



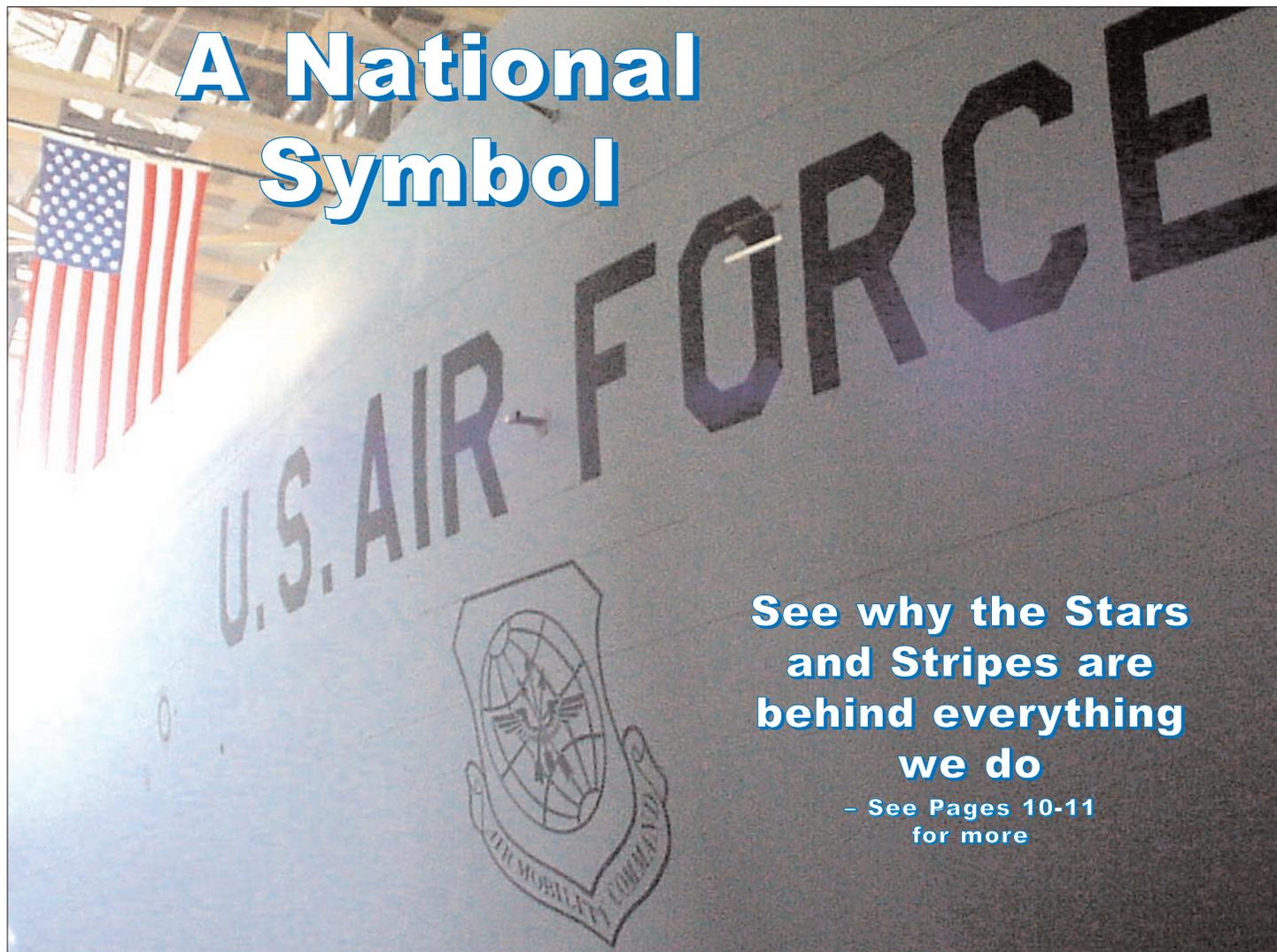
THE LEADER

Vol. 39, No. 23

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

June 11, 2004

A National Symbol



See why the Stars and Stripes are behind everything we do

- See Pages 10-11 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

Inside:

Weekend weather

Today	72/53	Scat. T-storms	
Saturday	71/51	Showers	
Sunday	66/45	Cloudy	
Monday	69/50	Partly cloudy	

Weather information courtesy 319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

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Fishing derby at Larimore Dam



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Tools for anti-terrorism

By Jeff Overholdt
319th Air Refueling Wing
Anti-terrorism advisor

The Department of Defense uses many tools to further its anti-terrorism programs.

Some have catchy titles such as the “Tis-Wig,” or Technical Support Working Group. Others sound more grand like the Force Protection Corporate Structure.

Dozens of councils, boards and working groups in Air Mobility Command seek to guide and implement protective programs.

But we have the best antiterrorism and security tool right here on our base – our community. The key to using this tool is fostering a culture of security awareness where every Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman, employee and family member aids in the protection of our community and organization.

Security programs, done well, are an investment in our quality of life rather than an expense. We can post more guards and buy the best technology, but the overall effect doesn’t likely match the capability we gain when everyone is a stakeholder in protecting each other, our assets and our missions.

Guards, guns and gizmos can’t economically provide the level of protection we seek. The quickest and most cost-effective way to improve security in a community or organization is through education and awareness.

We spend millions of dollars and thousands of hours preparing for crisis management – our actions in responding to a threat, incident or crime. We likewise train and prepare for consequence management – recovering from an incident.

