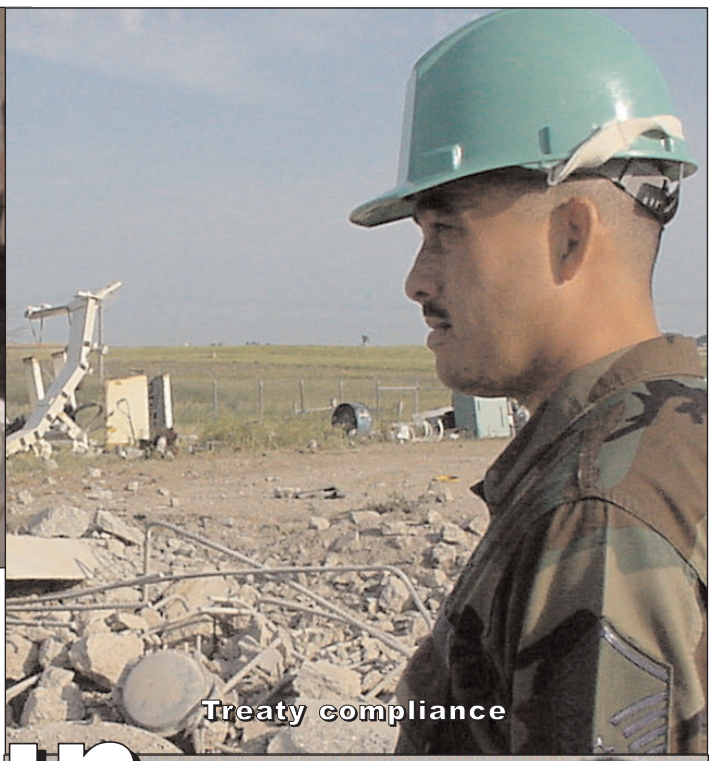
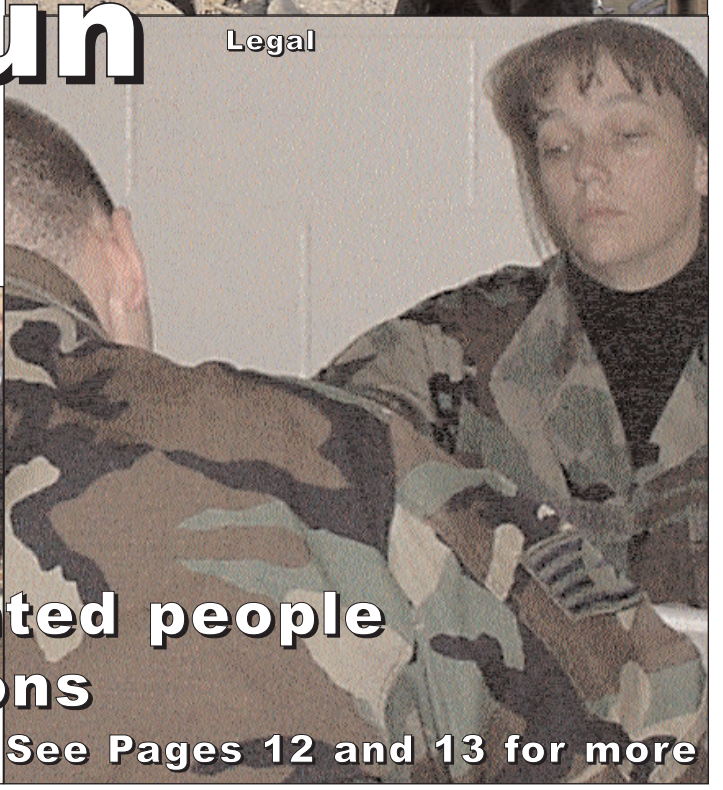
THE LEADER

Vol. 37, No. 49 | Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ◆ www.grandforks.af.mil | Dec. 13, 2002



Wing staffers run gamut



Wing staff agencies' talented people take on big missions

See Pages 12 and 13 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ◆ Solano Trophy Winner ◆ Best Base in 15th Air Force

Inside:

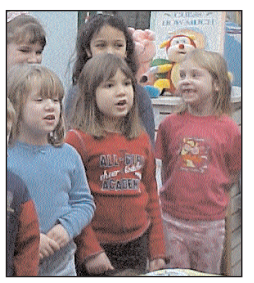
Weekend weather

Today	43/26	partly cloudy
Saturday	41/22	partly cloudy
Sunday	33/27	mostly cloudy
Monday	35/30	mostly cloudy

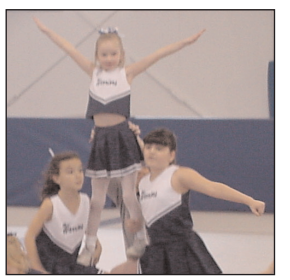
Weather information courtesy 319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

140 show for open house Page 2

Base celebrates holidays Page 4



Youth cheerleading, basketball excels Page 15



FSC opens doors to deployed families

Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

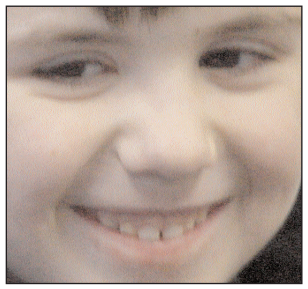
A base family member receives a gift from Santa.

The family support center held its 14th annual holiday open house Dec. 5 with monumental success. More than 140 people, most of them family members of deployed Warriors of the North, attended the event where they received free food and children visited with Santa. Additionally, free gifts were given to the children who visited courtesy of $250 donated by the national Veterans of Foreign Wars military support program.

A "Santa shy" visitor clings to her mother during the gift exchange.

Master Sgt. Barb Zavala, family support center superintendent, hands out a gift bag to a visitor.

Family members wait in line for a chance to visit with Santa.



(Above and below) Children of various ages had an opportunity to visit with Santa and receive gifts.

THE LEADER

This issue of *The Leader* informs readers about 319th Air Refueling Wing staff agencies. Wing staff agencies hold vital roles in the wing's mission.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

83%

Air Refueling Effectiveness Rate from Dec. 2 through 8.

41

DWI-free days.
The base gets a down day for 100 DWI-free days.

Editorial staff

Col. Keye Sabol — Wing commander
Capt. Patricia Lang — Chief, public affairs
Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol — Chief, internal information
Senior Airman Monte Volk — Managing editor
Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton — Staff writer

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, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by 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, martial 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 any questions about submissions, call The Leader staff at 747-5019.

◆Contact information

E-mail: leader@grandforks.af.mil, **Phone:** 701.747.5023

◆Public Affairs

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 319th ARW public affairs office. Copy submitted for publication is edited to conform to the Associated Press Stylebook and for length.

◆Advertisements

Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.

