from the American Dietetics Association, whose web site is www.eatright.org.

"I don't normally make things I'm familiar with," said Sergeant Anderson, who's the base diet therapist. "This [the HAWC's quarterly free healthy lunch] allows you to try a lot of different ideas and menus."

They spent \$70 to feed 15 people, which most agreed was quite reasonable for this four-course feast, especially compared to the cost of dining out. The food is not all it's about, however, people are there to learn.

"Everyone's missing a big treat if they don't come," said Stephanie Davis, who works in public health at the base clinic. "I try to always come. I've only missed one since I first heard about the lunches about a year ago."

Ms. Davis said the food, fellowship and information are what make the luncheon enjoyable.

The quarterly luncheons are open to the entire base populace. One must reserve a spot at the HAWC beforehand to ensure they purchase enough food, but the lunches are always free.

Each person walked away with a bright yellow four-way measuring spoon, with "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy, National Nutrition Month" labeled in red.

"We try to always get the message about eating healthy," Sergeant Anderson said. "Healthy eating is the way to go."



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

Participants in the health and wellness center quarterly lunch March 19 help themselves to the courses prepared by HAWC staff members Staff Sgt. Shaleika Anderson and Mrs. Lillian Newton.

WELLNESS TIP

AMC lost \$201,602 last year because of fatigue related, on-duty mishaps

- ▶ **Sleep is the only way to overcome fatigue (8 hours for optimum performance)**
- ▶ **Performance drops after 12 hours of wakefulness; at 24 hours, a person's skills equal a blood alcohol content of 0.1 (over the legal limit in most states)**
- ▶ **Aircrew members require 12 hours of crew rest prior to flying – required for time sensitive actions and decision-making**
- ▶ **Physicians in training - 10 hours rest between on-call and the next duty day – required for safe patient care**

SOURCE: AMC Command Surgeon Office

InfoGraphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Diamond

Game and Fish officials caution anglers about ice conditions

A couple March days of 50 degree temperatures with lows staying above freezing will cause ice on North Dakota lakes to turn to slush – a warning sign cautioning anglers that conditions are not safe, according to Nancy Boldt, State Game and Fish Department boat and water safety coordinator.

"As the weather changes and lakes begin to thaw, people need to be aware of the dangers of ice," Boldt said. "Slush is a danger sign. It indicates that ice is no longer freezing from the bottom and indicates weak or deteriorated ice."

Some anglers are still driving vehicles on the ice, Boldt said, and some have went through. "Vehicles shouldn't be driven on the ice this time of year," she added.

Ice thickness varies in the state, depending on location. As of March 23, ice was

beginning to break away from shorelines in the southwest; and in the northeast, ice thickness on Devils Lake was about two feet.

"Some people are still driving on the ice," said Paul Freeman, game warden supervisor at Devils Lake. "Anglers need to exercise extreme caution, as ice is deteriorating rapidly."

Ice thickness is not consistent, Boldt mentioned, and can change drastically within a few inches. "Ice seldom freezes or thaws at a uniform rate," she added. "It can be 12 inches thick in one spot and only one inch thick 10 feet away."

"Ice fishing is a lot of fun, but it's not worth getting wet," Boldt continued. "Don't put yourself in needless danger by venturing out too late in the season, especially with a vehicle."

Flow of information: 319th Communications Squadron holds heartbeat of base's communications

COMM master sergeant heads wing's IM functional duties; discusses field

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Throughout the 319th Air Refueling Wing information managers in each unit keep information flowing to get the mission done. It's Master Sgt. Anthony Johnson's job to make sure all those "IMers" have the tools they need to complete that mission.

Sergeant Johnson, the wing IM functional manager assigned to the 319th Communications Squadron, said his responsibility is to assign all military members in the 3A0X1 Air Force Specialty Code to duties throughout the wing.

"We have 78 manpower authorizations for IM personnel here," Sergeant Johnson said. "I have to make sure they are filling roles and jobs in the wing staff and the four groups throughout the wing. I try to make sure all units are manned as best as possible."

Information managers have multi-faceted roles, Sergeant Johnson said. IM personnel have the responsibility to serve as workgroup managers, or WMs, for computer systems, records managers, and much more.