Crisis and consequence management are largely reactive and after the fact. Security and antiterrorism awareness are proactive measures that can prevent a crime or incident; or should one occur, hasten and improve our response.

Crime, to include terrorism, often relies

on three elements: motivation to commit the act, opportunity and the ability. Security awareness impacts all of these to keep us safer. An organization that promotes vigilance will close the window of opportunity for an adversary by detecting them faster and possibly deterring the act from occurring.

An alert and educated organization likewise erodes an adversary’s capability.

Security awareness complicates the planning and execution cycles in criminal

“Leveraging the strength of our community through awareness and education includes weaving a security culture through all aspects of our community.”

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.

56

Consecutive
DWI-free
days

Goal is zero DWIs.

Call 747-4522



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

and terrorist acts – it simply makes all aspects of the crime or act harder.

Our response is faster and our decision-making more accurate when everyone pulls together to protect each other. We get greater freedom of movement by focusing on the right things and we increase an adversary’s or criminal’s margin of error – positively impacting our quality of life by deterring or limiting many ill events.

This deterrent factor is a reflection of us acting on the motivation for committing an adverse act. With better information and greater focus provided by an alert community, we can carefully select tactics and wisely commit resources for

everyone’s safety and security.

Leveraging the strength of our community through awareness and education includes weaving a security culture through all aspects of our community.

Increasing our vigilance where anyone reports or challenges suspicious events and everyone is on guard for benefit the community is vitally important.

This entails knowledge of the threat, appreciating our risk, and a familiarity with contacts for reporting an event or incident.

On our base, 7,000 eyes and ears are much more powerful than a few hundred if we were to rely on the security forces alone.

THE LEADER



Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Cover

A United States flag hangs above a KC-135R Stratotanker in Hangar 605. This edition of *The Leader* honors National Flag Day Monday and the relationship between military members, veterans and the Stars and Stripes.

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 1st Class Patrice Clarke _____ Associate editor

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

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Air Force officials extend deployment lengths

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Most Airmen scheduled to deploy in upcoming air and space expeditionary force packages will see their orders expand from 90 to 120 days.

The change in deployment length will begin with AEF cycle 5 in September. Those who deploy as part of AEF 1 and 2 should prepare for a 120-day deployment.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper announced the change in his “Sight Picture” on June 4. The reason for the change is that the requirement for deployable forces is not expected to decrease in the foreseeable future, he said.

“Simply put, the demands on our deployable forces have not diminished and are not expected to decline for some time,” the general wrote. “Further, the Air Force component commander in the Central Command area of operations has asked us to deploy people for longer tour lengths to allow greater continuity for expeditionary commanders in the field.”

To help extend tour lengths to 120 days, the entire

AEF cycle was adjusted. The new cycle, now 20 months in length, allows for a four-month eligibility window and a 16-month training window.

General Jumper also said he intends to increase the pool of Airmen eligible for deployment. Currently, the Air Force has about 272,000 Airmen earmarked as deployment-eligible.

“I have asked all of our major commands to aggressively review the assumptions upon which they exclude Airmen from our AEFs and take immediate steps to maximize those postured (for deployment),” the general said.

The changes to the AEF cycle, while possibly difficult for some, should be considered by all Airmen as part of their commitment to the Air Force, General Jumper said.

“Let me be perfectly clear – in our Air Force, every Airman is expeditionary, every Airman will know (his or her) place in the AEF system, and every Airman will be prepared to support the combatant commander, whether deployed, in (the continental



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

A deployed maintenance airman works on a KC-135R Stratotanker at a forward deployed location. Deployment duty lengths are planned to be extended from the current 90-day requirement to 120 days, Air Force officials said.

United States) via reachback, or employed at home station,” General Jumper said.

Airmen currently deployed as part of AEF 7 and 8 and AEF 9 and 10 will still be held to the 90-day deployment schedule.

Briefs

Courts-martial results

□ On June 2, Airman James C. McClernon, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was convicted at special court-martial of four specifications of larceny in violation of Article 121 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, two specifications of assault in violation of Article 128 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and three specifications of burglary in violation of Article 129 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Airman McClernon was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for seven months, and reduction to the grade of E-1.

□ On June 3, Airman Lonnie D. McColligan, 905th Air Refueling Squadron, was convicted at special court-martial of one specification of making a false official statement in violation of Article 107 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and of one specification of larceny in violation of Article 121 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Airman McColligan was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for eight months, and reduction to the grade of E-1.

Space-A lodging window expanded

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force Services Agency director here recently announced an expanded space-available reservation policy designed to maximize occupancy at lodging facilities.

Under the new system, lodging officials can accept and confirm space-A lodging reservations up to 30 days in advance based on low projected occupancy rates, Arthur Myers wrote in a policy memorandum.

The window for reservations decreases as the percentage of projected occupancy rises.

For example, when a projected occupancy rate is 65 percent or less, space-A guests can make reservations up to 30 days in advance. At 80 percent, the reservation window is two weeks. It is seven days for 85 percent, and three days for 86 percent or greater.

Under this new system, higher priority customers may not bump space-A customers with confirmed reservations, Mr. Myers said. Neither can they be bumped

once they are assigned lodging except during contingencies, emergencies or when the installation commander determines higher priorities exist.

Mr. Myers also said commanders may establish a policy limiting the number of days space-A guests may stay in on-base lodging to no more than 30 days per year.

