



THE LEADER

Vol. 39, No. 22

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

June 4, 2004

Summer places

In the Dakotas and Minnesota, base members choose from a wide array of activities

- See Pages 10-11 for more

National monuments

Outdoor activities

State parks

Camping

Expansive views

Museums

Zoos

Man-made wonders

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

Inside:

Weekend weather

Today	78/52	Partly cloudy
Saturday	70/48	Thunderstorms
Sunday	70/49	Showers
Monday	67/42	Partly cloudy



Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

Expanded force shaping effort begins
Page 3



Airmen honor Memorial Day

Page 5



Kids Fish Saturday

Page 13



It has been an honor

By Col. Steve Wayne
319th Air Refueling Wing
Vice commander

As we depart Grand Forks AFB for our new assignment, I must tell you that I face this time with "mixed emotions."

Betty Lou and I are excited for the new challenges that await us at Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Headquarters, and we are happy to be getting much closer to our family.

However, it is difficult to leave such a wonderful assignment as we have had here at the 319th. I will remember all of our deployed members who will not make it home this summer, who are mak-

ing huge sacrifices to prosecute our Global War on Terrorism.

I have always been the type of person to want to be in the thick of things, and I am sure I will be disappointed that I will not be here leading the Warriors of the North.

I have never wanted to be the one sitting on the sidelines in the middle of the "Big Game." I do believe in providence, and I know that what we have accomplished over the past year has prepared you and this wing for whatever lies ahead.

To those who spent these many months by my side, working the long hours, doing everything in their power to keep this wing on a solid, war-time footing, I say, "Thank You!" We faced some major challenges together, and although many were beyond our control, we made phenomenal progress in every area of our mission.

To our many friends and supporters from the local area, I must say that you continue to play a critical and pivotal role in our continued success.

In all of my 25 years in the Air Force, I have never seen the magnitude of support and outpouring of true friend-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Tyrrell

Col. Steve Wayne, 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, gives a thumbs-up after completing his final flight in a KC-135R Stratotanker in May.

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.

49

**Consecutive
DWI-free
days**

Goal is zero DWIs.

Call 747-4522



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

ship as I have seen here. We will especially miss all of our "downtown" friends.

Because of all your efforts those who just arrived and those who will be arriving this summer will be poised to accomplish even greater things. They will do this if you stay determined to make your own mark on this war effort, and continue to challenge each other.

"Leadership" is defined, not by "striving to be first," but by "being the first to strive." Do not wait on someone to tell you what needs to be done, or wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. Seize the opportunity to get out in front and lead.

At this time, more than ever before, our nation needs true patriots and leaders. You have proven you are all that and more. I am counting on each of you to do your very best to protect our freedom and American way of life.

I sincerely thank you for your service and dedication. I am grateful for your willingness to do whatever it takes.

I have been honored to serve beside you as your vice commander. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be for you and your families.

I am confident, with Colonel (Mark) Ramsay's keen leadership, your future accomplishments will increase with your challenges.

THE LEADER

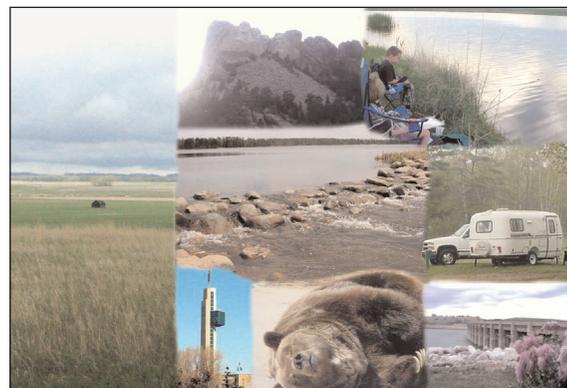


Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Cover

In North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota – to name a few places – there are many areas for base members to visit this summer. This edition of *The Leader* highlights some of those places.

Editorial staff

Col. Mark Ramsay _____ Wing commander
 Capt. Patricia Lang _____ Chief, public affairs
 2nd Lt. Ashley Gee _____ Deputy chief, public affairs
 Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol _____ Editor/Chief, internal information
 Airman Patrice Clarke _____ Associate editor

Editorial policy

The Leader is published by the Grand Forks Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 319th Air Refueling Wing. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of *The Leader* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, the Department of the Air Force or the Grand Forks Herald of products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

◆**Deadlines** – Articles due by noon Thursday the week prior to publication. For details, call *The Leader* staff at (701) 747-5019.

◆**Contact information** – **E-mail:** leader@grandforks.af.mil, **Phone:** (701) 747-5023

◆**CCTV3** – **E-mail:** CCTV3@grandforks.af.mil, **Phone:** (701) 747-5023

◆**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.

Air Force officials approve force shaping Phase II

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – As personnel officials review the last remaining applications for retirement or separation under the force-shaping program, a more extensive second phase of the plan has begun.

The new initiatives include expanded waivers for a number of programs including active-duty service commitments and transferring to the Guard or Reserve through the Palace Chase program.

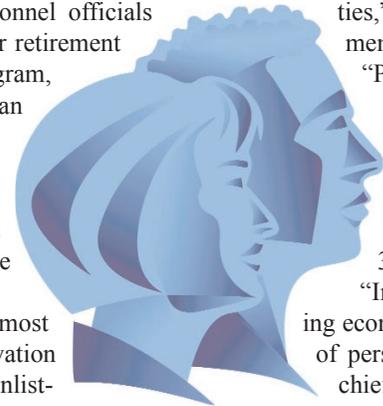
It also includes a few new ones, most notably the return of the career job reservation program. The CJR program limits re-enlistments into the career force by constraining Air Force specialties for some first-term Airmen, officials said.