Command-wide efforts build quality of life

By Cynthia Bauer
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS) - Air Mobility Command leaders call fiscal year 2002 one of the best years ever for efforts to enhance quality of life for people throughout the command by improving facilities and restoring base infrastructure.

Command and base civil engineers continue to deliver on a long list of wing projects funded through military construction, operations and maintenance, medical, transportation working capital and non-appropriated programs.

"This tremendously successful year was the result of tireless efforts of civil engineers, contracting and finance personnel at the wings and AMC headquarters. They planned, programmed, designed and awarded projects that address the command's most urgent requirements," said Gen. John W. Handy, AMC commander. "We concentrated on funding projects that support the mission, take care of our great people at AMC bases and in AMC units."

The AMC Civil Engineer, Maj. Gen. Dean Fox said, "What this boils down to is that AMC bases will see a lot of digging going on - digging that will mean improved support to the mission and people of AMC."

While CE projects can be found in all base areas, among the most noticeable will be housing projects. Military family housing projects received $93 million for construction and renovation.

"AMC funded eight military construction projects to replace or provide whole-house improvements for 383 homes and upgrade three base housing offices," said Lt. Col. Bill Corson, HQ AMC/CE Housing Division chief. "Additionally, the command saw the largest program in six years for housing operations and maintenance, where $31 million was awarded for upgrades to 224 homes and to replace electrical, gas, water and sewer lines.

"Home upgrades include new flooring and carpet, painting inside and out, renovation of kitchens and bathrooms, and new bedrooms sized to contemporary standards versus those of the 1950s," Corson said.

Chris Powell, Grand Forks Air Force Base housing manager, said 139 units here have already been replaced or renovated.

"When this is all said and done, more than 900 more base housing units will be replaced or renovated," Powell said.

Powell added that a new round of construction is planned for next year and it is still in the final design process. (Note: More details on base housing construction will be in next week's edition of *The Leader*.)

Through O&M funds, the command also completed a four-year effort to improve 230 playgrounds in base housing, bringing them up to latest safety standards. AMC is the first Air Force command to accomplish this feat.

The command also awarded funding for 20 other military construction projects, ranging from more than $34 million for C-17 facilities and support projects at McGuire AFB, N.J., to $1 million to upgrade the transportation infrastructure at McChord AFB, Wash.

HQ AMC/CE provided $79 million for environmental projects, including continuing cleanup on 172 old spill sites, remediating contaminated soil and groundwater.

Other projects continue improvements to all areas of AMC bases. More than $24 million was awarded to upgrade and repair hospitals and health and wellness Centers. Eight fire station projects worth more than $9 million began for new construction and repairs.

Fitness centers, pools and athletic fields will benefit from funding for 27 additional upgrade projects, and 13 other projects will target chapels and other community support facilities such as auto hobby shops and base exchanges.

Natural gas, water, wastewater and electric utility systems will see 33 upgrade projects, and 19 projects will upgrade or construct new fuel systems.

Another 19 projects were awarded for $40 million to correct deficiencies or construct new squadron operations facilities. Base operations facilities received more than $10 million in repair projects.

A total of 27 projects valued at more than $27 million were funded for aircraft maintenance facilities. Hangars and nose docks across the command will get repaired through 28 new projects.

Other projects will improve AMC passenger terminals and AMC airfreight terminals around the world.

AMC contracting personnel played a pivotal role to bring about all the construction projects, getting them advertised and awarded to contractors.

Contracting director Col. Jamie Adams said, "We partnered with the civil engineers early on, so we were postured to execute the dollars throughout the fiscal year. That partnership made all these quality-of-life improvements possible."

Looking at what the command has been able to do for its people, Fox summed up the success of fiscal year spending on CE projects.

"The civil engineers, contracting and finance offices did a super job," the general said. "I am proud of how well they performed throughout the command in fiscal year 2002. We were postured and provided outstanding support for our wing's highest priority requirements.

"The construction and repair work you will see accomplished at our bases is important to maintaining and improving our mission support and quality of life at work, home and play," Fox said.

ALS graduates

Twenty-five base senior airman graduated from Airman Leadership School Dec. 3. Below are the graduates and award winners:

James A. Allegrezza, 319th Security Forces Squadron
Jonathan L. Bishop, 319th Maintenance Squadron
Richard K. Burch, 319th Comptroller Squadron
Justin N. Cichoski, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Casey L. Ham, 911th Air Refueling Squadron **-- DG**
Vanassa M. Hanak, 319th SFS
Robert J. Hanley, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron **-- Academic and DG**
Brian J. Holbrook, 905th ARS
Jeffrey D. Johnson, 319th LRS
Mark A. Jones, 319th SFS **-- Leadership Award**
Eli J. Krebs, 319th Communications Squadron
Timothy J. Latvis, 319th AMXS
Travis H. Lowry, 319th MXS
Joni K. Marquez, 319th SFS
James D. Musgrave, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron
Joshua A. Nimerfroh, 319th LRS
Charles P. O'quinn, 319th Medical Operations Squadron
Tammy M.c. O'toole, 319th SFS
Garry K. Richard, 319th CS
Cintia M. Rosario, 319th Aeromedical Dental Squadron
Duane L. Smith, 319th AMXS
Schanna M. Speight, 319th SFS **-- John L. Levitow Award**
Noelle L. Urbach, 319th AMXS
Loula J. Krause, 319th ADS
Kristan A. Weaver, 319th AMXS

2002 Gen. White award nominee

Grand Forks has been nominated by Air Mobility Command for the upcoming 2002 Air Force General Thomas D. White environmental Pollution prevention award (non-industrial). The wing's hazardous waste reduction efforts enabled the base to reach "small quantity generator" status, which allows the base to work under significantly reduced hazardous waste regulations. AMC's first and only base to reach this impressive milestone.

CINC's installation excellence award

The 319th Maintenance Squadron and 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were nominated for the commander-in-chief's special recognition award

NCOA class 03-1

The following technical sergeants were selected to go to the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.
David S. Krebs 319th Security Forces Squadron
Michael P. Johnson 319th Mission Support Squadron
Daniel A. Leslie 319th MXS
Alfred N. Barrie, II 319th Contracting Squadron
Todd E. Brady 319th Logistics Support Squadron
David W. Hubbard 319th Supply Squadron
Jennifer L. Richardson 319th CONS
Ronald V. Cloninger 319th LSS
Dusty L. Huntley 319th SUPS
Alan B. Rau 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron
Todd C. Wilson 319th AMXS
Kenneth R. Turner 319th Air Refueling Wing

Free movie preview

The base movie theater offers a free showing of *"The Wild Thornberry's,"* at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the base theater. The movie is rated "G" so bring the whole family. For details call Lisa Feast at 747-3580.