Air Force Education and Training Command News Service

Soil-boring tests

Many base housing residents may have noticed that wooden stakes have been placed in their yards or surrounding areas in housing.

These stakes have been placed to mark test locations for soil boring samples to initiate the site design for future construction of new housing units in these locations.

In the next four to five weeks, Midwest Testing will be using a drilling truck to sample test holes in these locations. Before this occurs at your unit, specific notices will be delivered by the contractor the week prior to actual commencement of work. Base officials are also asking parents to ensure their children are told not to tamper with the locator flags.

For details call Ms. Karen Martin at 747-3035.

Art Fest volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Grand Cities Art Fest Saturday and Sunday in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. Volunteers are needed to assist with blocking streets, providing information, assisting with event tear-down and more. For details call 775-8661.

Food program

The base child development center, or CDC, 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.

Youth Employment

The youth center is now registering youth for the 2004-05 Youth Employment Services Program. The YES Program is an opportunity for children of active duty military in grades 9 to 12 to volunteer and bank money towards their secondary education experience. All current YES enrollees must reenroll for the 2004-2005 year.

Ceremony: Base unveils refurbished KC-135



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Col. Michael Saville, 319th Maintenance Group commander, discusses the KC-135R Stratotanker refurbishment process during a ceremony for KC-135 tail #61-0299 June 4 in Hangar 605.

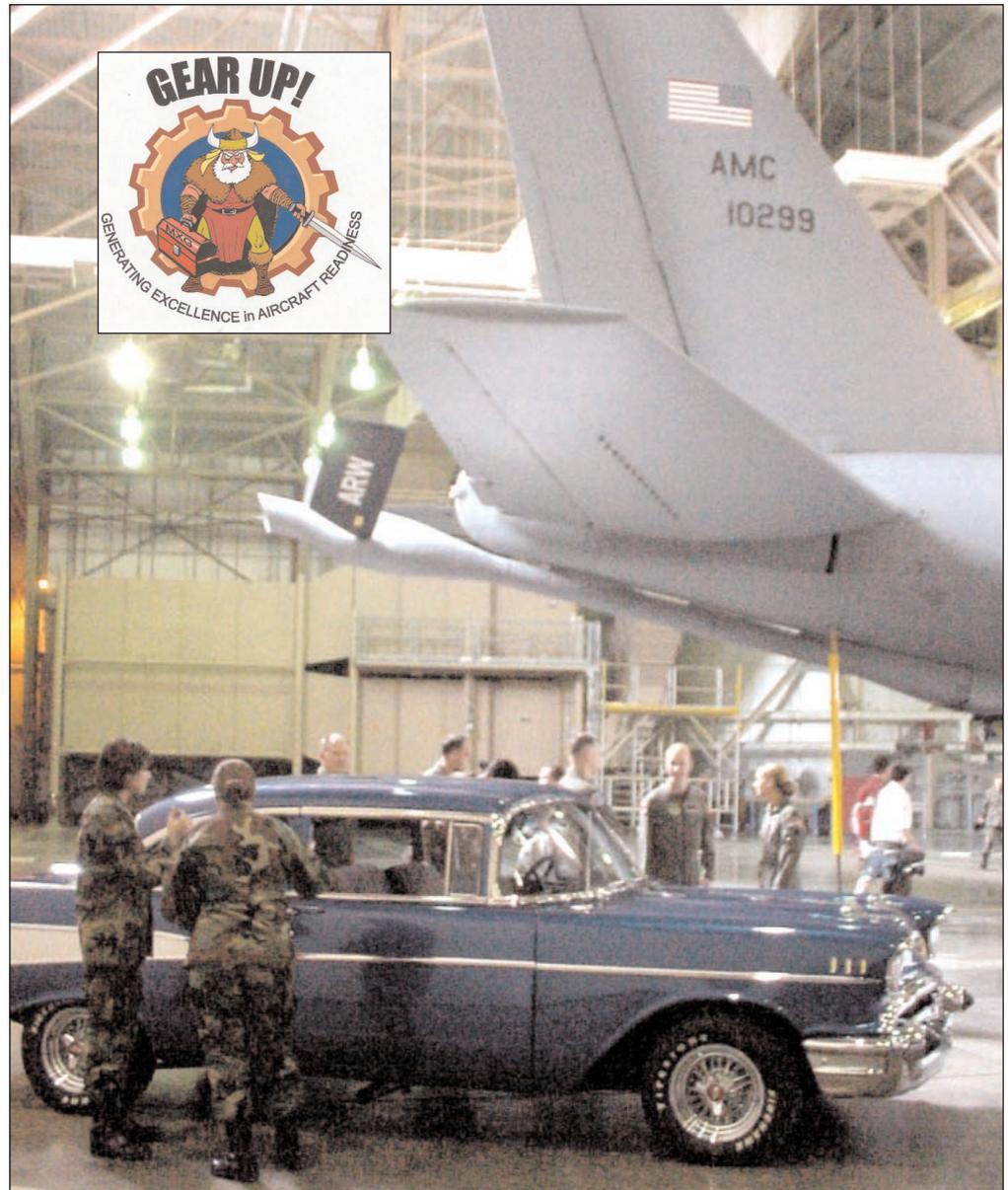


Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Base members look over a 1957 Chevy, owned by William and Shawn Marshall (father and son) of Grand Forks, with the refurbished tail of aircraft #61-0299 in the background. During the unveiling ceremony June 4, Col. Mark Ramsay, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander, likened the aircraft refurbishment process to that of a '57 Chevy. While noting the aircraft is a 1961 model, he said the restored car is treated with much care and not used regularly while the refurbished aircraft is a "weapon of war" and used around the world supporting the Global War on Terrorism.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Members of the 319th Maintenance Squadron refurbishment team (foreground) from the unit's refurbishment section, stand at parade rest during the ceremony.

