

*From the Preside*

**Airfield 858**  
**Air Force Sergeant's Assoc. Chapter 858**  
**Vicky Kuntz – President**  
**14858 County Rd 30**  
**Elk River MN 55330**

Air Force Sergeant's Association  
Chapter 858

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Officers

President – Vicky Kuntz  
Vice President – Doug Altrichter  
Secretary – Chris Neitzel  
Awards Trustee – Sherrill Beecher  
Treasurer – Patty Boettner

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Richard Grewe  
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Thomas O'Keefe  
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Boy Scout Trustee and Webmaster –  
Dave Hammer  
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Jody Knight  
Membership Retention Trustee –  
William Cox  
Veterans Trustee – Tom Foss  
Trustee – Clayton Pyle  
Trustee – Lin Davidson

Auxiliary Chapter Officers

President – Beck Bogardus  
Vice President – Rose Hill  
Secretary/Treasurer – Fern Schneider

Airfield 858 Editor  
R. Sherrill Beecher

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The Armed Forces Service Center

Don't forget to utilize the Armed Forces Service Center if you're on active duty orders and at the airport waiting for your flight. They're open 24/7 and offer a bite to eat, internet access, local and long distance phone service and much more at no cost.

This is also a great volunteer opportunity. The biggest need is for people to cover the 1200 to 0400 shift. If you don't feel you can make a commitment at this time, you could be put on a call list to fill in when needed. That's what I do. I've been filling in for a regular volunteer who has suffered an injury and is unable to work for a few months. I work one 4-hour shift a month. If interested, contact the center directly at (612) 726-9156 or send an e-mail to [afsc\\_msp@qwest.net](mailto:afsc_msp@qwest.net).

Legislative Update

A big disappointment to the Military—the failure of “Retire at 55” to pass. This was in the \$87 Billion Iraq Supplemental Budget Request. It failed by only two votes, however, there seems to be new support for the passage of this bill. H.R. 742 by Rep. Jim Saxton, R-NJ, has eight new sponsors and S.1035 by Sen. Jon Corzine, D-NJ, has 9 new sponsors.

New TRICARE for Drilling Reserves passed in congress and signed by President Bush is a one year test for drilling reservists to sign up for TRICARE. DOD still has to figure out how to deliver the program, but here are some details. The cost per year will be \$420 for self-coverage and \$1440 for self and family. To be eligible you cannot be offered any health insurance through your civilian employer or be unemployed. More details will be coming soon.

The FY 2004 Defense Authorization Act authorized unlimited commissary shopping privileges for Guard and Reserve members and their families. In addition to concluding a long-standing AFSA legislative initiative, it also brings an end to the need for the pink Commissary Privilege Card. Previously, Reserve component personnel and their families were allowed only 24 commissary shopping visits per calendar year. This provision also applies to "gray area retirees" who were not formerly entitled to unlimited commissary shopping until they reached age 60. Now all Guard and Reserve members will be able to enjoy the convenience of unimpeded access to the commissary.

# 2003 in Review

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