In addition, Phase II requires commanders to consider a number of quality-force factors when considering Airmen for retention. Those include correctional custody, referral reports, unfavorable information files, Article 15 action, control roster restrictions, confinement, alcohol- or drug-related offenses, and financial irresponsibility or mismanagement.

Phase II widens the aperture on the Phase I initiatives, which netted almost 2,500 Airmen approved for retirement, separation or Palace Chase, said Maj. Gen John M. Spiegel, director of personnel policy at the Pentagon.

“Phase II is the next step in our force-shaping program to move us closer to the authorized end strength of 359,700 while rebalancing the skills,” he said.

“Phase I put us on a glide slope to reduce the size of the force without (worsening) manning shortages in the special-



ties,” said Maj. Dawn Keadley, chief of retirement and separation policy at the Pentagon. “Phase II increases that momentum.”

The initial goal of force shaping was to have 16,600 Airmen leave the Air Force, 3,900 officers and 13,700 enlisted. Those numbers are projected to increase to almost 19,000 by Sept. 30, and to 24,000 by Sept. 30, 2005, because of record retention rates.

“Incredibly high retention and a slow recovering economy are the primary factors in the increase of personnel overages,” said Col. Mike Hayden, chief of the military policy division at the Pentagon. “Retention rates in the Air Force are at their highest in a decade.”

General Spiegel said Phase I of the program met its objective.

“Phase I did exactly what it was supposed to do,” the general said. “It allowed us to assess the level of interest and recalibrate for Phase II. Our goal is to do this drawdown as smartly while rebalancing the force and improving manning in stressed career fields.”

Phase II of the program is designed to do just that. For example, Phase I required individuals to have a minimum of 24 months on active duty before applying to Palace Chase. Phase II dropped the minimum requirement to 12 months. This modification expands the opportunity to another part of the population that might be interested in serving in the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve, Major Keadley said.

Further, the active-duty service commitment following a permanent change of station in Phase I could be waived up

to 18 months. Phase II allows for a full waiver of the commitment, officials said.

Those colonels and lieutenant colonels who would like to retire but who do not have the three-years time in grade previously required to do so are also in luck, officials said. Phase II reduces the minimum mandatory time in grade to two years for a limited number of eligible people.

The CJR program has returned for the first time since 1999. It serves a two-fold purpose, Colonel Hayden said, helping draw down the force and balance career field numbers at the same time.

“Now is a good time to use this tool again,” Colonel Hayden said. “Airmen in overage career fields, coming up on their first re-enlistment, are offered an opportunity to retrain into a shortage career field. If they choose not to retrain, they have the opportunity to transfer to Palace Chase, apply for civil service, join the Army or separate.”

“In Phase II, we have more flexibility in managing each (career field) by year group than we had in Phase I,” General Spiegel said. “We will consider applications according to the manning health of the member’s specialty by both the year group and the grade (for officers) or skill level (for enlisted).”

Because of this change, a greater percentage of applications will be approved in Phase II, officials said.

To find out more about how force shaping affects the Warriors of the North, call Staff Sgt. Heath Conrad, 319th Mission Support Squadron, at 747-4295.

Briefs

Court-martial

On May 12, Airman 1st Class Brian M. Lewis, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was convicted at summary court-martial of one specification of drunk driving and one specification of reckless driving in violation of Article 111 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Airman Lewis was sentenced to confinement for 16 days and a reduction to the grade of E-2.

OG change of command

The 319th Operations Group change of command ceremony is 10 a.m. Thursday in the Three-Bay Hangar. Lt. Col. (Col.

select) Lee E. DeRemer will take command of the group from Col. Cathy Clothier. Col. Mark Ramsay, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander, will preside over the ceremony.

Colonel Clothier moves on to become the 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

Open house fundraising

Private organizations, special interest groups, booster clubs and morale teams wishing to raise funds at Friends and Neighbors Day July 10 must submit requests. Make requests on-line at <http://www.gf-services.com/FR.html>. Since this

event will be counted as a fundraiser, groups should remember only two are allowed per quarter.

Booster clubs and squadron teams desiring to sell non-food merchandise of any type must coordinate with the 319th Services Squadron, which will manage all concession rights.

Registration for merchandise sales will not be accepted after the close of business today. This deadline is required in order to develop the concession layout plan and to acquire sufficient booth resources.

For details call Tom Rector at 747-6992, Dee Linneman at 747-3235, or George Wolf at 747-3051.

Open house volunteers

Come be a part of something grand –

the first base open house since 1998 set for July 10. Volunteers are needed for all kinds of missions related to the event. To volunteer or for more details, e-mail Maj. Ryan Marshall at ryan.marshall@grand-forks.af.mil or call 747-4541.

Scale open

Traffic management office officials report the base scale, located near the base used car lot, is now operational for people doing personal “do it yourself” moves. For details about the scale, call Tech. Sgt. Brian Okes at 747-3443.