"What they do really depends on what unit they are assigned to," Sergeant Johnson said. "Mainly, they are responsible for some type of day-to-day communications within the unit. That could be through the WM duties on office computers to various other administration communications completed within a unit. It's a whole gammut of responsibility."

WM duties for an information manager alone can be a full-time job, Sergeant Johnson said.

"Like the instructions state, we are responsible for the computer systems from the wall to the central processing unit," he said.

Over the course of the last decade, Sergeant Johnson said the IM career field has seen many changes. In the early 1990s, the term "information manager" wasn't even used. As time progressed and technology advanced, the job of managing information, both physical and electronic, came into existence and became the duties of IM personnel.

"At one time our career field fell under mission support, but about nine or 10 years ago we switched to go under the communications squadron," Sergeant Johnson said. "It was around that time

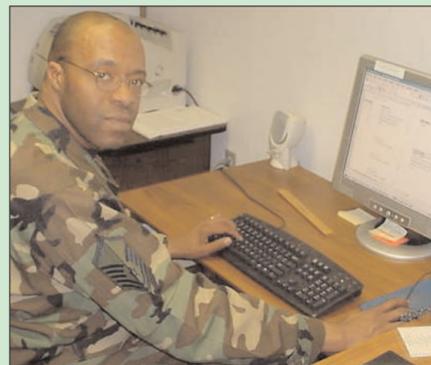


Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Master Sgt. Anthony Johnson, wing information management functional manager assigned to the 319th Communications Squadron, works in his office at 319th CS headquarters in Building 314. Sergeant Johnson was the 2003 319th CS Senior NCO of the Year and the 2001 and 2002 319th Air Refueling Wing Communications and Information Professional of the Year.

frame that we started picking up more and more workgroup manager responsibilities."

As the wing's functional manager, Sergeant Johnson said his IM personnel throughout the wing have also been heavily tasked for deployments. In the past year alone, he said there have been between "30 to 40" wing IM personnel sent on deployments.

"The difference between an IMer's job at home and deployed varies," Sergeant Johnson said. "At home station, an IM person has a pretty good idea what they have

to do every day. At a deployed location, your mission can change every day and you have to work with the demands of the deployed mission. You really have to be flexible."

Since Sept. 11, the deployment rate for IM personnel has increased significantly.

"We have IM people with the operational squadrons here who deploy all the time," he said. "But the same has been true for all IM people on base. Now there is a high demand for them in the field."

Sergeant Johnson said there is about 10 percent of the total base IM members are assigned within the 319th CS.

He encourages those IM people never assigned to the communications squadron to give it a try some time in their career.

"If you get to work in COMM, take it up," Sergeant Johnson said. "It's a great place with great people and you can really learn more to better your future by working within a communications squadron."

Sergeant Johnson said the IM career field will keep pace with technology and the challenges of deployments and new duties.

"The best advice I can offer is to be flexible," he said. "Our career field is always changing and we have to adapt to new things. It will be my job to make sure we all meet those challenges in this wing as they come along."

COMM's Network Control Center gives life to electronic mediums

By Airman Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

During a regular day you might send out a couple of e-mails, look up a KC-135 fact sheet, submit your leave for an upcoming week-end and check the Virtual Military Personnel Flight Website to make sure they got your promotion in the system.

Now imagine if the 319th Communications Squadron Network Control Center was not there and did not function.

Knocking out the NCC knocks out e-mail and the Internet.

How many times during the normal workday do you send an e-mail, instead of picking up the telephone and calling that person? How many times a day do you do job-related research online instead of looking it up in an encyclopedia? How many times do you submit leave on the "Leave Web," or update your dream sheet on the Air Force Personnel Center Website?

The block building with no windows on Steen Boulevard houses many areas that help this base run smoothly.

"When most people think of the NCC, they think of the help desk," said Master Sgt. William Klatt, superintendent of the NCC. "The help desk is who you call when you have any computer related problems," said Sergeant Klatt, "but that's not all the NCC

has to offer."

Inside the NCC, the Web shop resides. The base Intranet page is maintained and any other agency on base can get help with their Web page by calling NCC.