Inside the plane:



Photos by Capt. Patricia Lang

(Above and right) New brass handles adorn the flight controls in the cockpit of aircraft #61-0299. (Far right) New embroidery can be seen throughout the plane – this sign is a specially-made decal showing the wing emblem and the aircraft number.



AFPC officials remind military members to register to vote

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – General elections are approaching and Air Force voting officials at the Air Force Personnel Center want to remind everyone to register to vote.

The Department of Defense recently announced that it has worked out a plan with the United States Postal Service to get absentee ballots to overseas members faster but registering to vote is the first step to acquiring a ballot.

“Getting registered to vote is not a difficult process, it's just a matter of making it a priority,” said Lt. Col. Lee Shick, Air Force voting action officer.

Deadlines and state specific rules on voter registration can be found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program web site at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

The site includes a list of 10 things to do to ensure your vote counts.

“Our goal is 100 percent contact with every Airman by a voting representative,” he said. “The opportunity to vote



has been emphasized as a command responsibility and our installation voting officers play a key role.

“We want to make sure each individual gets the word about voting and that they have the tools and information to apply for an absentee ballot and vote,” Colonel Shick said.

“If Airmen can't get registered online, installation voting officers will have a supply of federal postcard applications.”

For details call the base voting officer, Maj. Robin White-Reed at 747-5373, or visit the Federal Assistance Voting Program on-line.

Courtesy AFPC News Service



Photo by Christine Davis

ATWIND kick-off

Members of the 319th Services Squadron hand out Around the World in 90 Days, or ATWIND, tickets at the main gate June 1. ATWIND events take place every day on base and 319th SVS officials ask all of the base community to “Get into the game!”

**Don't Drink and Drive!
Get A Ride!**

Son Games: Base's Vacation Bible School program held at Eielson



Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Volunteer teachers dance along during the Vacation Bible School program June 4 at Eielson Elementary School. Nearly 120 students were a part of VBS. The program was a culmination of VBS activities, named "Son Games," that started June 1.



One of the music teachers strums a guitar during one of the music numbers.



(Above and right) Students sang and danced in choreographed movements during the 35-minute program.



One student takes a moment to flash a smile to her friend during the program.

101 Critical Days of Summer –
BE SAFE!

Airman learns core values, life's lessons in bathroom at early age

By Staff Sgt. Nolan Hildebrand
52nd Operations Support Squadron

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany – When we think about the classrooms in life, I'm sure the bathroom is not at the top of the list, but the bathroom just happens to be where I learned my first core value.

I was taught "Excellence In All We Do" by my father. My father isn't a retired chief. He didn't serve in the Air Force; he wasn't even in the military. But through his

daily actions, and his shaving mug, I learned an important life lesson. See, my father's shaving mug had a motto inscribed on it, "What Is Worth Doing Is Worth Doing Well."

As a young boy, I would frequently eyeball that shaving mug in hopes of one day putting the lather on my face and sliding the razor across my soon-to-be whiskers.

As a boy, I paid little attention to the motto.

Now, as a man, I look back and realize that even though I didn't think about the

motto, I internalized it as a core value.

I've been guided by that simple, yet powerful motto every day of my life. I strive to do my best with every task entrusted to me and take pride in the successful completion of the job.

As Air Force members, we should all feel pride in our jobs.

From fuels to finance and the post office to the pharmacy, we all have important tasks that are critical to Air Force mission accomplishment.

We should treat each and every task as

mission essential, because the Air Force core value "Excellence In All We Do" doesn't afford us an option of when to give 100 percent. It demands that we give our very best, everyday, in everything we do.

While not everyone has a shaving mug to remind them that "What Is Worth Doing Is Worth Doing Well," what we do have is the core value internalized and displayed by the "blue suit" we wear.

Our actions and attitudes must represent "Excellence In All We Do" and shine as a beacon of light to the entire world.

Veterans reflect upon D-Day, turning tide of war

By Tech. Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.
Airman Magazine

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) – They are known as “the greatest generation.” On D-Day, they proved it.

Before dawn June 6, 1944, Airmen of the 398th Bombardment Group awoke to a day that would turn the tide of the war in Europe and end with 3,000 Americans dead.

Like most in the Army Air Forces, 1st Lt. Ike Alhadeff trained for this particular day, but he did not know when Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower would give the go-ahead for the largest amphibious military operation in history: Operation Overlord. It was code named D-Day – the Allied invasion of German-occupied northern France.

During a 3 a.m. briefing in Nuthampstead, England, the young B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 398th discovered Operation Overlord had started a little past midnight.

“We knew D-Day was coming, but it was a shock when it came,” said the 88-year-old who lives in Seattle.

On his first D-Day mission, Lieutenant Alhadeff dropped all his bombs in an attempt to soften the German defenses stretched across a coastline where Allied forces would land. On his second run, cloud cover prevented him from releasing ordnance. Eighth Air Force launched 882 B-17s during that first strike.

“When we could see through an opening in the clouds, it looked like there were so many boats you could walk across the channel,” he said.