Cartoonist visit

Steve Edwards, local cartoonist, will make a free appearance and presentation at the base library Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Warriors of the North support local, regional Memorial Day efforts



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A base youth watches the American flag make a shadow in the sun while he was walking with his father en route to placing flags in veteran's graves at Sunnywood Memorial Gardens in Grand Forks May 28. Nearly 200 base members assisted in preparing the cemetery for Grand Forks Memorial Day activities.



Photo by Bobbi Sturkol

Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol, 319th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office, gives a speech at the Park River Memorial Day ceremony Monday in Park River City Hall. Overall, the base Speaker's Bureau provided 18 speakers in communities for Memorial Day in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Other speakers included: Col. Michael Saville, 319th Maintenance Group commander; Lt. Col. Gerald Perkins, 319th Comptroller Squadron commander; Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Moore, 319th ARW Chapel; Capt. Patricia Lang, 319th ARW Public Affairs; Capt. Kale Mosley, 906th Air Refueling Squadron; Master Sgt. Lyle Spring, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron; Master Sgt. Gary Cleland, 319th ARW Military Equal Opportunity Office; Master Sgt. Darrell Williams, 319th Maintenance Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Dennis Clay, 319th Communications Squadron; Staff Sgt. Michael Taddy, 319th ARW command chief's office; Staff Sgt. Richele Aumiller, 319th Mission Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Shelly Klukas, 319th MSS; Airman 1st Class Delmar Thomas, 319th MXS; Airman 1st Class Renae Wyatt, 319th CS; Airman 1st Class Nicole Robokoff, 319th CS; Airman Allison Mills, 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; and Mr. John Hanson, 319th MSS.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A base member places a flag near a military veteran's grave at Sunnywood Memorial Gardens in Grand Forks.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A base Honor Guard team attended the flag placing detail at Sunnywood Memorial Gardens. The Honor Guard also sent a team to Thief River Falls to participate in their Memorial Day activities.



Master Sgt. Doug Evans, 319th Operations Support Squadron first sergeant, his wife Tricia, and son Douglas all attended the flag placing detail at Sunnywood.

Base theater



Today, 7 p.m.

Johnson Family Vacation (PG-13)

Johnson Family Vacation stars Cedric the Entertainer as Nate, the patriarch of a dysfunctional family traveling across the country to attend a family reunion in Missouri.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

The Punisher (R)

The Punisher follows an FBI undercover agent, Frank Castle (Thomas Jane); he's a former Special Forces member who is finally moving into a safe desk job, to the delight of his wife and son. But when his family is executed after witnessing a mafia hit, Castle dons a black battle suit, arms himself with a ton of guns, and seeks swift revenge.

June 11, 7 p.m.

Envy (PG-13)

When a hapless schmo (Jack Black) becomes rich after selling an invention called Vapoorize, which causes dog waste to vanish instantly, his longtime friend and neighbor (Ben Stiller) is driven insane with envy and proceeds to wage war on him.

June 12, 7 p.m.

Ella Enchanted (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 3 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

Men of the Chapel Bible Study: Not meeting for Memorial day

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

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

JEWISH:

Call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, ORTHODOX,

OTHER:

Call 747-5673 for details.

Briefs

ATV use on base

In spite of the fact the base is in the process of establishing an off-road vehicle club on base, and have outlined a proposed motocross/all-terrain vehicle, or ATV, course behind Sunflake Housing, riding an off-road vehicle on base is currently illegal.

People have been seen riding ATVs behind Sunflake housing and security forces will now be monitoring that area.

A notice will be published when completion of the ATV track is done and authorized for use.

For details call Tech. Sgt. James Henry at 747-3445.

Food program

The base child development center is participating in a U.S. Department of Agriculture child and adult care food program where meals are available to all enrolled children at no additional charge. In accordance with federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

For details on the program, call the CDC at 747-3042.

Volunteers needed

The Relay for Life Committee, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is

Flower vouchers

From now through June 25, the 319th Civil Engineer Squadron is issuing flower vouchers to military family housing residents

through the self-help store to improve family housing landscaping.

The vouchers allow housing residents to purchase \$20 worth of bedding plants and flowers at three local garden shops. The voucher can't be used for vegetables, trees or shrubs.

The self-help store is located at Building 418, at the corner of Tuskegee and Eielson, and is open Mondays through Fridays from 6:45 to 11:15 a.m., and from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

For details call the store at 747-3400.

looking for volunteers to assist with the post "Relay for Life" clean-up at University Park in downtown Grand Forks. Those wishing to help clean up need to report to Shelter 1 at University Park, near the playground, between 5 and 6 a.m. Saturday. For details call 775-5159.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Heir Force

Isabella Bree Northernor, a 6-pound, 9-ounce girl, was born April 19 to 1st Lt. Julie and 2nd Lt. Steve Northernor.

Justin Malachi Hibpshman, an 8-pound, 9-ounce boy, was born May 1 to Jeanette and 1st Lt. Albert Hibpshman.

Mackenzie Kaye Finley, a 6-pound, 7-ounce girl, was born May 2 to Ashley and Airman 1st Class Jacob Finley.

Clayton Nathaniel Norton, a 9-pound, 2-ounce boy, was born May 4 to Julie and 1st Lt. Ray Norton.

Megan Elizabeth Taylor, an 8-pound, 1-ounce girl, was born May 4 to Angela and Capt. Matthew Taylor.

Elizabeth Ann Hutton, a 6-pound, 8-ounce girl, was born May 6 to Leslie and 1st Lt. Thomas Hutton.

