



# THE LEADER

Vol. 39, No. 16

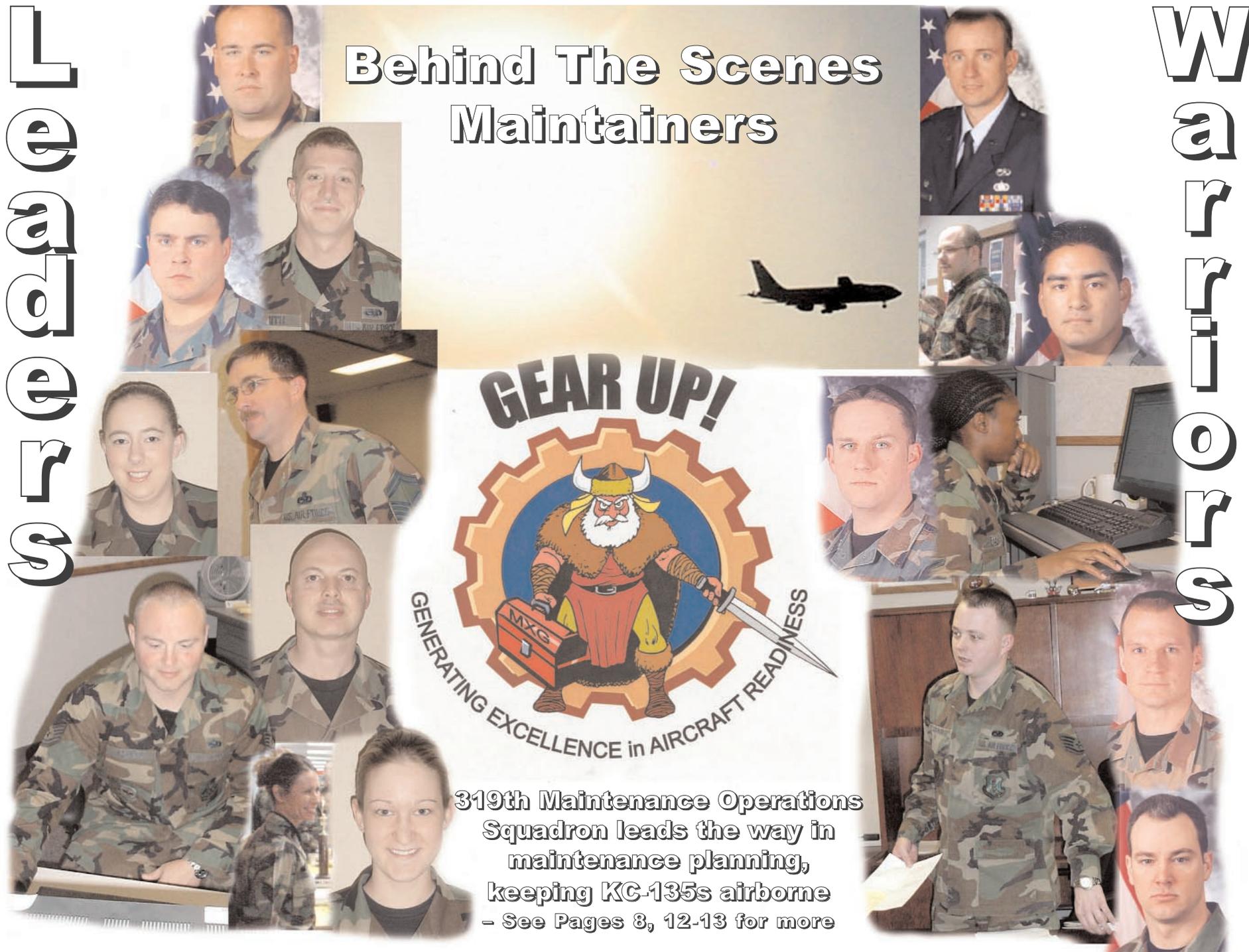
Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ <http://public.grandforks.amc.af.mil>

April 23, 2004

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## Behind The Scenes Maintainers



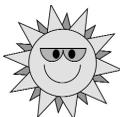
319th Maintenance Operations Squadron leads the way in maintenance planning, keeping KC-135s airborne - See Pages 8, 12-13 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

### Inside:

#### Weekend weather

Today	51/29	Mostly sunny
Saturday	63/35	Partly sunny
Sunday	49/34	Partly sunny
Monday	65/39	Sunny/cloudy

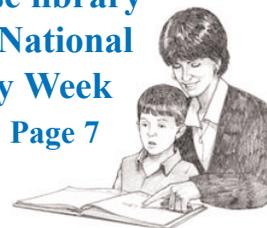


Weather information courtesy  
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

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**Varsity basketball team plays in Hawaii tourney**  
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# Commander addresses goal day statistics

By Colonel Mark Ramsay  
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

As many of you already know by now, we did not achieve our wing goal day standard for March, our first full month using our new wing standards.

This means we will not have a goal day in May. I want to explain our goal day shortfall in March.

Overall we fell 1.6 percent below the wing goal day standard of 93.3 percent, which is derived by totaling nine individual metrics.

The nine individual standards are broken into two main groups: accomplishing our mission safely and taking care of our Air Force family.

Accomplishing our mission safely accounts for 70 percent of our total score, and is broken down into four main categories.

We exceeded our standard in air-land effectiveness and mishap reporting timeliness, and met the standard in air refueling effectiveness.

Unfortunately we were more than 10 percent below our standard in individual readiness. This goal area involves everyone on mobility status and includes such items as immunizations, preventative health assessments, dental exams, chemical warfare training, self-aid and buddy care, etc. I ask that you work with your supervisor, training manager, and unit deployment managers to get your individual readiness items accomplished as soon as possible.

We all need to be ready to deploy when called. If we would have met the 95 percent standard in this one goal area, we would have met

the 93.3 percent overall standard and received a wing goal day in May!

We also fell below the standard for taking care of our Air Force family in several areas.