"We maintain the Intranet page and offer assistance to any squadron, agency, or private organization on base that needs Web support help.

The Web shop is also responsible for the actual running of the Commanders Access Channel.

Then there is the Information Protection, or IP, shop, which is the gate keeper of the base.

"The information protection shop is the defense against viruses, Trojan horses, and hackers," said Sergeant Klatt.

The IP shop is also responsible for keeping all base computers up to date. Many base computer updates are done at night because that's when most of the base is away from their computers and the updates can be done without interruptions, Sergeant Klatt said.

The Server shop at the NCC runs all electronic mail on base, they also maintain all the drives on base, like the public drive and the different squadron and office drives, Sergeant Klatt said.

Network infrastructure are the fix-it guys of the NCC.

"The maintain all the wiring from the wall jack to the actual computers here. All e-mail and internet networking hardware are



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

Airman 1st Class Eric Raffler and Airman Andrew Raffler, both 319th Communications Squadron network infrastructure technicians, work on a server in the Network Control Center.

maintained by the infrastructure shop.

The Automated Data Processing Element here is responsible for every computer or computer-related purchases on base.

"Many people take for granted

the technology that we have right now because it's there," said Airman Andrew Settle, network infrastructure technician. "Our part in the NCC is like all the rest - we help provide the tools to keep information flowing throughout the base."

319th Communications Squadron history shows activation in 1949

The 319th Communications Squadron was activated in the Air Force Reserve on June 27, 1949, at Reading Municipal Airport, Penn.

It was inactivated on Sept. 2, 1949, to quickly be reactivated in the Reserve on Oct. 10, 1949, at the Birmingham Municipal Airport, Ala. The unit served there until inactivated on March 22, 1951.

From May 18, 1955 to Nov. 16, 1957, the 319th CS was again activated in the Air Force Reserve, at Memphis Municipal Airport, Tenn.

The 319th CS was activated at Grand Forks Air Force Base on Oct. 2, 1977. It was redesignated the 2152nd Information Systems Squadron on July 1, 1984, then again redesignated the 2152nd Communications Squadron on Nov. 1, 1986.

The two squadrons, 319th CS and 2152nd CS, were consolidated Sept. 1, 1991 and was designated the 319th Communications Squadron, and assigned to the 319th Support

Group of the 319th Air Refueling Wing.

The squadron emblem contains the Air Force colors, blue and yellow.

Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers

to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel.

The winged globe reflects the Air Force mission to respond globally with air power. The tower on the globe denotes the unit's role in global communications.

The two flight symbols stand for the aircraft the squadron supports through ground

link communications. The electronic flashes signify the use of electronics in communications and reflect the expertise of the squadron personnel in providing and maintaining operational communication functions in support of the group and wing.

Significant awards for the squadron include: Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 1978, 1983, 1984, 1991, and 2000.

(Courtesy 319th ARW history office)



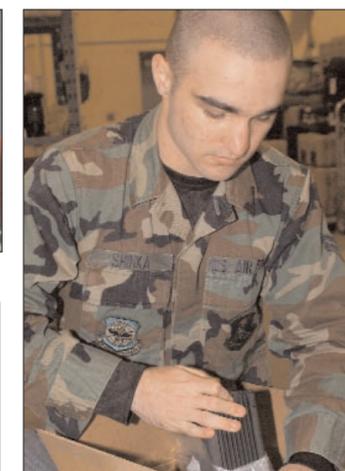
Squadron faces



Capt. Robert Landis



Airman 1st Class Anthony Williams



Airman 1st Class Robert Shinka

Photos courtesy 319th Communications Squadron Multimedia Center

Efforts, from Page 9

records management office.

"The base Postal Service Center service was also rated "Outstanding ... best seen to date," Captain Schreffler said.

According to Sergeant Allen, the OMC recently implemented base-wide use of the Delivery Confirmation Service prior to AMC

direction. The OMC staff trained all wing Drug Demand Reduction personnel on use of the DCS. Specimen tracking by Drug Demand personnel is now done on-line.

"The records management section also attained unparalleled levels of achievement," Captain Schreffler said.