Movie synopsis: This movie is based on the Nickelodeon TV show about a family who-travels the world making nature documentaries. The special wrinkle is that one of their daughters, Eliza (Lacey Chabert), can communicate with animals. The clan winds up on an African safari, where Eliza and her chimp chum, Darwin (Tom Kane), must save a cheetah cub that has been snatched by poachers.

Base launches local IDEA website

By Senior Airman Monte Volk
Public affairs

The 319th Manpower and Organization office recently launched a local Innovative Development through Employee Awareness or IDEA website making it easier for base warriors to submit ideas.

The intranet website has links to instructions for each person involved in the process along with a list of unit representatives and a link to the IDEA Program Data System.

"The IDEA program is everyone's tool to use," said 2nd Lt. Mike Marren, 319th IDEA analyst. "The website takes all the IDEA resources and information and puts it in one place, a few mouse clicks away from the user."

One base warrior has already reaped the benefits of the refined program, by making some changes to technical orders.

Staff Sgt. Brian Morris, 319th Maintenance Squadron maintenance flight support section chief, had six Air Force Technical Order Form 22s approved and submitted to the IDEA program. He received $200 for each.

"It is nice when the system works," said Morris. "It is like getting a little reward for your extra work."

In fiscal year 2002, the base submitted 55 ideas and had 16 successful ideas, resulting in $12,600 being paid to the submitters.

"I definitely think it helps encourage others when they see the system work," said Morris, a 10-year Air Force veteran. "It lets them get the satisfaction of not only fixing the problem, but also getting a reward for their work."

"I would encourage everyone to take time out and correct known problems with tech data and submit their approved AFTO 22's with the IDEA Program," said Morris.

Since its October 1997 inception, the IDEA program has refined the submission process to make it simpler to encourage more people to submit ideas and in 1999, created a web-based IDEA Program Data System or IPDS, which allows users to complete their part of the IDEA process from their own desktop. This process results in fewer errors and quicker response action.

The new website is http://w3/Units/319HQ/Manpower/manpower/products.htm.

The new IDEA website provides information about everyone's role in the IDEA process and links to other useful sites.

Briefs

New AFPC call center

Real-time help with personnel issues is now online. The online features, located on the Air Force Personnel Center home under 'Contact Center,' lets members view a frequently asked questions database, chat live with a customer service representative or submit queries via e-mail.

In addition to getting answers about personnel information, pay, assignments, benefits and employment, agents can be reached at 1-866-229-7074, from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Central Standard Time. First-time users need to create an account to allow customer service representatives to speed up the process.

New promotion process

The 2002 National Defense Authorization Act permits service secretaries to eliminate captain promotion boards when the promotion opportunity is 100 percent. Due to the change, the Captain Central Selection Board at Air Force Personnel Center no longer exists. MAJCOMs will have primary responsibility for determining an individual`s readiness for promotion.

Recommendation to captain for active-duty officers happens one year preceding the quarter in which an individual is eligible to pin-on; based on the two year date of rank anniversary.

Promotion recommendation lists are compiled and certified quarterly at the MAJCOM level, forwarded to AFPC, then on to the Secretary of the Air Force for presidential approval. For details call the military personnel flight at 747-6216 or visit the AFPC webpage at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil

OPSEC tip

Think twice before discussing in public about a spouse being deployed. Even though media or other people in public may be well meaning and patriotic, others listening may not be.

Courts martial

Airman 1st Class Kristopher S. Messinger, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was convicted Nov. 25, by General Court-Martial of two specifications of wrongful use of marijuana and one specification of wrongful use of cocaine in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ; and one specification of drunk driving in violation of Article 111, UCMJ. He was sentenced to a reduction to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, four months confinement, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Airman 1st Class Kelly R. Abrams, 319th Mission Support Squadron, was convicted Nov. 26, by Special Court-Martial of three specifications of making a false official statement in violation of Article 107, UCMJ; and twenty-seven specifications of making, drawing, uttering or delivering a check, draft, or order, and thereafter wrongfully and dishonorably failing to maintain sufficient funds in violation of Article 134, UCMJ. She was sentenced to a reduction to the grade of E-1, forfeiture of $720 pay per month for five months, five months confinement, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Child supervision rules

The base legal office researched North Dakota state law, which is incorporated into Grand Forks Air Force Base policies on child supervision and babysitting. All personnel must conform to these requirements:

- Children eight years old and under should be supervised at all times.
- Children who are nine years old should not be unsupervised for periods greater than two hours during the daytime, and should not be unsupervised at night.
- Children who are ten or eleven years old may be unsupervised for longer periods. However, parents should use caution when leaving children in this group unsupervised at night.
- Children who are twelve to fourteen years old may be unsupervised for even longer periods, including some time at night. However, children in this group should not be unsupervised overnight.
- Regardless of the age, all children left alone must be able to demonstrate knowledge of where their parents or other responsible adults are, and how to reach them. They must also be able to demonstrate knowledge of emergency procedures.

Another related issue is the age when children can begin supervising or babysitting other children. Parents should not permit their children to act as baby sitters until they are at least twelve years old. Babysitters from twelve to fourteen years old should not supervise other children overnight. In addition, babysitters should complete an approved child-care course before they begin babysitting.

By complying with these policies, military members can be confident they are following both local laws and base standards. In addition, compliance will help prevent inadvertent neglect of the needs of our children and insure their safety.

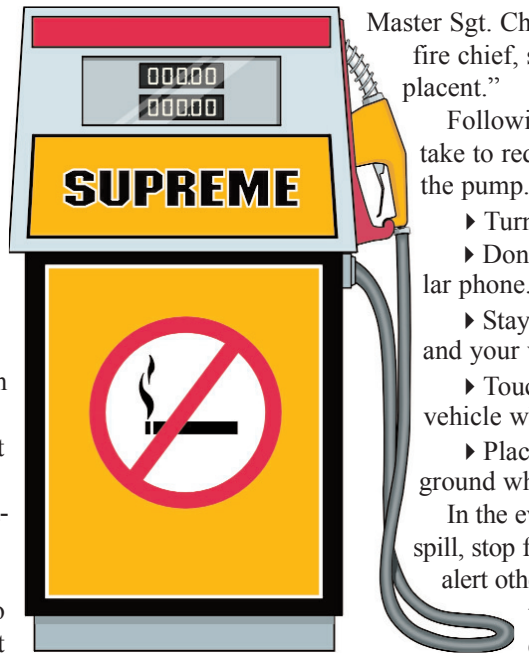
Practice safety when refueling

By Master Sgt. Richard Lien
Assistant fire chief

Have you ever seen someone fueling a vehicle while the motor was running? Or how about talking on a cellular phone while fueling a vehicle?

These are dangerous practices that could cost many lives if we don't get the word out.