Aiden Joseph Callbeck, a 9-pound, 8.8-ounce boy, was born May 7 to Melissa and Staff Sgt. Todd Callbeck.

Austin Ubaldo Ortiz, a 5-pound, 4-ounce boy, was born May 10 to Nancy and Senior Airman Onofre Ortiz.

Braydon Edwin Julius Ortiz, a 6-pound, 7-ounce boy, was born May 10 to Nancy and Senior Airman Onofre Ortiz.

Jacob Ray Roseboom, an 8-pound, 7-ounce boy, was born May 10 to Staff Sgt.

Melita and Tech. Sgt. Richard Roseboom.

Dylan Robert Harper, an 8-pound, 13-ounce boy, was born May 11 to Tiffanie and Airman Robert Harper.

Kendra Ann Nordick, a 7-pound, 5-ounce girl, was born May 11 to Sara Ann and Senior Airman Red Nordick.

Mia Kailani Moeller, a 9-pound, 4-ounce girl, was born May 12 to Angela and Senior Airman Shaun Moeller.

Thomas William Sumner, a 5-pound, 11.5-ounce boy, was born May 13 to Heather and 1st Lt. Jarred Sumner.

Alan Trent O'Brian Gallimore, a 7-pound, 14.5-ounce boy, was born May 16 to Senior Airman Crystal and Joseph Gallimore.

Danielle Thayer Pugh, a 6-pound, 10-ounce girl, was born May 17 to Jessica and Staff Sgt. Matthew Pugh.

Steven Tanner Cliche`, a 7-pound boy, was born May 24 to Angela and Staff Sgt. Aaron Cliche`.

Harmony Lynnae Wolff, an 8-pound, 3-ounce girl, was born May 26 to Melanie and Airman 1st Class Adam Wolff.

Christopher Lake Saylor, a 6-pound, 12-ounce boy, was born May 29 to Amy and 1st Lt. Aaron Saylor.

**Around the World
in Ninety Days has started –
get into the game!**



Officials approve wear of expeditionary medal

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Air Force officials have authorized wear of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal which was approved by President Bush in 2003.

The Department of Defense campaign medal applies to active-duty, Reserve and Guard servicemembers deployed abroad on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

“The criterion is pretty clear, so members who believe they are eligible can begin wearing it,” said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Simmons, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Center’s recognition programs branch here.

To qualify, an individual must have been assigned or attached to a unit in OEF or OIF and served 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in specific geographic areas.

The medal will only be awarded once, regardless of how many times an individual returns to serve in OEF or OIF. There are no service stars or other devices authorized; however, battle stars may be authorized for servicemembers who engaged in actual combat. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for battle stars.

Duty locations include: Afghanistan;



Bahrain; Bulgaria (Bourgas); Crete; Cyprus; Diego Garcia; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Oman; Pakistan; Philippines; Qatar; Romania (Constanta); Saudi Arabia; Somalia; Syria; Tajikistan; Turkey (east of 35 degrees east latitude); Turkmenistan; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; and Yemen.

Other areas include:

- The portion of the Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude.
- Bab el Mandeb.
- The Gulf of Aden.
- The Gulf of Aqaba.
- The Gulf of Oman.
- The Gulf of Suez.
- The portion of the Mediterranean Sea east of 28 degrees east longitude.
- The Persian Gulf.
- The Red Sea.
- The Strait of Hormuz.
- The Suez Canal.

The medal follows the Kosovo Campaign medal in precedence.

The medal will be issued by the military personnel flights when it becomes available and will also be available through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service later this year.

For details call 747-4902 or the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

Courtesy of AFPC News Service

Refurbishing key to KC-135 upkeep

By Capt. Patricia Lang
Public affairs

Rarely does one hear the word “attractive” in reference to the venerable KC-135R Stratotanker, but many on base said that term most closely describes the interior looks of refurbished 319th Air Refueling Wing jets.

A peek inside confirms that assessment: one sees polished floors, a sparkling white bathroom, brass knobs, readable decals, glistening seat rails, bright yellow oxygen tanks...and improvements as far as the eye can see.

One would hardly guess tail #61-0299 was born 43 years ago. That aircraft is the third of 52 base KC-135s undergoing a 45-day refurbishment process.

Refurb

Refurbishment, maintenance operations officer Capt. Denny Lozano explained, is not making the jet new, but making the jet “look like new.”

From the outside, the only indicator a KC-135 has been refurbished is a neat yellow and black border around the crew entry door opener. “It’s all about keeping the fleet going and making it look good,” Captain Lozano said. “Our squadron mission is the long-term health of the fleet.”

The pride in ownership, according to 35-year-old Tech. Sgt. Scott Nichols, NCO in charge of the 319th MXS refurbishment section, is what makes the work worthwhile. While the program has existed since the 1960s, “this is the first [KC-135] we’ve put more effort

into the details,” Sergeant Nichols said. “The depth it gets done is up to us. I’ll take suggestions from anyone.”

Air Force instructions say KC-135s should be refurbished every three years.

Refurbishment is “all about attention to detail,” Sergeant Nichols said. “We take everything out. We sand it. We paint it.”

Every surface inside the KC-135 is either sanded, cleaned, or blasted with an air sander which blows glass or plastic beads onto metal parts to remove corrosion or paint on the metal. Senior Airman Aaron Shelhamer said nothing’s overly “challenging” about the repairs, but “sanding’s the most monotonous part.”