That same scene was played out for Tech. Sgt. Armand Fugge, a 398th engineer and top turret gunner for a B-17. He is now 82 years old and lives in Mathuen, Mass.

“We were awakened at midnight and briefed at (1:30 a.m.) that today was D-Day,” Sergeant Fugge wrote in his diary. “11,000 Americans and British are to (bomb) the coast

before the wave of landing barges. Bombs had to be away by (7:22 a.m.) because the invading [forces] would be hitting the beaches two minutes later.”

The sergeant said they dropped 38 100-pound bombs, but all afternoon missions were scrubbed because of weather.

First Lt. Mark Woods, a 398th B-17 navigator, now deceased, wrote in this diary, “We were awakened at 12:30 a.m.

after three hours sleep. We hurried to the briefing looking for another milk run [routine mission]. We all became quiet when they raised the curtain over the wall map. There was a mission plotted which looked like the last few raids.

Major Jones, the S-2 [intelligence] officer, took the floor with a pointer.

“He said this looks like another milk run gentlemen, but it is not. This is the beginning of the invasion, and you are part of it. Everybody was more or less stunned. I think I shook a little. We took off before daylight. I saw six landing boats heading for the beach. Bombs went away with two puffs of flak. I saw hundreds of planes. Security was perfect. Now, 12-and-a-half hours after they hit the beach, every last man is praying and hoping for the best.”

Missing from each account are stories about being attacked by German Luftwaffe aircraft defending their front. That is because

the Allied air forces made a concerted effort to cripple air power well before D-Day. Between January and May 1944, the attrition rate for Luftwaffe pilots was 25 percent, according to “With Courage, The U.S. Army Air Force in World War II.” When new German pilots joined fighter squadrons, their brief careers averaged 30 days or less.

From May 1 to June 5, 1944, Allied forces

flew about 35,000 sorties, nearly 1,000 a day, preparing for the surprise landing on the beaches of Normandy, according to an Army Air Forces report prepared in 1945. The targets were enemy airfields, railroad yards, transportation routes, coastal gun positions, communication locations and bridges.

On D-Day, just before troops stormed the Normandy beaches, American heavy bombers and large

formations of British air force heavies joined Allied naval forces to bombard beach defenses. Although aircrews encountered few enemy aircraft, estimated at only 100 sorties that day, many flew through a barrage of flak from anti-aircraft artillery.

The Luftwaffe’s absence on D-Day hurt German morale.

“The failure of the Luftwaffe and U-boats to take advantage of an ideal target was most discouraging and demoralizing to the officers and men,” said a captured Nazi in the 1945 report.

With the beachhead secured, 155,000 Allied troops would be in Normandy before

day’s end. But their journey came at great cost. Fierce German resistance resulted in about 2,500 casualties. Eighth Air Force suffered only three losses on D-Day, after having deployed 1,729 bombers that dropped 3,596 tons of bombs.

By nightfall, Allied troops had a toehold on the continent, and the Army Air Forces’ job was to stop a counterattack and ensure the thrust into Europe was successful. The months following D-Day proved to be perilous for aircrews. Many died or became prisoners of war – a fate that had befallen Lieutenant Alhadeff.

Two months after D-Day, Lieutenant Alhadeff’s Flying Fortress was hit by ground fire and erupted into flames.

“When a fire started in a B-17, you knew it was going to blow up, which it did. But we all got out OK,” he said.

His entire crew was captured and taken prisoner. The officers were sent to one camp while enlisted were sent to another. He remained a prisoner of war for 10 months until he was freed by Allied forces.

Now, 60 years later, his memories of being a POW are fading.

“I forget the bad parts,” he said. “I remember I was hungry all the time and cold in the winter. It just wasn’t a pleasurable experience. Years later it doesn’t seem so bad, but at the time it wasn’t very good.”

B-17 pilot then-1st Lt. Harold Weekley was shot down over Le Manoir, France, on Aug. 13, 1944. His entire crew survived, and he was the first in the 398th to escape enemy territory. He evaded the enemy for six weeks with the help of the French Resistance, ending up with the British army.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1968 as a colonel, one of his jobs for 23 years was to fly a B-17 for the Experimental Aircraft Association at air shows nationwide. When he retired from that career in 2001 at 80 years old, he said he was the last World War II combat B-17 aircraft commander to fly a Flying Fortress.



Photo by Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

TULSA, Okla. – Retired Col. Harold Weekley was shot down in his B-17 Flying Fortress, like the one shown, over Le Manoir, France, on Aug. 13, 1944. His entire crew survived, and he was the first Airman in the 398th Bombardment Group to escape enemy territory. About 11,000 Allied aircraft were involved in the D-Day invasion – 882 of those were B-17s.

President Reagan's national security policy targeted Soviet threat

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Cold War was heating up when Ronald Wilson Reagan became the 40th U.S. president in early 1981.

Mr. Reagan assumed the presidency at a time when the Soviet Union was flexing its muscles to contest American influence in world affairs.

The Soviets controlled Eastern Europe through a series of puppet governments. The militaries of these Soviet-armed satellites were grouped under the Warsaw Pact, a behemoth of tanks and troops that seemed poised to pounce on Western Europe at any time.

The Soviets also were busily applying an expansionist foreign policy in places like Afghanistan, Angola, Nicaragua and elsewhere around the globe.