We need to increase our submission timeliness for awards and decorations, and improve our career development course first-time pass rate. In addition, we must continue to improve our duty status reporting to meet the Air Force

“As I stated very clearly in *The Leader* two weeks ago, alcohol-related mishaps must stop before someone gets injured or killed.”

**Colonel Ramsay**

## Action Line

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

Questions will be answered in the order they are received.

**6**  
Consecutive  
DWI-free  
days  
Goal is zero DWIs.

**80%**  
Mishap  
Reporting  
Timeliness  
Target is 95 percent.

**57.14%**  
Awards,  
Decoration  
Timeliness  
Target is 92 percent.

Call 747-4522



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

Col. Mark Ramsay  
319th Air Refueling Wing com-

goal of 90 percent. In March our overall wing duty status reporting was 71 percent.

It's critical that we have rock solid personnel accountability throughout the wing at any given time.

I also want to remind everyone that irresponsible alcohol consumption remains a special interest item.

We could have gained two percentage points in March had we gone through the month without any alcohol-related incidents or driving while intoxicated offenses.

That did not happen, and we have already eliminated two percentage points for our April goal day metrics.

As I stated very clearly in *The*

*Leader* two weeks ago, alcohol-related mishaps must stop before someone gets injured or killed.

Finally, I want everyone to take a very active role in understanding and attaining our goal day standards.

They constitute what is critically important about safely accomplishing our mission and taking care of our Air Force family.

They are goals that are both measurable and controllable within our wing, and every Warrior has some ownership in some or all of our standards.

With a little more attention to detail in the areas I highlighted above, I am confident we will earn goal days in the near future!

## THE LEADER



Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

### Cover

As a crucial unit within the 319th Maintenance Group and the 319th Air Refueling Wing, the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron is the backbone for maintenance training, scheduling and analysis. This edition of *The Leader* highlights the unit's contribution to the wing.

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 2nd Lt. Ashley Gee \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy chief, public affairs  
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◆**Public Affairs** — Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 319th Air Refueling Wing public affairs office. Copy submitted for publication is edited to conform to the Associated Press Stylebook and for length considerations.

◆**Advertisements** — Call the Grand Forks Herald at (701) 780-1275.

## Civil engineers provide construction update

### Wing headquarters

The 319th Air Refueling Wing headquarters facility front entrance will be closed starting Monday due to construction on the front parking lot and sidewalk. Those with business to conduct in this facility are asked to use the west parking lot off G Street and enter through the west door.

### Eielson Street electrical lines

People traveling to and from the Plainsview Golf Course will see a change to the landscape along Eielson Street from Steen Blvd. to Alert Ave.

A contractor will be burying the overhead electrical lines and installing new street lights.

This work is not expected to impact traffic flow, but

people are asked to watch for increased pedestrian and equipment movement.

### New Barnes Hall parking lot

Work on the new parking lot for Barnes Hall residents started this week.

Tree and shrub clearing on the south side of the facility will be the first step in this effort. Residents can expect the major ground work to start on May 4.

During the initial stages of construction, residents will be able to access both east and south parking lots by using the east entrance. The west entrance will be a construction – vehicle-only entrance.

The pavilion parking lot has been designated as an overflow parking lot for Barnes Hall residents during the construction.

### Replacing water valves

There are 41 water valves in the base industrial area that will be replaced starting Monday.

This effort will mean some minor inconveniences to offices and facilities.

Utility shut-offs are coordinated with facility managers in time for proper coordination.

### Parallel taxiway reconstruction

A major reconstruction of the parallel taxiway has started. The parallel taxiway will be replaced in phases from just north of the Charlie apron to just north of Delta taxiway. When traveling on Eielson Street, be aware there will be an increase in construction truck traffic.

*Courtesy 319th Civil Engineer Squadron*

## 319th CES establishes new customer service hotline

By Airman Patrice Clarke

Public affairs

With more than 400 members and 20 different shops the 319th Civil Engineer Squadron can be a little intimidating.

319th CES has a diverse mission. The squadron covers everything from pavements and trees to contracting and appliance repair.

When a tree is down, do base members know whom to call? The 319th CES is launching the "CES1" hotline, which will make it easier for base members to get information from a one-stop shop.

"We want to take the guessing out of customer service," said Lt. Col. Patrick Fogarty, CES commander. "Let us do the work for you.

"You call and tell us your problem, and we'll connect you to the people who can help you in one easy call."

"The squadron already had a

customer service number, we just updated it a little," said Colonel Fogarty.

So what's so different about this number? All calls are answered immediately.

"Just think of this number like the old-time switch boards," said Maj. Paul Martin, 319th CES operations flight commander.

**To connect to CES customer service, call 747-CES1 (2371)**

For instance, if a member called the number at 8 p.m. because their dorm room door would not close, the customer service representative would keep the person on the line while they call the CE structures shop and wait till someone actually answers the phone.

Once the customer service representative is talking to an actual person they transfer the base member to the civil engineer personnel.

The customer service number is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Briefs

### MPF services

Until mid-May, a combination of heavy aerospace expeditionary force deployment taskings and building renovations may impact the military personnel flight's ability to provide prompt customer service. MPF officials ask customers to practice patience as they go through the improvements and to call ahead to the section they wish to visit before going over to the MPF. They do not plan on limiting service hours.

For details call MPF customer service section at 747-4902.

### School board

The Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board is accepting applications for a new board member.

Applications can be picked up and dropped off at the family support center, education center, Eielson Elementary School, and Twining Elementary and Middle School. Deadline for the applications is Tuesday.

### Summer hire program

The 319th Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel office announces the start of the Air Force Summer Employment Program. Positions available

include clerical, office automation clerk, lifeguard, recreation aid and general laborer.

Applicants must be at least 16 years of age, currently enrolled or accepted at an educational institution, and follow required college or vocational course load requirements. The employment period is from June 7 to Aug. 13. The closing date of announcements is June 25.

To apply, go to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs> on-line and self nominate for the positions you're interested in. Several other rules apply in the hiring process.

For details, go to the Web site or call civilian personnel at 747-5036.