Sergeant Nichols calls the work “meticulous.” Each floorboard is sanded smooth and then painted eight times.

Sewing away

The squadron doubled its personnel, said Captain Lozano, and brought people in from different specialties.

Senior Airman Che Schelling was the fabrications expert chosen to work on this jet. He said the best part of the project is “being able to see my work on the plane.”



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

Tech. Sgt. Scott Nichols and Senior Airman Aaron Shelhamer, 319th Maintenance Squadron, display the recently refurbished KC-135 cockpit.

He fabricated a cushion for the crew entry door marked with the wing emblem so that “when crew members come up the ladder, they don’t bump their heads.” He also hand-crafted a cover for the aircraft escape system.

Now, when you think of sewing, you think delicate,

– See **Refurbishing**, Page 12

RVing made easier

Outdoor Recreation rentals provide quick capability for camping

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

I own an older model pop-up camper recreation trailer, but it is in need of some repairs. Because of that, I recently decided for the first time to try a recreational vehicle trailer rental from 319th Services Squadron Outdoor Recreation.

I have five people in my family, so we do need a fair amount of room when we go camping as a family. Our family size alone limits our choice as to what kinds of RV campers we can use because it has to sleep five people.

Undaunted by this limitation, my family and I prepared for a weekend excursion May 21 to 23 to my hometown campground in Wakefield, Mich.

A week before the trip, I went to Outdoor Recreation to see what RV campers they had available. After talking with John Gorman, Outdoor Recreation director, I learned they had seven five-person campers to choose from, including a large one that comes complete with a bathroom/shower, seating area, cupboards and additional sleeping areas plus storage galore.

The biggest camper I looked at, made by Jayco, was the one we initially decided to rent, but that soon changed.

Because our vehicle, a Chevrolet Suburban, didn't have electric brakes installed, we decided to go with a five-person Casita hard-shell camper. It had all the amenities except a bathroom. But overall, it's eons ahead of using a tent.

The Casita we rented was smaller than the Jayco, but it worked well the entire trip. On the day I went to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

At the camp site, the Outdoor Recreation rental camper was easy to set up and use.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Outdoor Recreation camper rentals, such as this one shown above hitched to the author's Chevrolet Suburban, offers a form of "house on wheels" when traveling and camping.

hook it up, the staff at Outdoor Recreation went through a multi-point checklist of making sure the hook-up was correct, the lights worked and everything was in order.

We left the morning of May 21 and got into Michigan later that afternoon. The campground we went to wasn't officially opened yet so there was no water or power available.

In the camper, we had to rely on the battery-powered lights and a propane hook-up for cooking. I could have used the propane cooker in the camper, but I opted for my fold-up grill that has a Teflon-coated skillet on it and it worked well.

Over the course of the days and nights we spent at the campground, located on the shores of Sunday Lake where my hometown is built around, we experienced rainy, cold weather. The weather, however, didn't deter us from enjoying a warm campfire or from being entertained by the ducks that frequent the campground.

Another added bonus of using the pull-behind camper we rented was its availability for a quick lunch stop on the road. When we reached Superior, Wisc., we stopped at a rest area and we all climbed into the camper and sat and had a comfortable, indoor picnic lunch. It was something we were never able to do before when we'd take along our pop-up camper.

Through the rain and the cold that weekend, we remained comfortable in the rented camper. It served as a nice shelter and it never leaked once.

Setting and hooking it up was also very easy.

Additionally, pulling it behind the Suburban was easy because of its aerodynamic design. I'd recommend use of a camper like this to anyone.

When it was time to return it, the plan was simple – return it clean and better than when we got it.

I brought it back to Outdoor Recreation the morning of May 24. They did a quick inspection and I paid the rental bill, which came to about \$100 including the \$20 deposit I paid when I reserved the camper.

Renting the camper was quick, easy and simple and it made our choice of where to spend the night back home so much easier – it's a "house on wheels," as I have heard it termed.

For any family, or person for that matter, renting equipment from Outdoor Recreation is simple and easy. They have 12 RV trailers available to rent along with other camping equipment that includes tents, cots, sleeping bags, camp stoves, coolers and more.

If you want a nice camping experience like I had, call Outdoor Recreation at 747-3688 and see how they can help you.

Take it from me, they made RVing easy for me and my family.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

At the camp site, we were able to enjoy a cozy fire despite the cool, rainy weather that took place that weekend.

Guide to North Dakota state parks

Beaver Lake State Park – Located on the west shore of Beaver Lake, the park's gently rolling prairie provides scenic views for leisurely walks. In the summer, the lake attracts visitors for boating, canoeing, water skiing and fishing.

The park has a colorful and historic background relating to the early settlers of Logan, McIntosh and Emmons counties. The first organized gathering to promote a state park occurred on July 14, 1929, at Shepherd's Pavilion, south of the present park site. In August of 1930, the land for the park was purchased.

Today, Beaver Lake State Park is operated as a seasonal park, with camping, picnicking and water-based activities available from now through Labor Day.

Cross Ranch State Park – Located along seven miles of the last free-flowing, undeveloped stretches of the Missouri River, North Dakota's Cross Ranch Centennial State Park is rich in both cultural and natural history.

An extensive trail system can be explored either on foot or on cross country skis during the winter months. During the summer, the trails allow access to a 5,000-acre dedicated nature preserve where mixed grass prairie, river bottom forests and woody draws can be seen.