They were the first in AMC to configure a base file server for integration with Air Force

Electronic Records Management System.

They have also become AMC's "go to" functional experts and they helped "debug" the AMC Freedom of Information Act database of software problems.

"The chief of records, Mr. Boldt, also won the Grand Forks Federal Executive Association Outstanding Performance Award for 2003," Captain Schreffler said.

Sports

Sports shorts

ICE FISHING: Outdoor recreation is sponsoring an ice fishing trip Saturday departing from outdoor recreation at 7 a.m. and returning later that day. The cost is \$10 per person which includes transportation, ice shanty with heater, use of auger, bait, and equipment if needed. Price does not include fishing license.

For details call 747-3688

WOMENS SELF DEFENSE CLASS: Learn how to protect yourself and fight back. Mr. Michael Coachmen will be instructing girls and women ages 10 and older the basics of self defense. Classes will be April 26 and 29 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the sports and fitness center.

For details call the sports and fitness center at 747-3384.

THREE-ON-THREE BASKETBALL: Every Saturday the youth center holds three-on-three basketball games. Youth ages 9 to 18 pick their own teams of three.

Games begin at 7 p.m. for ages 9 to 12 and at 9 p.m. for ages 13 to 18. Youth must sign up 15 minutes prior to game time.

ROCK CLIMBING CLASSES: Rock climbing wall classes are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the sports and fitness center.

Sign up at the front desk.

For details call 747-3384.

OPEN SKATING: There is open skating every Friday for ages 6 to 18 at Liberty Square from 6 to 10 p.m. Liberty Square Teen Center is open from 6 to 11 p.m.

Cost is \$3 and skate rental is \$2. Rollerblades are also now available to rent.

MASSAGE THERAPIST AVAILABLE: Massage therapy service is now located at the fitness center in the treatment room.

Julie Erickson offers Swedish, deep tissue, sports, and prenatal massage.

Polarity therapy, reflexology, lomi-lomi hawaiian, and raindrop techniques are available for customers.

For details and to make an appointment, call 747-6104/6201.

OPERATION NIGHT HOOPS COACHES NEEDED: Operation Night Hoops is a youth basketball league that offers teenagers – ages 13 to 18, male and female – the opportunity to play basketball and improve their athletic skills while learning teamwork, cooperation, discipline, and life skills in a safe, drug-free environment.

Elements of the program include the certification of all coaches by NYSCA, weekly discussions between coaches, guest speakers, and players on drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and also workshops that address life skills issues.

As a Operation Night Hoops coach you will be given the opportunity to have a positive impact on the lives of the teenage participants.

For details call 747-3150.

Intramural sports standings

Racquetball

MDG	2-1
LRS	0-3
OSS	5-0
CES	0-2 (out)
SFS	0-3
MXS	3-1



Darts

CS-A	1-2
AMXS	1-2
MOS	3-0
CS-B	2-1
MDG	0-1
MSS	0-3
SFS-A	3-0
SFS-B	1-1
SVS	0-1
LRS	1-1

Volleyball

MOS	3-2	MDG	1-5
SVS/MSS	1-5	CES	6-0
OSS	1-5	LRS	5-1
CS	5-0	MXS	4-3
AMXS	1-6		



Community

Base chapel



CATHOLIC:

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m., Sunflower Chapel
Weekday Mass: 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Sunflower Chapel

Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment by calling 747-5673, Sunflower Chapel

CCD: 10:45 a.m. Sunday, at Twining Elementary and Middle School for children ages 3 through high school age (as of Aug. 31, 2003). For details call Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

Lenten Soup: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sunflower Chapel

Stations of the Cross: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sunflower Chapel

Penance Service: Thursday April 1, 7 p.m.

PROTESTANT:

Traditional Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel

Contemporary Worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, at Prairie Rose Chapel

Sunday School: 9 a.m. at Eielson Elementary School

PYOC: 4 to 5:45 p.m. Sunday, at the youth center
Men of the Chapel Bible Study: Noon Monday, in the Prairie Rose Chapel conference room

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

Young Adults: 6 p.m. Friday, at Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Swain's home. For details call 747-6468.

JEWISH:

Call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

Call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540 for details.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

Call 747-5673 for details.