### Vacation Bible School

Registration for Vacation Bible School, set to start in early June, is now taking place at all Catholic and Protestant chapel services or at Prairie Rose Chapel during regular duty hours.

All children who were 3 years old by Aug. 31, 2003, through those who will be completing sixth grade this spring are encouraged to register.

Buses will run for students in the 4-year-old classes and older. Adults and teens interested in helping make this pro-

gram a success are asked to call Jane Hutzol at 747-3073, Carol Shower at 747-3071, or Prairie Rose Chapel at 747-5673. Leave a voice message.

### Air Force Portal registration

All Air Force personnel, military and civilian, are required to register for an Air Force Portal account.

To register for an AFP account, go on-line to the "Self-Registration Page" link found at <https://w-ww.my.af.mil>.

For details call the 319th Communications Squadron customer support section at 747-2666.

People can also call the field assistance branch at DSN: 596-5771 or commercial 1-334-416-5771.

### Lost property

The 319th Security Forces Squadron investigations section has several items of found property collected throughout the last year on base which have not been claimed by the rightful owners.

They have items ranging anywhere from bikes to cellular phones and keys.

### Twining concert

Elizabeth Hampl, daughter of Rachel and Capt. David Hampl, 319th Medical Support Squadron, sings a tune during the Twining School fifth grade spring music concert Tuesday.

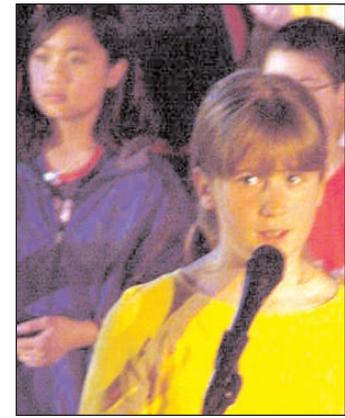


Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

They are located in Building 512, off of Eielson Street and 1st Ave. For details call Staff Sgt. Jill Murray at 747-3882.

### Volunteer opportunities

Are you interested in meeting new people while giving some of your time back to your community?

The family support center has a list of volunteer opportunities available for individuals or groups. People are needed for one-time events as well as long-term opportunities.

Volunteer opportunities vary. People interested in volunteering should stop by the FSC or call Vonda Ware at 747-3241.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon II

### Combat shadows

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – U.S. Air Force tactical air patrol party Airmen and Soldiers with the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division conduct a patrol here April 11. The Air Force tactical air patrol party Airmen are assigned to the 116th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron.**

## Officers must complete education application

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) –** Officers who want to compete for a developmental education opportunity in the 2005 to 2006 school year must now complete the required preference application online. The 2004 Developmental Education Designation Board meets here Oct. 4 to 8.

The senior and intermediate developmental education nomination application is where nominees make their school preferences known to their senior rater, their development teams and the board. The application, available from any Internet-connected computer, must be completed by the officer and senior rater by May 21.

“This is their chance to provide input to their own development path,” said Lt. Col. Kathryn Moene, force development branch chief at the Air Force Personnel Center here. “The Web-based application is user-friendly, saving time and effort for officers and their senior raters.”

To access the application, officers can visit the AFPC developmental education site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme/>. Once there, those eligible can click the “Web-based 3849 application” button which will take them to the AFPC secure site.

Officers can select up to five school choices from a drop-down menu and

give a synopsis of why they should attend each school.

“The space to provide comments is smaller, so nominees [need to] focus on why they should go to a certain school, and how that school preference (affects) their development,” Colonel Moene said.

Once an officer completes the application by clicking “submit,” he or she is automatically taken to the Assignment Management System Web site at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm>. From there, the officer can check to ensure the Transitional Officer Developmental Plan is current. A current plan is mandatory for the application process. The application is then available to the senior rater who will add his or her comments and nominate the officer online.

Following the senior rater’s endorsement, the application is reviewed by the appropriate force-development team, the colonel said. Career-field experts on the team will recommend the appropriate developmental opportunity for each officer based on the applicant’s background, school preferences and senior rater’s comments.

For details call the 319th Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight at 747-4902.

*Courtesy of AFPC News Service*

## Base aquatics center offers free open swim; reduces fees

### Courtesy outdoor recreation

Aquatics Center program fees have been slashed. Beginning May 1, many fee-based programs will be free, while others will be reduced by as much as half.

Following is the new fee structure for people using the base aquatics center in the sports and fitness center field house.

#### Free opportunities:

- Open swim – Free.
- Pool passes – Free.
- Swimming lessons for active-duty military – Free.
- Water aerobics for active-duty military – Free.

#### Reduced fees:

- Mom/toddler open swim – Free.
- Lessons (other than active duty military) – \$15 per student, \$10 if sponsor is a club member.
- Regular water aerobics (other than active duty military) – \$15 for 30 sessions.
- Pool parties for two-hour time block – \$25 regular fee, \$20 for club members.
- Lifeguard certification – \$50.
- Lifeguard recertification – \$20.
- Additionally, the pool will offer a broader range of programs in the near future with first-aid/cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (adult, child, and infant) classes, which currently are not offered. Fees for this program are: child/infant CPR and first-aid, \$15; adult CPR and first-aid \$15; and both \$25. Club members will receive a \$5 discount. Watch future advertising for this opportunity.

Pool hours for open swim also expand beginning in May.

Following are hours for open swim: Tuesdays, Wednesdays (beginning May 12), and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m.; Friday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m.

Summer pool hours will be posted when the aquatics center has a full staff of lifeguards. They plan on closing on Sunday evenings so they can thoroughly clean the pool.

They are also in the process of advertising and hiring additional lifeguards and water safety instructors.

Anyone interested in aquatics center positions should contact the 319th Services Squadron human resources office at 747-5030.

Pool parties are offered on Friday and Saturday evenings. Party times are in two-hour blocks, from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. or 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

**Current holders of pool passes and some pre-paid pool parties for May are due partial refunds. Aquatics center officials are attempting to contact everyone personally. If you think you are due a refund, call outdoor recreation at 747-3688.**

“This is really good news for the base community and represents a tremendous effort on the part of 319th Mission Support Group leadership and wing leadership to improve and expand aquatics programming,” said John Gorman, outdoor recreation director.