The government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has recorded more than 30 fires in recent years when gasoline caps have been removed from vehicles at service stations. The suspected cause: static build-up.



Often, static build-up is a culprit. According to the Petroleum Equipment Institute, in the last two years, more than 150 refueling fires have been documented that appear to be caused by a discharge of static electricity.

Often times, this static build-up happens when fuel is being dispensed into a plastic gas container that is in the trunk of a car or bed of a pick-up truck with a plastic bed-liner.

Although none of these types of fires have occurred in North Dakota, Senior Master Sgt. Chris Weir, deputy base fire chief, said, "We can't be complacent."

Following are steps people can take to reduce the risk of fires at the pump.

- Turn your engine off.
- Don't smoke or use a cellular phone.
- Stay with the fuel nozzle and your vehicle during fueling.
- Touch a metal part of your vehicle while you exit.
- Place fuel containers on the ground when filling.

In the event of a fire or fuel spill, stop fueling, immediately alert others of the danger, have the attendant activate the emergency fuel shut-off switch, and call the fire department at 911 from a safe phone.

For more details call the fire prevention office at 747-4174.

No static please

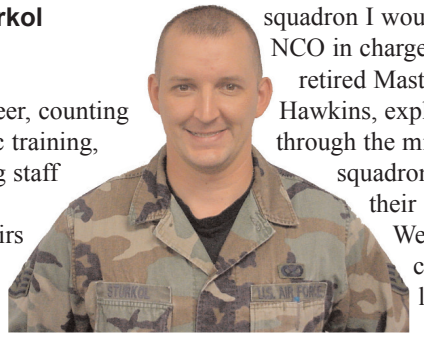
The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to inform people of fires as a result of static electricity at gas pumps. PEI researched 150 cases and found these results:

- **Almost all cases involved the person getting back in the vehicle while pumping gas**
- **The gas vapors cause the fire, when connected with static charges**
- **29 fires occurred when the vehicle was reentered and the nozzle was touched**
- **17 fires occurred before, during or after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began**

Never get back into the vehicle while filling it with gas. If you do get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, be sure to close the door by touching the metal before pulling the nozzle out. This ensures the static is discharged.
For more details go to http://www.pei.org.

Wing staffers hold unique jobs, incredible talent

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs



For my entire military career, counting out technical school and basic training, I've been a member of a wing staff agency.

My specialty – public affairs – is only one of several that maintain constant support for our wing commander. Throughout the wing staff you will find diverse advisory and service jobs – to include PA, legal, chapel, manpower, history, military equal opportunity, protocol, safety, command post, inspector general, treaty compliance and more.

Throughout the years, these people in different career fields have maintained being a pretty close-knit group. In many ways, wing staffers have to work together to make our jobs successful and to maintain a sense of unity.

At my first base, Lajes Field, I remember going to my new office and asking what squadron I would be a part of. My NCO in charge at the time, now retired Master Sgt. Jerry Hawkins, explained, "We go through the mission support squadron administratively and their staff takes care of us. We also support the wing command staff directly."

For a new airman, understanding our chain of command in wing staff wasn't easy, and to this day it can still be just a little confusing. Then I learned about all the other offices, already mentioned, who had the same chain of command as my office.

Over the years I got to know how all the other wing staff agencies and the unique jobs they hold – are vital to the wing's mission.

Take for instance the legal office. They handle the legal needs of nearly 3,000 military people in the wing on top of needs of family members. From free wills and powers of attorney to military justice, the wing legal office maintains crucial tools, free for all wing members.

There's also the chapel staff. They handle the religious faith needs of all base people. Besides the numerous Protestant and Catholic services they offer, they also support people of other faiths such as Jewish and Muslim.

In the command post, controllers work 24 hours a day, seven days a week being the heartbeat of the base relaying time critical information. The manpower office oversees base manning slots and needs. The history office records the wing's accomplishments for all to remember.

The military equal opportunity office helps us observe varieties of cultures, protocol supports all official ceremonies and military dignitaries. The inspector general keeps us ready through exercises.

We also have the 319th Comptroller Squadron, taking care of the wing's financial needs both personal and professional. The treaty compliance office helps our base adhere to international treaties our country has signed.

So many crucial missions take many talented people. Like the safety office, they look into all areas of our lives and make sure risk management is part of our vocabulary.

And public affairs, the people I work with, are the crucial tool for spreading the wing commander's message with the base newspaper, community and media relations, and more.

And you want to talk about awards, wing staff members have certainly won their share. I could probably count in the hundreds all the base, command and Air Force awards I've seen wing staffers win over the years. That takes talent and the dedication to do the job right.

There's not enough paper here to tell you everything the wing staffers do and about all their accomplishments.

Bottom line is this – we support the wing mission directly, but more importantly, we support you.

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday, Daily Mass Tuesday - Friday, Sunflower Chapel.
CCD: 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Twining Elementary School
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel
Christmas Choir/Band practice: 1 p.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel
Advent Pennance service: 7 p.m. Monday, Sunflower Chapel
PROTESTANT:
Traditional worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.
Liturgical worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.
Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel
Young adults: 6 p.m. Friday, meet at Prairie Rose Chapel annex
Youth: 4 p.m. Sunday, meet at youth center
Religious Education: 9 a.m. Sunday, Eielson Elementary School.
Men of the Chapel: noon Monday, Prairie Rose conference room
AWANA training: 9 a.m. Saturday, Sunflower Chapel basement
JEWISH:
For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.
RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:
For details call Dr. Levitov 780-6540.
MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:
For details call 747-5673.

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.
Tuck Everlasting (PG)
Based on the book by Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting is set in 1922 and tells the story of a 10-year-old girl who discovers that a neighbor family holds a precious secret: They've got a fountain of youth in their back yard. Because she wants to escape her tortured family life, the girl is taken in by her new friends, but trouble still follows her.

Today, 9 p.m.
Ghost Ship (R)
The deserted 1954 luxury cruise ship Antonia Graza, thought to have been lost in the early '60s, is discovered floating in the Bering Sea by a salvage crew. As the crew members board the ship and start to tow it to land, they notice that weird, creepy, possibly supernatural things begin to happen.

Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. FREE
Wild Thornberries(PG-13)
This one is based on the Nickelodeon TV show about a family that travels the world making nature documentaries. The special wrinkle is that one of their daughters, Eliza (Lacey Chabert), can communicate with animals. The clan winds up on an African safari, where Eliza and her chimp chum, Darwin (Tom Kane), must save a cheetah cub that has been snatched by poachers.

Saturday, 7 p.m.
Formula 51 (R)
Samuel L. Jackson plays an illegal-drug chemist who goes to Liverpool, England, in search of a market for his new concoction. Hoping to retire soon, he wants this to be his last big deal. But when he gets to England, he discovers that his British connection (Robert Carlyle), a supplier and rave-scene insider, is less than amiable toward Americans.