Courtesy photo

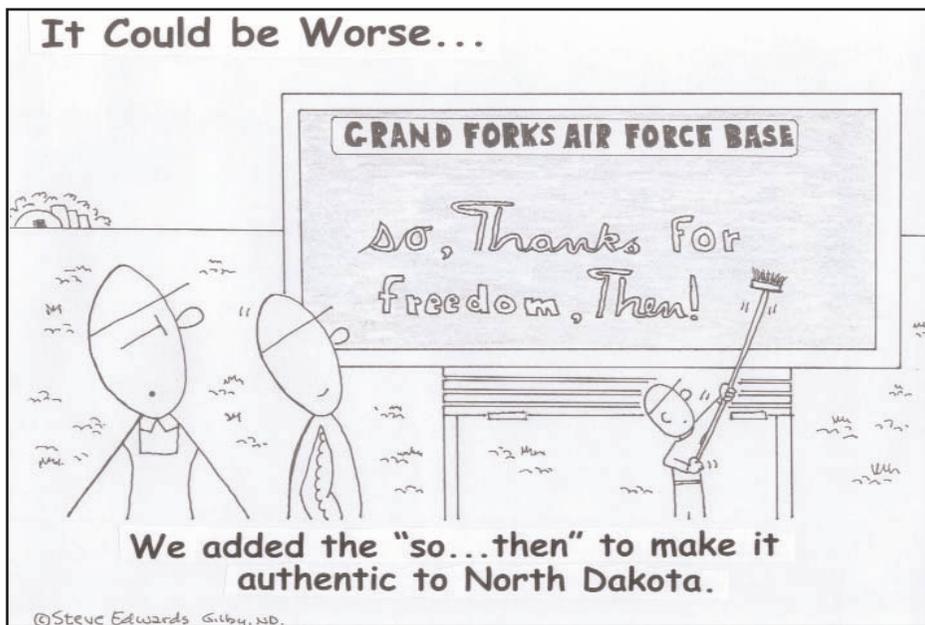
Airmen of Note jazz band holds base, Grand Forks concerts

The United States Air Force Band, *Airmen of Note*, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force, will perform in the Northern Lights Club with a free concert at Saturday at 7:30 p.m. A dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.50 for club members and \$11.50 for non-members.

To sign up for the dinner, call the Club at 747-3392 or go online to <http://www.gf-services.com>. There is limited seating for the dinner portion.

The Airmen of Note will also perform a free concert at the Red River High School Gymnasium Sunday at 2 p.m.

Pick up tickets at Popplers Music on Gateway Drive, or call RRHS at 746-2402, extension 141. The gym will open at 1:45 p.m. for non-ticket holders.



Base theater



Today, 7 p.m.

Miracle (PG)

Miracle is the story of one of the greatest international sports upsets in recent history: the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team's semifinal victory over a seemingly unbeatable Soviet squad. Team USA then went on to beat Finland in the gold-medal game. Kurt Russell stars as U.S. head coach Herb Brooks.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Catch That Kid (PG)

Catch That Kid, a remake of the Danish movie Klatretosen, is about 12-year-old Maddy (Kristen Stewart), who attempts with her two pals to rob a high-tech bank where her mom (Jennifer Beals) works as a security officer. Maddy hopes to pay for a costly operation her dad (Sam Robards) needs.

April 2, 7 p.m.

50 First Dates (PG-13)

Romantic comedy 50 First Dates follows a veterinarian (Adam Sandler) who falls for a woman (Drew Barrymore) suffering from short-term memory loss. Because of her condition, every day their love is new. He must woo her again and again or she will forget that he's the one for her.

April 3, 7 p.m.

Welcome to Moosesport

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

Community

Today

CRAFT CLASSES: Pre-register today for a wool flag wall hanging class Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$11 plus supplies. Please bring a lunch.

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers walleye along with the steak dinners from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Members receive a \$3 discount.

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

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

Saturday

STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR: The Annual Boys and Girls Clubs of America State Youth of the Year competition is today at Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Ms. Jessica Weber will be representing Grand Forks Air Force Base in this competition.