Call outdoor recreation at 747-3688 for more details.



File photo

**Children and adults play at the base pool. Beginning May 1, many pool activities that previously charged money will be free. People with questions about the changes should call 747-3688.**

# Base theater



## Today, 7 p.m.

*Dirty Dancing Havana Nights (PG-13)*

Havana Nights is the story of 18-year-old Katey Miller (Romola Garai), who moves with her father to the city when he gets an executive job at Ford. Expected to join the crowd of wealthy Americans in her new neighborhood, Katey instead befriends Javier (Diego Luna), a poor waiter who also happens to be a great dancer.

## Saturday, 7 p.m.

*Secret Window (PG-13)*

Mort Rainey (Johnny Depp), a successful writer trying to cope with a divorce, is staying in his rural home, when a stranger (John Turturro) turns up on his doorstep and accuses him of plagiarism.

## April 30, 7 p.m.

*Dawn of the Dead (R)*

## May 1, 7 p.m.

*Taking Lives (R)*

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

# Base chapel



## CATHOLIC:

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

**Weekday Mass:** 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunflower Chapel

**Reconciliation:** 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel, or by appointment. Call 747-5673 for details.

**CCD:** 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Twining Elementary and Middle School. For children age three through high school. For details on educational programs, call Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

## PROTESTANT:

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

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

**Sunday School:** 9 a.m., Eielson Elementary School

**Protestant Youth of the Chapel:** 4 to 5:45 p.m., Sunday, youth center

**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 747-6468 for details.

**Women's Bible Study:** 7 p.m. Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel conference room

## 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.

## Celebrating National Library Week

# Library makes life easier for base residents

By Airman Patrice Clarke  
Public affairs

Sitting in the back room of the base library, Aubrey Madler, library technician, catalogs the shipment of new books that just arrived.

It's not the peace and quiet atmosphere that is usually associated with a library. Ms. Madler does this even through the hammering, pounding and banging overhead. The peaceful atmosphere in the base library is temporarily upset due to construction.

The base library is getting a new roof and making changes in the near future.

One change already implemented is the library being open on Mondays.

"We received a lot of comments on patrons who wanted the library open on Mondays due to school and research," Ms. Madler said.

"We increased our staff by 50 percent," said Ed Finch, senior library technician.

The bigger staff have plenty of hard work ahead, he said. They are training for the new library system the base library will soon be getting.

"This system will make searches so much easier," Mr. Finch said.

The On-line Dakota Information Network, or ODIN, is the main library network in North Dakota the base library subscribes to.

"The new system allows for quicker, more in-depth searches," Ms. Madler said.

With the new system, customers can type in one subject and get all the books offered on that subject from the base library and the entire ODIN system. They will also see listed any magazine or journal entries and any internet links that pertain to the aforementioned subject.

"The search system we have now has the capabilities to look up magazine or journal entries, or to look up the entire ODIN system," Ms. Madler said. "The only difference is the new system would do that all at once.

"Now you have to just search magazines or journals, or just search books, but the new system will do it all," Ms. Madler said.

The upgrades to the search system will happen over the summer, but many things the library has to offer aren't widely known.



*Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke*

**Jessica Hagan, spouse of Senior Airman Jeremy Hagan, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron, studies at the base library Wednesday.**

The main mission of the library is to provide materials for offices on base.

"Many offices on base receive library materials," Ms. Madler said.

"We are a primary source for training

resources and information and we encourage people to contact us any time they have questions."

For details call the library at 747-3046.

# 319th MOS remains ‘the best’ despite steady deployments

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

The efforts of deployed Warriors of the North were recently highlighted by officials with the 28th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron.

They documented how deployed tanker maintainers were able to post record-level mission-capable rates while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Maintainers there, reports showed, have kept a 97.3 percent MC rate, 97.2 percent “fully mission-capable rate,” and a 100 percent four-hour fix rate.

Capt. Jeffery Johns, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron maintenance operations flight commander who recently returned from deployment, said troops from 319th MOS were part of setting those record-level MC rates. He said it shows how members from one small unit can make a difference across the globe.

“In the deployed location, our folks, like all the others who are deployed, keep their mind set on the big picture in supporting the Global War on Terrorism,” Captain Johns said. “Out there, there are a lot of weapons plat-

forms that include bombers, fighters and others, but the fact is those planes can’t do their mission without air refueling.

“All the maintainers on the ground, in all facets, realize that,” he said, “and they are proud of what they do.”

“They work hard to ensure those tankers are safe and reliable and are able to complete their air refueling mission.”

Ensuring safety and reliability is crucial to maintaining the war effort, said Maj. Craig Gaddis, 319th MOS commander. Over the course of a year, 319th MOS maintenance schedulers work to “swap out” KC-135s on a consistent basis.

“Approximately 100 aircraft are rotated in and out of theater every year,” Major Gaddis said.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Smith, maintenance scheduler in the 319th MOS plans, scheduling and documentation section, also recently returned from deployment to Site 14.

He said the tanker maintenance people there, like at his home unit here, treat each other like they’re family.

“That’s why our unit is one of the best,” Sergeant Smith said.



Courtesy photo

## MOS people

(Above) Master Sgt. Lyle Spring, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron areospace ground equipment crew leader, at his desk in the quality assurance office. (Right) Members of 319th MOS take part in a squadron chili cook-off Monday.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

# Youth center announces photo contest winners

The 319th Services Squadron youth activities program recently announced the base digital photo winners of their 2004 Imagemakers National Photography

Contest. The base winners will compete next at regional level. Judges for this year's contest selected four winners, which are featured here.



Todd Palikowski won first place in the age 9 and younger category with this photo showing a KC-135 Stratotanker at sunset.

(Right) Amanda Ackerson won first place in the age 13 to 15 category with this entry.



Anna Marry won first place in the age 10 to 12 category showcasing a different look at an everyday product – bread.



Eryn Duston won first place in the age 10 through 12 category for photo with essay.