Devils Lake State Parks – Called "Enchanted Waters" by the Fremont Expedition of the 1830s, Devils Lake is one of North Dakota's most scenic regions. The sprawling lake, with its hidden bays, provides anglers with walleye, northern pike, perch and white bass. The surrounding hills, heavily wooded with oak, ash, elm and aspen, are populated with deer, wild turkey and small game.

The park system includes: Grahams Island State Park, the largest and most developed of the three parks on the lake.

Shelvers Grove State Recreation Area, popular with overnight visitors traveling Highway 2 through northern North Dakota.

Black Tiger Bay State Recreation Area, a boat access area with ramp and parking.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park – Rich in both military and early Native American history, Fort Abraham Lincoln was once an important infantry and cavalry post. It was from this fort that Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and the Seventh Cavalry rode out on their ill-fated expedition against

the Sioux at the Little Big Horn. Portions of the military post, including the Custer House, have been reconstructed.

Popular with visitors is On-A-Slant Indian Village. Reconstructed earthlodges depict the lifestyle of the Mandan Indians.

A modern campground is located in a scenic wooded area adjacent to the Heart River with picnic sites and playground equipment.

Fort Ransom State Park – The park, nestled in the picturesque and heavily-wooded Sheyenne River Valley, officially opened in July 1979. This park is managed as a natural and scenic area, and is located on one of North Dakota's officially designated Scenic Byways and Backways. The park is open for camping and picnicking year-round.

Canoeing is popular on the Sheyenne River during the summer, with canoe rentals available in the park. A short segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail winds through the park. Corrals and trails are provided for groups bringing in their own horses. Those bringing in livestock must use certified weed-free hay, which is available for sale at the park.

Fort Stevenson State Park – On the north shore of Lake Sakakawea, this park is known as the walleye capital of North Dakota. A favorite spot for sportsmen to experience the great fishing on the lake, it is home to the Governor's Cup Walleye Fishing Derby, held in late July, as well as a variety of other fishing tournaments.

Visitors will find a full service marina and swimming beach, modern campground and picnicking facilities, sleeping cabins, interpretive trails and prairie dog town.

Icelandic State Park – Located on the north shore of Lake Renwick, the park offers visitors not only a wide array of recreational opportunities, but also glimpses of North Dakota's homesteading heritage and its natural beauty.

Boating, swimming and fishing for northern pike and other game fish are popular activities. Picnic areas enable visitors to enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the shade of old oak trees, while the campgrounds offer full amenities, including electrical hookups, modern comfort stations with showers and sewage dump station. Three sleeping cabins are also available from mid-May through the end of September.

Lake Metigoshe State Park – Nestled in the scenic Turtle Mountains on the shores of Lake Metigoshe, Lake Metigoshe State Park was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s and is one of the most popular year-round vacation spots.

The park has both modern and primitive camping, as well as picnicking areas. There are group dormitories, kitchen and meeting facilities and year-round cabins available for rent.

Lake Sakakawea State Park – Located on the south shore of Lake Sakakawea, adjacent to the Garrison Dam, the park offers a wide range of water-based recreational activities and facilities. The park has a full-service marina, including boat rentals, convenience store, fishing guide services, and boat and camper storage. Two large boat ramps serve the park for access to the best salmon fishing on Lake Sakakawea. A lake festival is held at the park in July, and numerous fishing and sailing derbies are held throughout the summer.

The lake itself, in terms of surface area, ranks as the largest man-made reservoir in the nation. It has a surface area of about 368,000 acres and is 178 miles long, reaching to Williston, ND.

Lewis and Clark State Park – Situated on an upper bay of Lake Sakakawea The rugged buttes of the Badlands display a towering backdrop to one of the state's best recreation areas.

A well-developed marina, with gas dock, slip rentals and a campstore, is available. The marina boat ramp provides access to Lake Sakakawea for boats of all sizes. Anglers will find excellent fishing for walleye, sauger and northern pike. The park's campstore is well-stocked with fishing necessities, and fishing licenses are also on sale there. The park's fish cleaning station is located in the marina area.

Little Missouri State Park – Wind, water and sand... these components sculpted North Dakota's wildly-rugged Little Missouri Breaks Country. Called "Mako Shika" or "where the land breaks" by the



Photo courtesy North Dakota Department of Tourism

The above map shows the location of state parks in North Dakota.

Sioux, these unusual land formations offer the state's most awe-inspiring scenery.

Some of the most picturesque Badlands scenery can be found at Little Missouri State Park. Most of this primitive park is accessible only on foot or horseback.

Sully Creek State Recreation Area – Located in the heart of the North Dakota badlands, Sully Creek is just minutes away from the historic town of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

In the early spring, canoeing the 274-mile long Little Missouri River offers a unique perspective of the badlands from North Dakota's only State Scenic River.

Corrals are provided for those bringing in their own horses. Horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers have access to the 120-mile long Maah Daah Hey Trail, which traverses the Little Missouri National Grassland.

Turtle River State Park – Situated on the meandering Turtle River, the park is located in a beautiful wooded valley. The park offers year-round recreational activities, including camping, picnicking, fishing and trails for hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing.

The Turtle River is stocked with rainbow trout, and youngsters can borrow fishing gear at the park office.