“If the Soviet military buildup continues unabated, if Soviet imperial expansion is not reversed, if the Soviets see themselves steadily and easily gaining in military strength, our ability to deter aggression will be inexorably weakened,” then-U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger

warned in his 1982 report to Congress.

And the Soviet Union's formidable arsenal of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles possessed global reach, Weinberger warned, including the ability to strike the United States.

“Soviet nuclear offensive capabilities now exceed by far our most pessimistic forecasts of 15 years ago,” Weinberger said in his congressional report. The Soviet Union, he noted, had “steadily increased its investment in nuclear strategic forces even though we reduced ours.”

To confront the Soviet threat, Weinberger acknowledged “the realization that we must devote more resources to defense.”

Accordingly, the U.S. defense budget went up from 5.0 percent of the gross national product in 1980 to: 5.2 in 1981, 5.8 in 1982, 6.2 in 1983, 6.0 in 1984, 6.2 in 1995, 6.3 in 1986, 6.2 in 1987, 5.9 in 1988, and 5.7 in 1989.

That money paid for modernizing U.S. military equipment – such as the development of today's B-2 stealth bomber – and for bolstering troop quality-of-life initiatives like pay.

In 1983, Reagan launched the development of the Strategic Defense Initiative, commonly known as SDI, as a means of countering the Soviet nuclear threat. The premise of SDI was to harness technology to provide America with a defensive “shield” against incoming enemy ballistic missiles by destroying them in flight before they reached their targets.

Weinberger noted in 1987 during congressional testimony that “SDI seeks to move us toward a safer world – one with reduced levels of arms and deterrence based on defending against an attack, rather than retaliating after an attack.” Although SDI was never deployed, it put economic



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jon D. Gesch

An airman first class assigned to the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., stands watch as citizens pay their respects at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., Monday. The former president died at home in California Saturday at the age of 93.

pressure on the Soviets to develop countermeasures.

During a 1987 visit to Germany, Reagan called upon then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down” the Berlin Wall. By that time, the cash-poor Soviets – whose creaky, state-run economy ultimately proved to be their economic undoing – were hard-pressed to keep up with American military modernization.

History shows that 1980s Soviet military expenditures made in an attempt to keep up with the Americans eventually broke their bank.

In 1989, within a year after Reagan had left office, the Berlin Wall did fall. That event was followed two years later by the disintegration of the Soviet system.

Base plans moment of silence

President Reagan died at approximately 3 p.m. central time Saturday at his home in southern California. The base will honor his legacy and accomplishments with a moment of silence at 3 p.m. Friday. The base will also play Taps over its base public address system at that time.

“I ask that you stop what you are doing for this minute and honor a true, fallen American hero,” said Col. Mark Ramsay, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander.

**Celebrate National Flag Day
June 14th!**

Honoring the Stars and Stripes: American flag is more than just a symbol

Park River and the American flag

Small town's honor for 'Old Glory' provides reminder of its significance to rural America

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

All around Park River, N.D., you can see the American flag. The stars and stripes hang from people's houses, at city hall, at the cemetery, and in many other areas around the community.

This was a sight I noticed when I went to Park River as an Air Force guest speaker for Memorial Day services May 31. During the speech and the ceremony alone, just seeing the many veterans and their families – about 200 people – told me this community takes their patriotism seriously.

At the start of the Memorial Day service, they held a veteran's Color Guard by Park River's Paul Farup American Legion Post 147. The veteran carrying the American flag had the most serious and meaningful look on his face as he brought the flag to post. At the same time, seeing everyone's hand over their heart and the veterans saluting showed me the American flag was very personal to them.

The fact the nation is at war once again is something both I, and Mr. Marvin Collins, Department of North Dakota American Legion Sergeant at Arms, mentioned in our speeches during the ceremony. You could see everybody was listening very intently when we spoke of heroes past and present.

During Mr. Collins' speech, he reflected on World War II and the 60th anniversary of D-Day, and he said the names of past Park River people who gave their lives in the service to their country. I could tell that reading the names was difficult for him.

In a music trio sung by Park River residents Kyle DeWitt, Don Reynolds and Jonathon Leslie, entitled, "I Pledge My Allegiance," paid tribute to an American's dedication to the flag and was very fitting and beautifully done. It's a song that makes you want to put your hand over your heart and pledge your patriotism.

After the ceremony, I accompanied the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Members of Park River's Paul Farup American Legion Post 147 present the colors and perform a 21-gun salute during Memorial Day services in Park River May 31.

Color Guard team to five different cemeteries in and around Park River. At each place, the team presented the colors and a 21-gun salute to veterans past.

Just seeing the team carrying the flag through the weather conditions, keeping it clear of obstacles and debris, was enough to make my heart proud. The flag, to them, was very precious.

If you're someone who isn't from the town and you look at the actions of the team, you get a different perspective.

As someone who has been to places like

Iraq and Afghanistan and having known people who have died for their country, I can tell you it makes me proud to see people from a small rural town take pride in their country and their veterans.

But if you think about it, that's what it's all about. According to a new poll by the Gallup Organization, conducted May 21 to 23, three in four Americans (75 percent) have "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the military. And from the military comes a great source of patriotism.

Another Gallup Poll, conducted May 27,

also showed a large majority of Americans who enlist in the military come from small towns and rural areas.

It's no surprise to me that a place like Park River has people who are proud to raise the flag and are very patriotic because it is very personal to them.