# 319th MOS: From maintenance analysis to scheduling, squadron spearheads behind-the-scenes effort

## Commander says unit doing 'exceptionally well'

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

Whether it's providing training to all new Airmen assigned to the 319th Maintenance Group, coordinating daily maintenance activities, or producing vital KC-135 maintenance statistics and schedules at home or deployed, the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander said he has people who are "exceptional" at the work they do.

"We have all the staff and command and control functions for the maintenance group," said Maj. Craig Gaddis, 319th MOS commander. "We do not perform operational maintenance, but we fully support the maintainers in the other two maintenance squadrons every day."

Major Gaddis said the unit is filled with highly-skilled people who are experts on KC-135 tanker maintenance and on what it takes to keep the wing's fleet of more than 48 aircraft flying.

"We train all the maintainers who come to this base," Major Gaddis said. "We make sure we train and task qualify all the maintainers on their core tasks which alleviates some of the training burden from the five- and seven-level work force out in the Maintenance Squadron and the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron."

That reduction in the training burden for the mid-level NCO work force is significant, Major Gaddis said, because with higher operations tempo now, it helps them concentrate more on getting the planes in the air.

In 2003, Major Gaddis said the unit trained more than 350 maintainers.

The squadron commander said the 319th MOS also provides maintenance command and control for every mission that departs the base through the maintenance operations center, or MOC.

"In the MOC, we ensure the maintainers on the flightline adhere to the schedule of events and launch missions on time,"

Major Gaddis said. "Before a mission departs though, our MOS maintenance schedulers work with OSS operations schedulers to build a schedule or plan for each mission."

"In the aircraft maintenance scheduling process there are whole litanies of airframe and engine management inspections we have to manage on every tanker scheduled to fly," he said. "We not only have to do that, we have to keep the utilization rates as even as possible across all the tails in the tanker fleet. Overall, you can see we are very involved in the sortie generation process."

MOS also gauges the effectiveness of maintenance operations, Major Gaddis said. Their analysts monitor every facet of aircraft maintenance and provide the data to the maintenance group commander, wing commander, and Air Mobility Command headquarters.

Major Gaddis said all key mission effectiveness indicators are reviewed on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to ensure that the maintenance group is operating at peak performance.

The programs and resources flight provides the maintenance group commander with management of processes to include group mobility, Status of Resources and Training System reporting, manning, operations of dedicated servers to support the logistics mission, and facility management.

As with many positions within 319th MOS, Major Gaddis points out that members of this flight are, "hand-picked NCOs from across the MXG who are assigned to these duties within the MOS for typically three-year tours."

According to Major Gaddis, another important part of the 319th MOS family is the 319th MXG quality assurance office.

Major Gaddis said, "QA works for the maintenance group commander on a daily basis; however, these maintenance experts representing each maintenance Air Force specialty code call the maintenance operations squadron their home."

"Our success is validated by the mission getting done every day," Major Gaddis said.

"We have great people doing great things, and I'm proud to be a part of it."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Airman Shaunteshia Dawson, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron maintenance analyst, works at her computer in the analysis office.

## Maintenance analysis mixes know-how with automation; keeps KC-135s flying

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

With more than 48 KC-135R Stratotankers assigned to the 319th Air Refueling Wing, ranging in age from 41 to 47 years old, tracking the maintenance on them could be difficult if a system were not in place.

Fortunately, there is a section in the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron that does just that – it's the maintenance data systems analysis, or MDSA, section.

MDSA analysts say their section work through a lot of data every day.

"One of the most significant things the MDSA section does for us as maintainers is they track and locate maintenance trends that may be happening to our planes out there on the flightline," said Capt. Jeff Johns, 319th MOS maintenance operations flight commander. "With the section doing their work, it helps us be more preventative instead of reactive with maintenance."

The section works to monitor aircraft discrepancies and examines missions with repeating (back-to-back) or recurring (repeats within last three sorties) maintenance problems. Once a repeat or recurring discrepancy is discovered, it is immediately highlighted to maintenance leadership for review and possible additional actions.

Master Sgt. Steven Shuster, MDSA section superintendent, said his section's mission is to provide products and services to KC-135 maintenance leadership so decisions can be made for the base to best meet the wing's air mobility mission. The wing's record number

of flying hours and excellent mission capabilities are a testament to the information the MDSA provides, Captain Johns said.

"The analysis element provides everything from mission-capable rates to studies that evaluate maintenance problems," Sergeant Shuster said. "We also have database managers who keep databases functioning and make sure the data we put into those systems are of the highest quality."

High quality data is what is then presented to base leaders in many forms, Sergeant Shuster said.

"Ultimately, the data gets used for things that affect money for aircraft or personnel to get the job done," said Tech. Sgt. Chad Shulte, NCO in charge of the maintenance analysis element.

"Many people do not realize the work accomplished here – in the analysis section – eventually ends up on the congressional floor. Many of us are familiar with the debate for a new tanker. Our small section with 11 Airmen provided input to that debate. For this reason we're proud of our data's accuracy."

Data integrity, he said, is job one. To ensure that effort, it starts with the maintenance technician and Tech. Sgt. Steven Lynn, GO 81 manager, and his data integrity team.

Senior Airman Tamara Copeland-Chippy, database manager, said keeping maintenance databases fully operational is important.

"Through cooperation and coordination with many people and agencies, I'm able to help oversee a vital system that is of vital importance to our maintainers and leaders," Airman Copeland-Chippy said.

### Coordination control

## Maintenance schedulers organize care for wing's fleet

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

With some of the wing's KC-135R Stratotankers approaching the half-century mark, tracking and scheduling maintenance for the planes is especially important.

The 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron plans, scheduling and documentation section tackles the task of developing, maintaining and coordinating all schedules and plans for all tanker maintenance.

"If a plane is out getting maintenance, it's not flying," said Master Sgt. Edward Jefferson, plans, scheduling and maintenance section superintendent.

"Our job is to effectively schedule our aircraft...if we do not efficiently schedule maintenance requirements we will not have the necessary aircraft to support the wing mission. That takes a lot of cooperation and coordination, and this section does it extremely well."