The winner will compete for regional honors. Everyone is encouraged to support Grand Forks AFB and Ms. Weber in the competition.

PRETEEN VIDEO NIGHT: The youth center is inviting preteens to enjoy a couple of hours of videos from 7 to 9 p.m. at the youth center. Cost is \$1 and includes popcorn.

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

CLUB DANCING: The Northern Lights club offers dancing at the club from 10 pm. to 3 a.m.

**Chief induction
Chief Master Sgts.
(Select) Louis Lombardi, 319th Mission Support Group, and Lynette Cox, 319th Medical Group, light candles signifying their journey through the enlisted ranks during the base chief induction ceremony March 19.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Gamble

Enjoy "club mix" with DJ "C".

Sunday

SUNDAY BRUNCH: The Northern Lights Club offers Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Monday

CRAFT MONTH SALES: The skills development center is holding a handcraft sale Monday through April 3rd. Wood pieces and rubber stamps are 15 percent off. You can also sign up for door prizes.

Tuesday

PARENT, TOT PLAYGROUP: Parent-tot playgroup is held at Liberty Square from 10 a.m. to noon for ages 2 to 5.

Wednesday

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers an "all you can eat" taco bar from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$6 and members receive a \$3 discount.

LIBRARY STORYTIME: The base library holds storytime at 10 a.m. every week. Each week is themed. There is reading, singing, and

do an activity in relation to the theme. This weeks theme is Dr. Seuss "Horton Hatches the Egg." For details call the library at 747-3046.

Thursday

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

Upcoming

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SEMINAR: There are still some seats available for the April TAP seminar scheduled for April 13 to 15. This seminar has been filling up so sign up early.

Plan to attend as early as 18 to 24 months prior to retirement, and 12 months prior to separation. For details call Ms. Cheryl Anderson 747-6436 or 737-3241.

FREE FAMILY CONCERT: "The Singin' Safari Band" will be performing in the community activities center April 3 at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS: Come be a part of something grand – the first base Neighbor's Day open house since 1998. It's

Spouse club news

Enlisted Spouses Club

JOINING THE ESC: Enlisted spouses interested in being a part of the base Enlisted Spouses Club should contact Tracy Carter at 747-4518 or 594-6633. The club meets monthly in the community activities center and offers a variety of activities.

Officers' Spouses Club

SANDY TURNER ANGEL AWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERS:

The Officer Spouses' Club is accepting nomination applications recognizing individuals with outstanding volunteerism during the last year. Individuals eligible include active duty military, military family members, military retirees, federal civilians, community civilians, and all OSC members (excluding executive board members and advisors).

The nomination deadline is April 5. Award winners will be recognized at the OSC Scholarship Banquet on May 4. Application forms can be picked up at several locations on base or via e-mail.

Call Carol Gaddis at 594-3802 or e-mail ccrgarddis@gra.midco.net for details.

CRUD TOURNAMENT: The Officer's Spouses Club is holding crud tournament April 23. For practice times and more details call Aurora Perkins at 594-8611.

MAH JONGG: Join the OSC Mah Jongg group every Monday at 10 a.m. For details call Julie Martin at 594-9298.

July 10, and the open house committee needs volunteers for all kinds of missions. They also need someone to be the open house director's executive. For details e-mail Maj. Christopher "Mike" Smith at christopher.smith-06@grandforks.af.mil or call 747-4541.

Airmen's Activity Council elections

Airmen who are senior airmen and below on Grand Forks Air Force Base make up nearly half of the military population on base. Be a voice for the Airmen community. The Airmen's Activity Council will be holding elections for the following offices:

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Historian

Any senior airman and below – please no staff selects – can nominate or be nominated for an office.

Nominations will be taken up until close of business April 5, voting will commence until April 16, and officers will be announced at the next Airmen's Council meeting April 20, at 2 p.m. at the Warrior Airmen Recreation Center. Send nominations to Airman Patrice Clarke at patrice.clarke@grandforks.af.mil.

For details call Airman Clarke at 747-5020.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Patriotic concert

Third graders from Eielson Elementary School sing during their spring concert March 19, "America: A Celebration of Our Country," in the Eielson school gym. Nearly 200 people attended the event.