Coming from a small town myself, I can relate. As Flag Day approaches Monday, I can thank the people of Park River for providing an excellent reminder of how important it is for what I do as a member of the military, and what it means to serve my country.

Taking it with them

Aircrew members describe flag's importance during deployments

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Whether it's for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom or Operation Noble Eagle in the United States, the 50 Stars and 13 red and white stripes of the American flag go along for the ride with Air Force aircrew members.

For aircrew members of the KC-135R Stratotanker here who see constant deployments, taking a flag with them isn't optional, it's a requirement.

"Everywhere an aircrew member goes, they wear the U.S. flag on their sleeve," said Lt. Col. Hendrickson, 319th Operations Group deputy commander and soon to be 319th Air Refueling Wing director of staff.

"Aircrew wear either the red, white and blue shoulder patch, or the desert-colored flag when they go on missions. Either way it signifies we are Americans when we're flying."

Colonel Hendrickson, a KC-135R evaluator/instructor pilot who was recently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, said each forward deployed location with Air Force aircraft assigned to it also

has a program where they fly U.S. flags on combat missions.

"Flags are flown over Iraq and Afghanistan on a daily basis," Colonel Hendrickson said. "At any deployed location you will see flying units taking flags on these missions."

"They take them because they have the room and it provides an opportunity to take the flag to heights of the mission we are doing," he said.

Colonel Hendrickson said in fighter planes, for example, they have a very little space to bring a flag on a mission. However, he said, when a tanker is refueling a fighter on one of those combat missions, one of the flags being flown can usually be seen up close.

"When we refuel fighters at a deployed location, you can see an American flag at the front of the cockpit of the fighter out of the boom operator's window," Colonel Hendrickson said. "It's a wonderful reminder of why we are there doing what we do."

After each flag is flown on a combat sortie,



File photo

A 319th Air Refueling Wing aircrew holds up a U.S. flag and a sign signifying the 912th sortie for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002. Having a U.S. flag along for combat missions is a common occurrence at forward deployed locations.

Colonel Hendrickson said often a certificate containing the date of the flight, names of crew members, and what operation the flight supported is made by the crew who flew the flags.

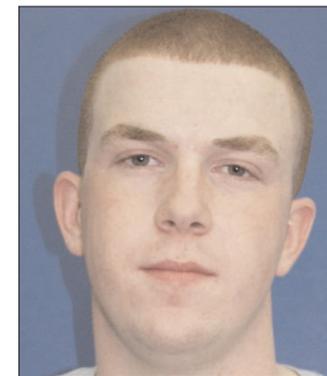
The flags are later presented to people for retirements or to schools, communities, and military family members for their support to deployed members.

"I've seen some where they've had words like 'Freedom isn't free' on

them," Colonel Hendrickson said. For aircrew members who take flags with them on combat missions, it means more than just the act of doing it.

"Flying flags brings more meaning to the mission," said Senior Airman Cy Eckhardt, 906th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator. "It reminds us of why we do things, no matter how much pain it causes in our lives. Our pain will never amount to the pain of those who have fallen in the defense of our freedoms."

What does the American flag mean to you?



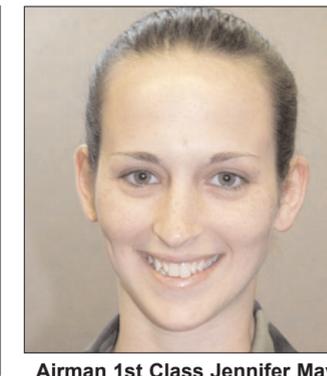
Airman Shane Evanshine
319th Operations Support Squadron

"Pride."



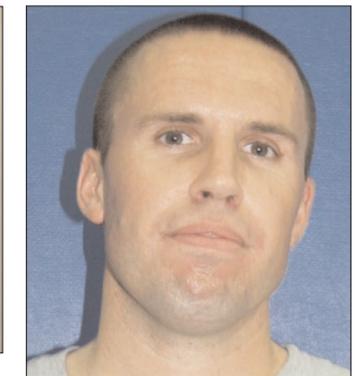
Airman 1st Class Alvin Hillman
319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

"Unity."



Airman 1st Class Jennifer May
319th Services Squadron

"The flag is America's pride and it's a sign to me of the love I have for my country."



Staff Sgt. Matt Wireman
319th Operations Support Squadron

"Freedom."

Sports

Sport Shorts



Photo by Airman 1st Class Patrice Clarke

Out of the park

A member of the 319th Maintenance Squadron swings for a hit during the All-Night Softball Tournament June 4. Thirteen teams participated in the event that lasted from 5:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. The 319th Civil Engineer Squadron's B team won the tournament.

ROCK CLIMBING CLASSES: Rock climbing wall classes are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the sport 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.

VARSITY SOCCER TRYOUTS: Come out for the Varsity Soccer team tryouts June 19 at 1 pm at the soccer field located west of Barnes Hall. This team will represent Grand Forks Air Force Base and compete in the Prairie Rose Games July 9 through 11.

For details call Jarrett Patman at 747-3897 or (218) 230-3519 and Scott Harbison, 747-5970 or (817) 966-1336.

TEXAS HOLD'EM: Registration for the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament has already started at the Northern Lights Club.

The tournament begins June 26 starting at 3 p.m. For more information and tournament rules call the NLC at 747-3392.

"RUSTY GUN" SKEET TOURNAMENT: For all those "Rusty Guns" out there, it's time to dust of the gun and come out to shoot Saturday at the Sportsman's Club Skeet Range. There will be prizes awarded.