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

Holiday events abound

Photo by Christine Davis

Base children sing holiday carols during the base treelighting ceremony Dec. 4. in the base library.

Photo br Senior Airman Monte Volk

Members of the base Top Three organization load up potatoes on a truck as part of a potato sale they did to raise money for Operation Warmheart.

Photo by Christine Davis

Family and unit holiday cards are displayed at the base library. They were part of the card contest put on by the 319th Services Squadron. Winners were: (family card first place) Brett Culver and family; (unit first place) 319th Civil Engineer Squadron; (unit second place) 319th Operations Support Squadron; and (unit third place) 912th Air Refueling Squadron.

Photo by Christine Davis

Tech. Sgt. Ken Bowlin, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron, takes a taste of homemade cookies as part of the cookie contest.

Contractor recalls past when base was being built

By Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton
Public affairs

The days Don Myrdal spent building Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases are decades behind him, but the lessons he learned are found throughout his Fargo home.

From the barn and patio to the carved miniature bison figurines Myrdal created in honor of his alma mater's mascot, all display evidence their builder is a self-professed handyman.

Myrdal, now 76, is quick to admit he honed many of those skills on the buildings and streets of Grand Forks Air Force Base when the installation was born.

"I'm definitely a do-it-yourselfer," Myrdal said. "I learned a lot of what I know while I worked on the housing project at the air base."

The Grand Forks Air Force Base he saw when he toured recently bore little resemblance to the installation he helped to build in the late 1950s.

Myrdal, now 76, retired in 1989 after a 42-year career with Northern Improvement Company, part of a joint venture of seven contracting companies based in Bismarck, Fargo and Minot.

Then a 30-year-old North Dakota State University graduate with a degree in Civil Engineering, Myrdal was a superintendent and engineer for the company that did the site preparation, underground utilities and streets on base from 1956 to 1966.

"I was living in Bismarck at the time", said Myrdal, a native of Edinburg, 60 miles northwest of the base. "When they were bidding on the contract, I said to my friends, 'I'll see all of you in Grand Forks before this is over.'"

He first came to Grand Forks to build the water line from the city to the base, but the company also constructed the main base streets, utilities and housing.

As the Cold War escalated during the early 1950s, the Air Force announced plans to build an Air Defense Command fighter-interceptor base in eastern North Dakota, and the Defense Department chose Grand Forks as the site in 1954. Contractors began construction of the base and its 12,350-foot runway Feb. 6, 1956. During that same month, the Air Force announced the base would support Strategic Air Command bombers and tankers, as well as ADC fighters-interceptors.

The initial phase of construction was completed in 1960 when the 18th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and the Grand Forks Area Defense Sector, semi-automated ground environment began building operations with the F-101 Voodoo.

The first Boeing LGM-30F Minuteman II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile unit, the 447th Strategic Missile Squadron here, was activated in the fall of 1958, and the first KC-135 Stratotanker arrived in May 1960.

"I was there when the first military man was assigned to the base," Myrdal said. "He was all by himself, he was the commander, the engineer, the whole bit."

The changes on base left Myrdal amazed when Lt. Col. James Vechery, 912th Air Refueling Squadron commander, gave him a base tour on Columbus Day.

"I worked on the underground utilities, and we built the main entrance streets on the east side and the entrance on Highway 2," Myrdal said. "Of course, the base has been expanded quite a bit since then.

"The streets we worked on the north edge of the housing area are there, but the houses are gone," he said.

"The area is now a weed patch. We built a group of six-plexes north of the main entrance road and going north along 'J' Street for three quarters of a mile. They are also gone. All that is left are the trees. The buildings I worked around in the Administrative area were just functional buildings, with no embellishments or anything."

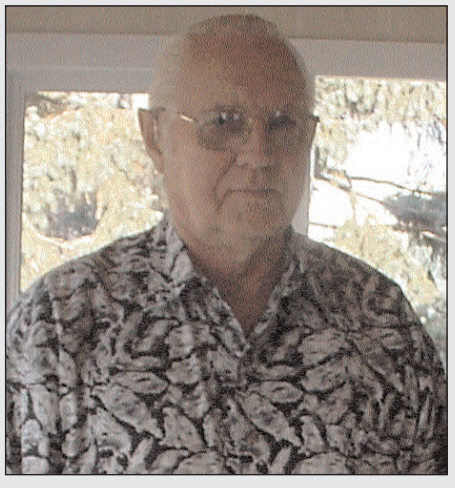
Vechery, who attends church with Jane Boese, Myrdal's daughter, who was only 8 when her dad worked on the base, enjoyed listening to how the base was built as he gave the tour.

"I was amazed at how much information he remembered," Vechery said. "He remembered so many details, such as what type of insulation they used on the housing. I enjoyed being near Mr. Myrdal as he relived those days nearly 50 years ago and as he looked at amazement at all the changes that had occurred."

Perhaps the biggest surprise Myrdal discovered when he visited the base wasn't the buildings replaced in the past 45 years. During a short tour of the fitness center, he also realized how much more the 319th Air Refueling Wing offers its young airmen today, compared with the activities available during the Cold War.

"There's an awful lot more facilities than what there used to be," he said. "I can see why people assigned to the base at the time it was started couldn't find much of anything to do.

"They just opened a small part of the gym, and as far as recreation, that was probably the only thing they had."



Don Myrdal, 76, retired in 1989 after a 42-year career with Northern Improve-ment Company, part of a joint venture of seven contracting companies based in Bismarck, Fargo and Minot.

Wing staffers: Agencies offer diverse services, products for all

By Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton
Public affairs

319th Air Refueling Wing staff agencies don't fly KC-135 tankers or even repair and maintain aircraft.

But there's no doubt the mission would suffer without the contributions of the wing staff.

Many wing staff offices, including the inspector's general, manpower, safety, public affairs and the treaty offices, moved from Building 306 to Building 313 in mid-October since Building 306 will be demolished.

Note: Not all areas of the wing staff, such as the command post, history office, treaty compliance, safety and the 319th Comptroller Squadron are featured here. Most of these have already been highlighted in The Leader throughout this year or will be featured in future editions.

Manpower office

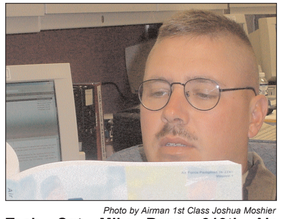


Photo by Airman 1st Class Joshua Moshier

Tech. Sgt. Mike Renn, 319th Air Refueling Wing manpower office, reads over a manual in his office.

The manpower office, named the "Best Small Manpower Office" in Air Mobility Command and the Air Force in 2000, serve the wing as its unit deployment manager.