Sergeant Jefferson said his section coordinates closely with 319th Operations Support Squadron schedulers on missions and changes affecting daily and weekly tanker mission plans. He said this effort includes managing, controlling, scheduling, ordering aircraft parts, and serving as the focal point for the 319th Air Refueling Wing's Time Compliance Technical Order and Time Change Programs.

"We also provide long and short-range aircraft utilization schedules," Sergeant Jefferson said. "That includes coordinating the wing's quarterly, monthly, and weekly



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Airman Brittany Manuel, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron scheduler, prepares a schedule in her office in Building 607. Maintenance schedulers work along side operations schedulers here – one of only two bases in Air Mobility Command that have this same cooperation and placement.

flying and maintenance plans."

Some of the most visible effects of the section's work in action is the planning of regular tanker "swap-out" missions from forward deployed areas.

"Our schedulers work with ops schedulers to set up a rotation schedule for aircraft to deploy and redeploy from overseas locations," said Maj. Craig Gaddis, 319th MOS commander. "We have a schedule where we rotate the aircraft back so we can effectively utilize the planes. Corrosion control is a big reason why we have to watch our schedule."

Major Gaddis said approximately 100 aircraft are rotated in and out of theater every year.

Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Collins, squadron superintendent, said, "Like the major said, because the flying schedule

over there is much higher than it is here, we have to look at that airplane, figure out how best to fly and maintain it, and get its utilization rates back in line."

Sergeant Jefferson said personnel assigned to his section learn the big picture first.

"In the scheduling world, with everything, you start big and you work your way down to small," he said. "For example, now, we have Airmen in our section who work on the quarterly scheduling process. They take a quarter's (three month period) flying information and combine that with the quarter's maintenance requirements and basically work on building three month's of schedules at a time. A remarkable feat when you consider the dynamic nature of AMC and our world wide mission."

Airman Brittany Manuel, maintenance scheduler, said she enjoys learning new things in a job that has a large impact on wing operations.

"I like it," Airman Manuel said. "It's not that stressful because we have a lot of good people here who help each other."

Daily maintenance schedules can fluctuate so schedulers do stay prepared, said Staff Sgt. Jeff Smith, also a maintenance scheduler. He said they work together to overcome any challenges.

Airman Lucinda Faidley, another maintenance scheduler, added, "There are always changes to the daily schedule, but we have a good group of people here who know their job and can take care of things when problems arise."

As a result of this dedication, for the third straight year the wing will fly a record number of hours.

## What do you like best about your squadron?



"The people here are some of the most knowledgeable people I've ever worked with."  
Staff Sgt. Jeff Smith, maintenance scheduler



"If you have a question, someone is always there to answer it."  
Airman Basic Renae Nelson, documentation office



"Everyone works together to complete what needs to be done."  
Airman Lucinda Faidley, maintenance scheduler

"A lot of people take time out to teach me what I need to know. I'm always learning something."  
Airman Brittany Manuel, maintenance scheduler



"I like that the chain of command is people oriented. They take a hands-on approach to help other people. They are very willing to stop

and help other people."  
Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Swann, documentation office NCO in charge

"We're one big family here. We know what the job is, what we're supposed to do, and we do it. We also take care of our people."  
Master Sgt. Edward Jefferson, plans, scheduling and documentation section

# Communications maintenance: ‘If their equipment is not operational, flying stops’

By 2nd Lt. Ashley Gee

Public affairs

When you think of the 319th Communications Squadron, what comes to your mind? Computers and networks of course! What about air traffic control and landing systems, radio maintenance, telecommunications management, land mobile radio, maintenance support and maintenance control?

Yes, these are all facets of the Communications Squadron, more specifically the mission systems flight.

“There’s a whole other side of the communications squadron that no one sees – the maintenance flight,” said Capt. Robert Landis, 319th CS mission support flight commander. “Our comm maintenance folks directly support the flying mission. If their equipment is not operational, flying stops, unlike the network.”

So why are they invisible when they do such an important job? The answer is simple – they are fantastic at what they do, Captain Landis said.

The 319th CS mission systems flight takes care of so much more than you can imagine, and not just for our base.

Among some of their common tasks are the public address systems for events such as promotion ceremonies, telephone communications for the entire base, and support of all the wireless contracts on base.

The mission systems flight also works with Grand Forks International Airport, Captain Landis said. They assist in maintaining the navigation systems at GFK. Some of these systems



*Photo by 2nd Lt. Ashley Gee*

**Senior Airman Matthew Haas, 319th Communications Squadron meteorological/navigational communications journeyman, climbs a communications tower to check equipment.**

include radar, tactical air navigation, and instrument landing systems.

In more understandable terms, the mission system personnel maintain equipment that allows aircraft to identify their geographical location in transit from one point to another.

Captain Landis said Grand Forks AFB has the busiest radar approach and control tower in all of Air Mobility Command.

Master Sgt. Don Cloutier, telecom-

munications chief, summed their flight’s job up with one simple statement, “Designing, planning, reorganizing, and maintaining flightline equipment – we do it all.”

“At 4 a.m. every morning, when we are all still in bed, and the weather is 40-below-zero, the men and women of this flight still go out to the flightline to ensure the equipment is working correctly,” Captain Landis said, “to make sure the mission for the 319th Air

Refueling Wing is a success.”

“So the next time you see a plane take off, or you simply answer the phone, think about the men and women behind the scenes who make it all possible and never take them for granted.”

## Sport shorts

**EARTH WEEK GOLF TOURNAMENT:** There will be an Earth Week 18-hole golf tournament today at 11 a.m. at the Plainsview Golf Course.

The tournament will be played in a four-man team scramble format, shotgun start. There is a \$5 entry fee for every person plus cart fees and green fees. The top three teams will receive prizes.

For details or to sign up, call Joshua Ross or David Lavergne at 747-4944, or you can sign up at the golf course.

**MINNESOTA HORSE EXPO & RODEO:** Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Minnesota Horse Expo and Rodeo Saturday, departing at 7 a.m. and returning later that evening.