The tournament consists of two rounds (Skeet) in accordance with N.S.S.A. rules. There will be a barbeque for all (Please RSVP by Friday the 11th).

You don't have to be a member to shoot. The shoot will start at 10 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m.

For details call Staff Sgt. Dean Porter at 747-5454.

Sports, fitness center age restrictions

Now that school's out it seems that everyone has found their way to the gym. Before heading to the gym notice the restrictions.

According to Air Force Instruction 34-266, table 1.1

Patrons **16 years of age and older** have an unrestricted use of all fitness center facilities and equipment. They do not need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Patrons **14 and 15 years of age** can use the cardio-

vascular equipment and weight rooms but require interactive supervision from a parent, legal guardian, or youth program staff member/coach. Other areas (basketball court, racquetball, etc.) have unrestricted use.

Patrons **13 years of age and younger** are prohibited from cardiovascular equipment and weight rooms. Other areas (basketball court, racquetball, etc.) require interactive supervision from parent, legal guardian, or youth program staff member.



Photo by Master Sgt. Chris Bostrom

Lend a hand

Base members enjoy the fishing weather Saturday at the Annual Kids Fishing Derby held at Larimore Dam.

In the 6 to 8 year old age group, *Samantha Liard* got first place, *Chris Steele* received second, and *Joey Pugh* got third place. In the 9 to 13 year old age group, *Dalton Garritzon* got first, *Chris Lout* received second, and *Garret Cooper* got third. In the 14 and older category, *Helen Gorman* got first place.

Community

Base theater



Today, 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.

Saturday, 3 p.m.

Ella Enchanted (PG)

Based on the award-winning novel by Gail Carson Levine, the story is about Ella of Frel (Anne Hathaway), a young woman who was born with the "gift" of absolute obedience. But when her inability to disobey orders threatens to keep her away from her true love, Prince Charmont (Hugh Dancy), she sets out on a journey to rid herself of the curse.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Kill Bill Vol. 2 (R)

In the follow-up to Kill Bill, Volume 1, The Bride (Uma Thurman) is closing in on the man who shot her at her wedding, Bill (David Carradine), her former boss and lover.

June 18, 7 p.m.

Laws of Attraction (PG-13)

June 19, 3 p.m.

13 Going on 30 (PG-13)

June 19, 7 p.m.

Man on Fire (R)

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

Today

FARGO-MOORHEAD RED HAWKS BASEBALL: Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Red Hawks baseball game Tuesday departing at 5 p.m. and returning after the game ends that night.

Cost is \$20 per adult, \$12 per child 12 and younger accompanied by an adult, which includes transportation and tickets to the game.

Sign up by close of business today at outdoor recreation or call 747-3688.

Earn an ATWIND peice for registering.

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

VIDEO NIGHT: There will be a video night at the youth center for youth ages 6 to 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$1 for members \$2 for non-members.

For details call youth services at 747-3105.

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 ATWIND event.

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 \$8.25 for adults, \$4.25

for children ages 5 to 12 and children ages 4 and under eat free. Non-members pay \$3 extra.

Monday

CANDY BINGO: There will be FREE candy bingo tonight at the youth center for ages 6 to 12 at 5:30 p.m. and ages 17 to 18 7 pm.

Tuesday

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 ATWIND game piece for registering!

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 is for parents and children of all ranks – officer and enlisted.

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.

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

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.

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.

FINE ARTS PROGRAM: The youth center's Fine Arts Program is held two times a month during the summer. The next classes are today and June 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.

Base chapel



CATHOLIC:

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m., Sunflower Chapel

No Weekday Mass: From June 2 to 22.

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

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: Noon Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel conference room

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

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

JEWISH:

Call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, ORTHODOX,

OTHER:

Call 747-5673 for details.

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.

Thursday

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

Upcoming

VALLEY FAIR: Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to Valley Fair

June 19 departing at 5 a.m. and

returning late that evening.

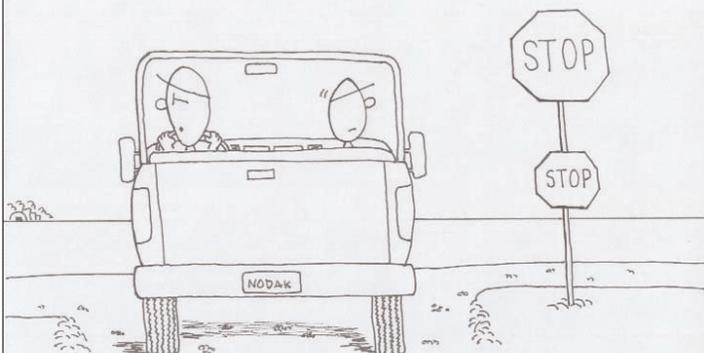
Cost is \$50 per person which includes transportation and admission fee. Sign up by close of business June 18. For details call 747-3688.

WINNIPEG RED RIVER EXHIBITION: Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Red River Exhibition June 26 departing at 7 a.m. and returning at midnight.

Cost is \$17.50 per adult, \$10 per child 12 and younger accompanied by an adult, \$42.50 for a family of three, \$50 for a family of four and \$57.50 for a family of five. The Red River

Exhibition offers a large midway, free attractions and shows, creative displays, semi-pro rodeo, and concessions.

It Could be Worse...



So, what makes you think you're developing double vision, then?