"Our mission is to provide management consulting services to the wing commander and various group commanders," said 2nd Lt. Cameron Jackson, 319th ARW manpower officer in charge of mission requirements.

The shop provides help with base manpower requirements, determinations, productivity enhancement, enhanced performance management and organizational structure.

The staff, led by manpower chief Capt. William Foster, is also working on two major Air Force manpower engineering studies: Personnel Workload, Measurement Study, which will determine stressed career fields, and Communications and Information Re-engineering Study.

"Commanders and work center supervisors from about a dozen organizations on base participate in these studies to help provide the corporate Air Force with a clear picture of how hard our troops in the trenches are working and where manning requirements are needed for future allocation of human resources," Jackson said.

Inspector general

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Davis

Exercise evalaution team members take notes during a recent exercise. The wing inspector general office is responsible for coordinating the EET.

Inspector General Lt. Col. Jeffrey Johnson's office is the wing leadership's "pulse of the wing." Personnel in this office manage two major areas of concern to the wing: inquiries and exercises. Inquiries could be fraud, waste and abuse concerns or complaints, said Master Sgt. Donald Dufner, IG superintendent.

While the IG maintains an open door policy, appointments are recommended. The staff strives to provide assistance to the base populace, but is "not an agency that has command authority. Your commander is the first person you should go to to get things changed," Dufner said.

"We are a fact-finding agency, and we will get the facts. We're here to find wrong-doing and turn the concern over to the commander to fix the wrong."

Base members can make an IG complaint anonymously by calling the hot line at 747-6016 or by calling 747-4412/6925/4837 to talk to the staff.

"Everything is held in the strictest confidence," Dufner said.

Cases that the IG can address include allegations of injustice, violations of law or directives, mismanagement, waste of funds, abuse of authority, substantial danger to public health and safety and congressional inquiries. Issues outside of IG territory include correction of military records; performance report appeals, equal opportunity issues, Uniform Code of Military Justice punishment and administrative separations. The IG staff will refer these issues to the appropriate agencies, Dufner said.

Base members should not fear reprisal for going to the IG because federal law prohibits retribution against individuals for reporting concerns to the IG, Dufner said.

The IG team also plans, coordinates and conducts all wing exercises, with the wing exercise evaluation team. In fiscal 2002, IG held 11 exercises and 12 are planned for fiscal 2003.

Legal office

File photo

A Warrior of the North fills out legal paperwork in the deployment line. Legal offers free wills and powers of attorney to military members.

Articles 15 and courts-martial punishment are perhaps the first two things to come to mind when most base members think of the legal office. This year, the legal office has held 15 courts martial with 13 completed. But, the likely first encounter people have with the wing's lawyers is usually with the claims division.

Members can begin the claims process for household goods damaged during their PCS move by completing a Department of Defense Form 1840/1840R, Joint Statement of Loss or Damage, (this is a bright pink form). This form put the contracted carrier on notice of damages and must be turned into the claims office no later then 70 days from the date of delivery to prevent award settlements from being reduced. A claims briefing, detailing what is required to file a claim, will be given to people when they turn in the DD Form 1840/1840R. In fiscal year 2002, approximately $87,000 in claims were process on base.

Other legal services include notaries, powers of attorney and legal assistance on topics including consumer protection, domestic relations, and landlord-tenant relationships. In an effort to increase service to the base, the legal office has recently changed its legal assistance hours.

The legal office now provides legal assistance appointments for nearly every duty hour, and has walk-in availability on Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Powers of attorney and notary services are available Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wills are done by appointment only. For details contact the legal office at 747-3606.

Chapel

Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Chaplain (Maj.) Dwayne Peoples, who left the wing chapel office earlier this summer, gives the invocation at a groundbreaking ceremony on base.

The chapel staff is busy planning holiday services for the base community, with a family candlelight service planned for 7 p.m. Christmas eve in Sunflower Chapel and an 8:30 p.m. New Year's eve Watch Night service planned for Turtle River State Park. Catholic programs include an Advent penance service 7 p.m. Sunday, children's Christmas Mass 5 p.m. and midnight Mass Christmas eve, Christmas Day Mass 9 a.m., Vigil Mass 5 p.m. Dec. 31, New Year's Day Mass at 10 a.m. and Epiphany of the Lord 9 a.m. Jan. 5, all at Sunflower Chapel.

The staff has also been busy with several holiday drives, such as the traditional Gifts for Grafton Home for the Developmentally Disabled, Gifts for the St. Anne's Guest Home, and the Operation Shoebox for Kids, which benefits needy children in Africa.

The chapel staff, from wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Brooks, his group chaplains – Maj. Michael Moore, Capts. Brian Swain and Andrew McIntosh and 1st Lt. Chad Zielinski – and a staff of chaplain assistants – Master Sgt. Dominick Scalzitti, Tech. Sgt. Corinne Osborn, Staff Sgt. John Glass and Airman Stephanie Angel – help base members meet their spiritual needs year-round.

"The chapel staff ministers to the people and advises commanders," Brooks said. "Even when we advise commanders, we do that for the benefit of the people who accomplish the mission and it strengthens the religious experience for the people. I'm on the wing staff because the Air Force thinks it's important the chaplain directly advises the commander on the spiritual welfare of the people and opportunities to exercise their faith."

Chaplains must be trained by a secular religious body before they can become a military minister, usually at least 10 years of education and training before beginning active duty. They also undergo their share of deployments, especially since Sept. 11.

A chaplain is placed in each wing group to give members easy access whenever a need for guidance or answers arises.

"We'd just like people to know chaplains are here to help them," Brooks said. "Not just to help make sure they can exercise their faith, but also in times of crisis and need, when they can enjoy the privilege of complete confidentiality."

Public affairs

Photo by Senior Airman Kelly Ramey

Grand Forks television reporter Janel Klein and cameraman Chris Regimbal interview a deployed Warrior of the North at Base X. Media trips to deployed environments are one of several tools to spread Air Force key messages in the public affairs media outreach program.

The eight-member public affairs staff strives to enhance understanding of the wing mission through aggressive community outreach, media interaction and internal information programs, and by promoting the contributions of the base and its people to the community.

"We are what our title is -- public affairs," said Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol, chief of internal information. "Throughout my three years here, I've had the opportunity to work in all areas of PA and it has been quite exciting. Our office, in essence, is a commander's information tool and what we do is crucial for presenting our commander's and service's messages."

PA programs are presented in a variety of ways:

- **Internal information** – Through production of the weekly base newspaper, *The Leader*, PA reaches 4,500 readers on base. The internal program also provides commander's call topics to unit commanders and the unit public affairs representative, or UPAR, program, gives PA a link to every base organization. The base commander's access channel (channel 3 on local cable), also serves as a tool to present information.
- **Media relations** – The media program provides news releases to local, state and national media outlets about base events and news. The program also requires PA people to serve as escorts whenever media are on base and to inform more members of the military community outside the base's gates through weekly radio broadcasts on local radio stations.
- **Community relations** – This program involves base tours, answering public requests for information, serving as a community liaison for area events, and by providing and training speakers for local community groups, especially at Memorial Day and Veterans Day events. PA is also actively involved with the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Military Affairs Committee and Chambers of Commerce.