Cost is \$25 per person which only includes transportation. Expo gate admission is \$5 for ages 6 to 12 and anyone 62 and over and \$8 for ages 13 to 61.

Rodeo gate admission is \$4 general and \$8 for box seats. The rodeo starts at 7 p.m. Sign up by close of business Thursday.

For details call outdoor recreation at 747-3688.

**SPRING INTO FITNESS:** May is National Fitness Month. The sports and fitness center is holding a "Spring into Fitness" fun run/walk May 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. starts at the fitness center.

This is a five kilometer event and is open to all ages and all ranks. Squadron competition is highly encouraged. Each squadron must have a five person team and the best cumulative squadron time wins.

Each participant receives a Warrior scramble coin. Participants can register at the fitness center.

For details call 747-3384.

**YOUTH BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, T-BALL REGISTRATION EXTENDED:** Registration for youth baseball, softball, and t-ball has been extended through Saturday.

Cost is \$30 per participant. The season runs May 13 through July 1.

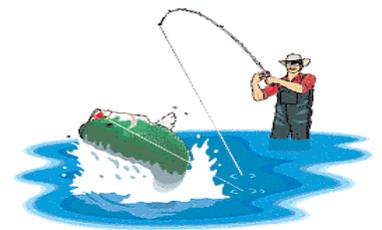
There will be a parent meeting May 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the youth center.

For details or to register, call the youth center at 747-3150.

**GOLF COURSE OPEN:** The Plainsview Golf Course is now open for the season. For details call 747-4279.

### Fishing

Warriors of the North seeking 2004 North Dakota fishing licenses can get them at outdoor recreation. Fishing equipment is also available at outdoor recreation for rent. For details call 747-3688.



## Intramural standings

### Soccer

SVS	5-6
OSS	10-2
CES-A	7-4
LRS	2-9
CES-B	7-4
MXS	2-9
AMXS	6-5



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CS-A	3-5
AMXS	4-3
MOS	5-1
CS-B	5-2
MDG	0-1(out)
MSS	4-4
SFS-A	8-0
SFS-B	3-3(out)
SVS	0-1(out)
LRS	5-3

### Volleyball

MOS	11-4
SVS/MSS	2-8
OSS	2-12
CS	12-2
AMXS	4-11



MDG	1-
12	
CES	15-

For details on base intramural sports programs, call the sports and fitness center at 747-3384.

# Warriors place fourth in Hawaii tourney

## Compiled from staff reports

No, it wasn't the NCAA Tournament, but to the Warrior men's varsity basketball team, it was just as big.

The Warriors were invited to, and participated in, the second annual Aloha Classic basketball tournament at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, April 5 through 10.

The 13-team tournament consisted of the best competition had to offer. The Warriors breezed through pool play, going 4-0 with wins against K-Bay Marine Company Battalion, 56-42; Hawaii Coast Guard, 78-22; Hickam AFB Flyers, 60-45; and Travis AFB, 70-45, thus earning the number one seed.

"We were definitely on a roll," said coach D.J. Lemelle. "We initially surprised everyone. With having the smallest and shortest team in the tournament, teams underestimated us; however, after posting the first win against a Marine team, attitudes from the rest of the field changed."

The Warriors came into the tournament very confident, Lemelle said. The tough competition and exceptional outside shooting the Grand Forks region offered prepared the Warriors well for this tournament, Coach Lemelle said.

"We knew we would not face the consistency of the three-point shooting that we faced in North Dakota," Coach Lemelle said.

The Warriors came into the tournament with their "bread and butter," which was the full court press and half-court trap.

"We were able to take more chances with our press because of the lack of perimeter consistency," said Lemelle. By taking the chances, the Warriors were able to hide their biggest weaknesses – size and bench experience.

## Tournament play

In the Warriors' first game against the Marine team, the team suffered a huge injury as post Javron Rushing went down with a knee injury and did not play for the rest of the tournament.

"His injury was critical to the team's success especially as we got deeper into the tournament," said Coach Lemelle.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Rosell

**The Warriors battle the number two seed, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., during the Aloha Classic basketball tournament at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. The Warriors placed fourth overall. The Warriors, 26-21, have a tournament in Langdon, N.D., Saturday and Sunday to end the season.**

However, post players Derrick Jones, Rudy Williams, Terrill Clay, Brandon Franklin, and George Fowlkes did a "super-human job picking up the pace," Lemelle said.

Going into the single elimination tournament, the team opened up against the number two seed, Luke AFB. Luke was a very experienced team, said assistant coach Margie Wireman. Luke had players who played on the Air Force team.

The Warriors knew they were in for a battle but they had to stick to their game plan – run the whole game. Run, the Warriors did as they posted their fifth win in a row, a 105-88 victory over Luke AFB, thus pushing them into the semi-final game against Beale AFB.

This was a hard game, Coach Lemelle said. The game was much closer than the score indicated. The Warrior starters were forced to play longer than Coach Lemelle would have liked. Luke just kept coming at the Warriors. The game was close until the last minute.

The semi-final game – which was played 30 minutes after the Luke game – saw heart-driven Warriors battle the mighty Beale AFB team which consisted of 6'11" center Stretch James.

James was the talk of the tournament, said Lemelle. The Warriors knew

they faced a challenge against him.

Beale also boasted a 6-foot, 8-inch post player and 6-foot, 5-inch small forward. Guard Eric Williams suffered a wrist injury in the first few minutes, and he wasn't the same the rest of the game.

"Playing with Williams not 100 percent was devastating to our game plan," said Lemelle. "He brings so much to the table for this team and in the heat of a battle, he is hard to replace."

The Warriors stayed close at half time trailing 65-55, but in the end, the Beale AFB team wore the Warriors down, thus handing the Warriors their first loss, 105-92.

"I couldn't ask for more from our team," said Lemelle, "they left their hearts on the court."

The Warriors now 5-1, faced Kunia Army Base for third place.