Mountain bikers will find a 2.5 mile trail specifically designated for their use. Cross-country ski trails and a sledding hill are popular winter facilities. A heated warming house is open during the winter months and refreshments are available.

Source: North Dakota Department of Tourism

<p>Exploring Minnesota</p>	<p>People interested in finding out more about tourist destinations in Minnesota, go online to http://www.exploreminnesota.com/.</p>		<p>Exploring South Dakota</p>	<p>For more details about tourist destinations in South Dakota, such as Mount Rushmore, go to http://www.travelsd.com/.</p>
-----------------------------------	---	--	--------------------------------------	--

Feature

– **Refurbishing**, from Page 9 but 30-year-old Senior Airman Schelling sewed huge pieces of thick insulation, used to cover three aircraft doors and three other parts. He also designed and sewed 10 specific pieces, of varying shapes, to recover areas where old insulation was worn or torn.

“I’ve gained a greater appreciation for what I do because I’m able to see it on the plane,” Schelling said. “Anything that needs patching, I repair. If it’s beyond repair, I design new insulation to fit.”

Repair, reuse

“We try to reuse as much as we can,” Sergeant Nichols said.

The 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron is evaluating how to get the refurb process to take less time.

“Like a line of production,” Sergeant Nichols said, “it gets better the more you do it. To keep the aircraft looking good now is the perfect job, but to do that all the time is harder.”

Interior improvements were delayed

UNVEILING CEREMONY: There will be an unveiling ceremony for KC-135R tail #61-299 today at 2 p.m. in Hangar 605. For ceremony details call 747-6486.

after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but they started here again last June.

“Our goal is to get 12 to 16 aircraft refurbished per year,” Sergeant Nichols said. “Increased leadership emphasis and increased manning within the section resulted in this new, better motivated team.”

The team develops more efficient work methods to reduce the amount of refurb time, and it explores ways to do even more improvements. The ultimate goal to complete the refurbishment process is 21 duty days.

“In essence, we are trying to keep our ‘57 Chevy daily driver looking attractive,” said Col. Mark Ramsay, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander. “It’s important we keep these airplanes refurbished since the last aircrew member and maintainer have yet to be born.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Who me?

A gopher peeks out from its hole on base recently. Gophers like this are a common sight around base in late spring.

Sport Shorts

ALL-NIGHT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT: The All-Night Softball Tournament starts at 5:30 p.m. tonight. Come out and support your team!

The Northern Lights Club will also have food and drink specials. If drinking, the Club can provide a ride for base and Emerado residents only.

For more details about the tournament, call the fitness center at 747-3384.

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

To sign up, stop by the front desk of the fitness center or call 747-3384.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED: Outdoor Recreation is looking for people who would like to volunteer their time to drive on trips. Trips include going to Minnesota, Winnipeg, and South Dakota. If you are interested in driving, call Outdoor Recreation at 747-3688 or stop by their office.

RED LAKE RIVER CANOEING

TRIP: Outdoor Recreation sponsors this trip June 12. The trip departs Outdoor Recreation at 7 a.m. and returns late in the afternoon.

Cost is \$20 per adult, \$15 per child 12 years old and under. Price includes transportation, canoe, paddle, and lifejacket.

This trip is geared towards people interested in canoeing basics or those who need to brush up on their skills. The canoe trip takes about three to four hours. Sign up by Thursday at Outdoor Recreation or by 747-3688. Participants earn an ATWIND game piece for registering.

FARGO-MOORHEAD RED HAWKS

BASEBALL: Outdoor Recreation sponsors this trip June 15 with departure at 5 p.m. from Outdoor Recreation. The trip returns after game ends that night.

Cost is \$20 per adult and \$12 per child age 12 and under who is accompanied by an adult. Price includes transportation and tickets to the game. Sign up by June 11 at Outdoor Recreation and also earn an ATWIND game piece for registering.



Ben Gorman holds the winning fish in the 2003 Derby.

File photo

Kid's Fishing Derby

The 15th annual Kid's Fishing Derby is Saturday at Larimore Dam from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$2 per child for non-military and \$1 per child for military.

Age groups are: 3 to 5, 6 to 8, 9 to 13, and 14 to 15. Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the top three in each age group! Lunch is provided at noon. Registration is from 9 to 9:45 a.m. the day of the event.

Registration forms are also available at Outdoor Recreation on base, and Scheels and Geico Direct in Grand Forks, or at the Larimore Dam Office.

Call 747-3688 for details. Also, earn an ATWIND game piece for participating!



Community

Today

YOUTH CLASSES: Sign up for the Skills Development Center's "Creepy Crawler" class Tuesday through Thursday. A class for children ages 4 to 7 is from 10:30 a.m. to noon and another class for ages 8 to 14 is from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$3 and pre-registration is required.

There will be another class, "Farm Animals," June 15 to 17. The cost and times are the same.

For details call 747-3482.

LET THE CLUB DRIVE YOU: Would you like a night at the Northern Lights Club for a squadron party, dinner or just getting together with friends? Don't worry about finding a designated driver.

The Club will do the driving for you, pick you up and take you home. This service is Thursday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. for residences on base, Sunflake housing and Emerado only. For details call 747-3392.

BREAKFAST AT THE GOLF COURSE: Go to the Plainsview Golf Course snack bar today for steak and egg day from 7 to 11 a.m. for \$5.75.