In security and policy review, PA serves as the base as information manager for the commander's action line, maintaining commander biographies and base fact sheets, and monitoring local media for base coverage.

Military equal opportunity

The military equal opportunity office is the wing commander's adviser for human relations issues, to help commanders, first sergeants and complainants, including family members, resolve problems at the lowest level.

The base has an extremely low complaint rate, said Master Sgt. Gary Cleland, MEO superintendent, "which leads us to believe people are handling issues amongst themselves, or their chains of command are dealing with issues brought to their attention. We are most likely to see disputes brought about by miscommunications or racial and sexual jokes and comments.

"Members have the right to use our office directly, but we highly encourage individuals to try to use their chain of command and resolve things at the lowest level. Since most issues are miscommunications or ignorance, people should explain the impact of the actions to the offender, if possible, and give them the courtesy of trying to resolve it. It is important for possible complainants to understand that once a complaint makes it to us, we have very little latitude with how it is resolved. It is either a policy violation or not."

When MEO receives a complaint, the staff neutrally interviews all parties involved and make sure their rights are protected, collect all possible information and determine if there is evidence of a violation.

Commanders determine what, if any, actions will be taken.

"The bottom line is we are not out to get people," Cleland said. "If you don't violate the policy, you have nothing to worry about."

Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

First Lts. Robert Lazaro, deputy public affairs officer, and Natalie Kalivoda, protocol officer, take part in an Asian-Pacific Heritage Month food-tasting event coordinated by the military equal opportunity office.

Deadline nears for long-term care

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- For military and civilian personnel who do not have an extra $20,000 to spend on long-term health care and who cannot count on their families to take care of them, now may be the time to sign up for the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program.

Dec. 31 is the program open-season enrollment deadline. Premiums are determined by coverage options and age, but they remain level after coverage starts. Open season offers the advantages of fewer health-related questions and premiums based on the applicant's coverage and age as of July 1, 2002. After open season, the health questionnaire is longer and premiums are based on applicants' coverage and their ages when they buy it.

The Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program is administered by John Hancock and MetLife, two of the nation's leading insurers. It is the only long-term care insurance program authorized by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

According to a recent MetLife market survey, the national average annual cost of home health care is well over $20,000. That cost is expected to climb to $68,000 by 2030. The national average annual nursing home cost is $52,000 for a semi-private room and is expected to climb to $190,600 by 2030.

Studies show that about 60 percent of those who reach age 65 will need long-term care at some time in their lives; however, many people do not realize that the need for long-term care can strike at any time. According to OPM statistics, 40 percent of people receiving long-term care services are working-age adults, between 18 and 64.

The FTLC insurance program benefits those who can no longer perform daily living activities such as eating, bathing or getting dressed. It also covers persons affected by severe "cognitive impairments," such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

In addition, the program provides money to pay for care in various settings, including at home, assisted-living facilities, adult day care centers and hospice facilities. More than 80 percent of all people receiving long-term care assistance are not in nursing homes.

"I told my children that when I signed up for the OPM-sponsored Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program, I was going to make the insurance certificate one of their presents because it benefits them as much as it benefits my husband and me," said OPM Director Kay Coles James. "Through this one act of personal responsibility, I am reducing a potential future burden on them and their families."

Applications can be done online at www.ltcfeds.com or downloaded for mailing. The Web site also allows federal employees to calculate insurance premiums and to find answers to frequently asked questions.

It's YOUR Air Force

with your IDEAS we do things

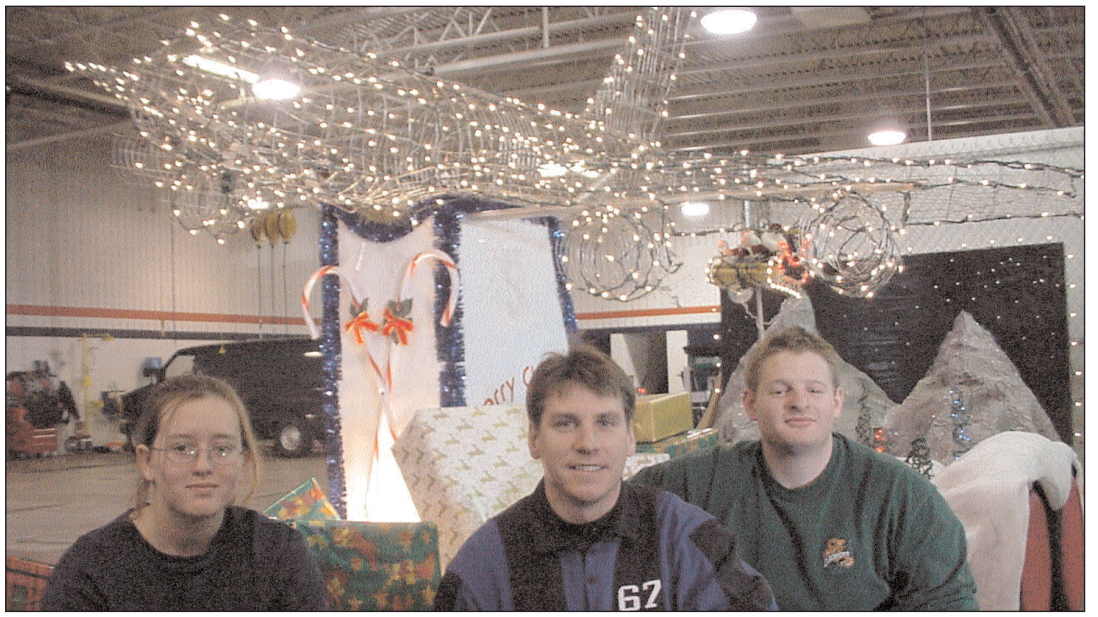
FASTER ♦ BETTER ♦ CHEAPER

IDEA

For the latest news on the IDEA program, consult the Grand Forks Air Force Base IDEA analyst.

2nd Lt. Michael Marren

747-3255



Airman 1st Class Amanda Hylton, Staff Sgt. Doug Metcalf and Airman 1st Class Robert Bird pose for a photo in front of the completed float.

Lighting it up

Aerospace ground equipment technicians, from the 319th Maintenance Squadron, got into the holiday spirit and designed a float for the 5th Annual Parade of Lights in downtown Grand Forks Dec. 7.