"Our job didn't get easier," said Assistant Coach Wireman. "Kunia was an extremely physical team that could literally jump out of the gym." The Warriors did give Kunia all they could handle in the first half by leading by as many as nine points before being down by two, 67-65 at halftime. Kunia made adjustments at halftime and the Warriors couldn't counter it. With Williams out of the game due to a broken wrist, Kunia ball-denied guard Matt Wireman

the entire second half. Injuries to guard George Fowlkes – hip, guard Ossie Oden – knee and guard Russell Mackey – back, left the Warrior perimeter offense in disarray.

Kunia went on to defeat the Warriors 127-103, thus knocking the Warriors to fourth place. The Warriors left a lasting impression on the other teams at the tournament. Guard Matt Wireman won the Hot Shot Competition, also Wireman, Fowlkes, and Williams received most valuable player votes from their counterparts.

"My hat goes off to my team for representing themselves and Grand Forks Air Force Base above reproach on and especially off the court," Coach Lemelle said. "Our team's average age is 23 years old."

"Being so young and in an environment like Hawaii would cause the average young person to forget the real purpose of why they were there," said Coach Lemelle.

However, these young men stayed focused the whole tournament, he said, and again represented Grand Forks AFB "extremely well."

The Warriors, 26-21, close out their season in Langdon, N.D., this weekend as they participate in the Langdon men's amateur tournament.

# Community

## Today

**LET US DRIVE YOU:** The Northern Lights Club offers a shuttle service to and from the Club Thursday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. This free service is offered to residents of the base, Sunflake housing and Emerado. For details call 747-3392.

**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

**POOL TOURNAMENT:** The youth center is having a free singles pool tournament for ages 9 to 12 at 4:30 p.m. and ages 13 through 18 at 8:30 p.m.

**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. 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

**ARMED FORCES RETIREES:** Eat lunch at the Airey Dining Facility every Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**BASE LIBRARY:** The base library is now

open Mondays from noon to 5 p.m.

## Tuesday

**SPONSORSHIP TRAINING:** The family support center offers sponsorship training which fulfills the Air Force requirement. For details and to sign up call 747-3241.

**PARENT, CHILD PLAYGROUP:** The parent-child playgroup meets every Tuesday in Liberty Square from 10 a.m. to noon.

## Wednesday

**WINNIPEG SHOPPING TRIP:** Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a shopping trip to Winnipeg May 1, departing at 8 a.m. and returning that same evening. Cost is \$20 per person which includes transportation only. Sign up by close of business today.

For details call 747-3688.

**CAREER FORUM:** There will be a free career forum at the youth center for youth ages 9 to 18. University of North Dakota students will speak and answer questions about college and career choices.

## Upcoming

**SPRING FLING:** The Northern Lights Club spring membership drive contest is coming to an end. Three squadrons will be getting a pizza party for membership increase. For details call your club advisory representative or the Northern Lights Club at 747-3392.

**A CAREER AT HOME:** Become a family child care provider. there are a lot of great benefits to being a child care provider. For details on becoming a child care provider call the family child care office at 747-3158.

**AIR FORCE SPACE CAMP:** Reach for the

stars. The Space Academy is for ages 12 to 14 and runs Aug. 1 to 6. Advanced Space Academy is for ages 15 to 18 and runs July 31 to Aug. 6. Space camp will be in Huntsville Ala. Scholarships are available for this experience.

For details call youth programs at 747-3150.

**MASTERWORKS CONCERT:** The Grand Forks Master Chorale and special guest musicians will perform a concert April 30 at Holy Family Church at 7 p.m.

This is an Operation Enduring Friendship event and military members need just show their military identification card at the door for free admittance.

For details call 777-4090.

**INTRO TO INVESTING:** The family support center is offering an introduction to investing class May 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The course covers the concepts of investing, including terminology savings bond mutual funds and stocks.

For details and to sign up call 747-6435.

**SPONSORSHIP TRAINING:** The family support center offers sponsorship training May 3 and 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Training includes a one-hour overview of the newest resources followed by a facility tour.

Sponsorship training is mandatory for all sponsors.

For details and to sign up call 747-6435.

**OFFICER SOCIAL AT THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CLUB:** Starting this month, on April



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

## Cooking it up

Lynn Mendoza fries lumpiang shanghi Monday during the Asian-Pacific American Association food tasting. Sesame and teriyaki chicken, adobo pork and steamed rice were some of the dishes served.

30 at 4:30 p.m., officers of all ranks and their families are invited to join the wing commander and/or vice wing commander at the Northern Lights Club. This gathering will occur on the last Friday of every month, or as close to that as possible, schedule permitting.

**CINCO DE MAYO LUNCH:** Come celebrate with a special lunch for Cinco de Mayo at Airey dining facility May 5. Menu includes beef fajitas, taco bar, chicken enchiladas, and burritos. For details call 747-4113.

## Spouse club news

### Enlisted Spouses Club

**GENERAL MEETING:** The next Enlisted Spouses Club general meeting is 7 p.m. Monday in the community activities center.

This is an board election meeting and attendance is highly encouraged.

### Officers' Spouses Club

**OSC SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET:** The Officers' Spouses Club invites all to the annual Scholarship and Angel Awards Banquet May 4 in the Northern Lights Club. Social hour begins at 6 and dinner starts at 6:45 p.m. The dress is business attire.

Scholarships from the OSC, African American Cultural Society, Fisher House, and the Defense Commissary Agency will be given away.

Reservations are needed to attend. Meal charges will apply unless reservations are cancelled by 8 a.m. May 3 to Cappy Younker. For details or to make a reservation, call Kathi Hunnewell or Cappy Younker at 594-3429, or 594-9448 respectively or e-mail [oscreserve@yahoo.com](mailto:oscreserve@yahoo.com) by Thursday.

**OSC CRUD TOURNAMENT:** The Officers' Spouses' club will be hosting a crud tournament today at 5 p.m. at the Northern Lights Club. Door prizes will be given.

There are no reservations required and OSC members play for free. Non-OSC members pay \$5 to play the game. For details call Aurora Perkins at 594-8611.

## It Could be Worse...



You're right, you don't often see that in most parts of the world.

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