OPEN SKATING AT LIBERTY SQUARE: Every Friday, Liberty Square has open skating for children ages 6 to 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. Also, the Liberty Square Teen Center is open from 6 to 11 p.m. Cost for admission is \$3 and skate rental is \$2.

Saturday

TORCH CLUB MEETING: Torch Club meetings are on Saturdays at 5 p.m. at the youth center. Torch Clubs are small group clubs offering service and leadership opportunities to young people ages 11 to 13.

This is an AT-

WIND event.

KARAOKE AT THE CLUB: Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. for karaoke.

DANCING AT THE CLUB: Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and dance to "Club Mix" music with deejay "C."

YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING: Saturdays at Dakota Lanes means Galaxy bowling for ages youth ages 9 to 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and ages 13 to 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per hour and 75 cents for shoe rental. Ten people have to sign up to hold the event. To sign up, go to the youth center.

Sunday

SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH: The Northern Lights Club holds Super Sunday Brunch today and every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.25 for adults, \$7.25 for children ages 5 to 12 and children ages 4 and under eat free. Club members receive a

Monday

SUMMER READ BY MAIL PROGRAM: The "Summer Read by Mail Program" will run from Monday through Aug. 7. Youth grades kindergarten through eighth grade can participate in this program by stopping by the youth center to register online.

Youth can read different books, take a test and watch their points go up over the summer. Youth can turn in their points to receive prizes! For details call

747-3150. Youth receive an

Tuesday

CARTOONIST LIBRARY VISIT: Steve

Edwards, local author and cartoonist, will be at the base Library Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. for a special presentation. Come out and enjoy this learning opportunity! Earn an ATWIND game piece for attending.

SWIMMING LESSONS: The aquatic center offers adult and parent/child swimming lesson sessions starting Tuesday and it runs through August. Call the center at 747-3306 for details.

PARENT-TOT PLAYGROUP: A parent-tot playgroup is held every Tuesday at Liberty Square from 10 a.m. to noon for preschool children.

This is a socializing event for parents and children of all ranks – officer and enlisted.

KEYSTONE CLUB MEETING: Meetings are 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays in the youth center. Keystone Clubs are for Boys and Girls Club of America members ages 14 to 18.

Wednesday

CAPTURE THE FLAG: Youth ages 9 to 12 can play the "Capture the Flag" game Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the youth center. Youth ages 13 to 18 play at 7 p.m. The event is free!

WEDNESDAY CLUB DINING: Come to the Northern Lights Club every Wednesday for "all-you-can-eat-taco" bar from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Club members pay \$3 and non-members pay \$6.

FINANCIAL REFRESHER CLASS: The family support center holds its financial refresher class Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. in the FSC. To sign up, call 747-3241 or stop by the FSC.

STORYTIME: The base library holds storytime every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Each week is themed and participants read, sing, and do an activity in relation to that theme. Storytime provides children an opportunity have fun while learning about reading. For details call 747-3046.

FAMILY READINESS/PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS CLASS: The family support center holds this class Wednesday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the FSC. To sign up for the class, call 747-3241 or stop by the FSC.

Thursday

WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL TRIP: Outdoor Recreation offers this trip June 12. The trip departs at 7 a.m. from Outdoor Recreation and it returns the same evening.

Cost is \$17.50 per adult, \$10 per child ages 12 and under accompanied by an adult, \$42.50 for a family of three, \$50 family of four,

\$57.50 family of five (family prices include two adults).

The Winnipeg International Children's Festival is one of Winnipeg's Premiere festivals for children and families alike. The festival features hands-on activities for children such as: face painting, origami, high wire clowns, jewelry making, and much more.

Tickets are available at the gate upon arrival. Ticket price is \$12. Sign up by Thursday at Outdoor Recreation. Call 747-3688 for details. Earn an ATWIND game piece for registering!

DISCOUNT FOR SPOUSES: The Northern Lights Club offers a 20 percent discount to spouses of the deployed members every Thursday.

INTERVIEWING TIPS CLASS: The family support center offers this class Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. To sign up, call 747-3241 or stop by the FSC.

Upcoming

FINE ARTS PROGRAM: The youth center's Fine Arts Program is held two times a month during the summer. The next classes are June 16 and 30. The program is meant to provide Boys and Girls Club of America members with the opportunities to create works of art for display in a local exhibit.

Times for the program is 6:30 p.m. for youth ages 6 to 12 and 8 p.m. for youth ages 13 to 18. A qualified instructor is present at every meeting. Cost is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Call 747-3150 for details.

SMOOTH MOVE SEMINAR: The family support center offers this seminar June 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the FSC. To sign up, call the FSC at 747-3241 or stop by the FSC.

GIVE PARENTS A BREAK: The "Give Parents a Break" Program provides eligible parents a few hours break from the stress of parenting. The Air Force Aid Society provides funding, making it possible for the child development center to open and provide care for this special program. The next date for the program is June 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Once referred, it is the parent's responsibility to make reservations. The deadline is the Tuesday prior.

To take advantage of this program, families must be referred to the CDC by one of the following base officials:

- Squadron commander
- First sergeant
- Chaplain
- Doctor or medical professional
- Family advocacy personnel
- Family support center personnel
- CDC personnel

Referral certificates are available at the CDC. Certificates must be issued and signed by the person making the referral. Eligible families include parents feeling stress due to military member on TDY or deployed; having a child with special needs; an emergency situation; and others.