The float, constructed of metal fencing and chicken wire, tin foil, fabric and lights was transformed into a KC-135 refueling Santa's sleigh over a snowcovered-mountain scape.

Although they did not win (they had planned on donating some of the money to a local charity) they still had fun doing it.

"It was a good time," said Staff Sgt. Doug Metcalf. "It's fun to make something out of nothing and to do something for the kids."

Airmen 1st Class Amanda Hylton and Robert Bird strategically stack presents to cover the float's power supply and wires.

Photos by Senior Airman Monte Volk

Staff Sgt. Doug Metcalf sprays adhesive to some of the more than 20 yards of fabric used to create the snow.

Area events

Now through December 24
Santa Village
Rheault Farm, Fargo, ND
Village features Santa Claus, reindeer and sleigh rides
(701) 241-8160

Now through March 30
Snowcross Snowmobile Racing
Devils Lake, ND
(701) 398-3383

Now through Dec. 21
Bottineau Christmas Center
Main Street, Bottineau, ND
Each Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(701) 228-3849

Thursday to Monday
Renaissance Feast
An invitation to the castle of the Lord of the Manor for a Christmas celebration feast at Minot State University Student Union Conference Center, Minot ND
Social - 6 p.m., performance at 7 p.m.
(701) 852-3736

Dec. 31
First Night Greater Grand Forks
Non-alcoholic New Year's eve celebration in downtown Grand Forks
Noon to midnight
773-1387

Community

Today

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The cut-off date to place holiday framing orders at the skills development center by close of business today.

ICE FISHING

Join outdoor recreation on one of their 2003 ice-fishing trips. A trip is scheduled for Saturday, and is dependent on weather and ice conditions. Sign up by today. Call 747-3688 for details.

Cost is $15 single, $25 couple, $35 family (Three or four people, $10 each for extra family members). Departure is at 7 a.m. from outdoor recreation, and participants will return late afternoon same day. Join outdoor recreation every Saturday from now until the end of March on a ski trip. The next trip is to Frost Fire Saturday. Sign up by today. Call 747-3688 to sign up, and for details.

FRIDAYS AT LIBERTY SQUARE

Open Skating at Liberty Square tonight for ages 6 to 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost is only $3 for admission and $2 for skate rental.

The Teen Center at Liberty Square will be open tonight for ages 13 to 18 from 6 to 11 p.m.

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 "DJ "C."

Saturday

PRE-TEEN VIDEO NIGHT

The youth center invites preteens ages 6 to 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday for a night of videos. Cost is $1, including popcorn. Call 747-3150 for more information.

SATURDAY KARAOKE

Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. for karaoke.

SATURDAY BOWLING

Bowl Saturdays at Dakota Lanes: 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. Need 10 to hold; must sign up at the youth center to attend.

Sunday

SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Club is having their next Super Sunday Brunch 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy two meats, biscuits and gravy, eggs, fruit, waffles, omelets and more. The next Sunday brunch will be Jan 5.

Monday

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Come to the Club tonight for more "Football Frenzy" for Monday Night Football Starter in the Sports Bar.

CANDY BINGO

Every Monday for ages 6 to 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the youth center.

Tuesday

FREE POOL

The Club is offering free pool in the sports bar every Tuesday.

YOUTH TOURNAMENTS

Every Tuesday the youth center will hold tournaments for ages 9 to 12 at 5:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 7 p.m. Today's tournament is "Singles/Doubles Foosball."

Wednesday

COLUMBIA MALL TRIP

Take this opportunity with the youth center to go to Columbia Mall for some last minute shopping. Departure is from the Youth Center at 12:30 p.m., and participants will return at 4 p.m. Cost is $3 for transportation. Sign up by today. Need 10 to go and a parent permission slip is required. Call the youth center for details, 747-3150.

Thursday

BOWL BY MAIL TOURNAMENT

Join the youth center in the annual Bowl by Mail Tournament Dec. 27, formerly the "Postal Bowling Tournament." Bowling will start at 1 pm at Dakota Bowling Center. All youth center members ages 5 to 18 may participate. Cost is $3.50 for ages 5 – 8 (two games) and $5 for ages 9 to 18 (three games). Top three scores in each age group will be submitted to MAJCOM.

Register by close of business today. For more details, call 747-3150.

Upcoming

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Holiday Hours: Closing at noon Dec. 24, closed Dec. 25, and Jan. 1.

Holiday Print Sale: Take 20 percent off selected prints and framed artwork.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Susan Long

On thin ice

(Above and right) Members of the base hockey team move the puck against El Roco, during one of their Dec. 4 games in Eagles Arena in Grand Forks. The base team plays every Wednesday night at either the Blue Line or Eagles Arena. They are looking for more fan support, and people are encouraged to go watch them play, at no cost. For details on the team schedule, call Roy Fountain at 747-6093.

Youth sports

(Right) Youth cheerleaders show their form during a youth basketball game they cheered for Saturday morning. (Below) Youth players, both male and female, play in a game at Liberty Square. Youth sports are played throughout the year through the youth center. People with more questions on youth sports should call Sally Fuller at 747-3150.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Shorts

Base volleyball team

The Grand Forks Air Force Base Warriors co-ed volleyball team won Sunday night in the downtown Grand Forks league, advancing to the finals in a straight two games (15-1 and 15-13).

The first game was a blowout behind Pat O'Quinn's killer serving and Ruby Batimana's slick setting. Then the team let down a bit in the second game, falling behind 8-13.

A quick time-out got them back on track however, and some strong serving by Beth Turner, defensive play by Nati Reynoso-Abreu and hitting by Bobby Peel put them back on top for the win. The final match is Sunday at 8:30 p.m. at Center Court Fitness Club on 32nd Ave.

The team is still accepting members who are willing to commit to practice hard. All skills levels are welcome, but some experience is preferred. For details call Matt Duston at 747-5714.

Red, white, and blue weekend

Bemidji State University takes on the United States Air Force Academy 7:05 p.m. Jan. 24 at John Glas Field House, Bemidji State University. Tickets are half price for all military personnel and family members, I.D. appreciated. Half-priced reserved seating will be available in Section C for $6; and half-priced general admission seating will be available in Section B for $5.

The parents and family of the Air Force Academy Cadets will also be in Section B. A special block of reserved and general admission tickets will be held at the ticket table in the lobby of the John Glas Field House exclusively for base members.

Col. Keye Sabol, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander will perform the ceremonial puck drop to officially start the game.

Free UND women's hockey

University of North Dakota offers women's' hockey games at Engelstad Arena free to airmen and their families.

Bring military ID cards to the following games, and admission is free.

Saturday
St. Cloud State vs. UND, 2:05 p.m.
Sunday
St. Cloud State vs. UND, 2:05 p.m.

For details check out www.fightingsioux.com or www.theralph.com.

Thank you UND and Engelstad Arena.