

SOLDIERS

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was a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park, and she said she could have either advanced in the park service, or tried something new.

With a father and younger sister who were both in the Navy, the something new was going to be military service. The only decision was if she was going to buck the trend and join a different branch. She had narrowed it down to the Marines or the Navy, and after meeting with a Marine recruiter, the choice was clear.

“I met with a Marine recruiter, and he was way too hardcore for me,” she said. “I realized ‘Yeah, the Navy is the one for me.’”

Her time with the Navy has taken her around the world on six deployments, five of which have been ship deployments. The freedom to travel around the world has been a major selling point for the Navy, she said.

“You’re not just in one spot, it’s more fun, you get to see these different parts of the world,” she said.

Thailand, where she’s been four times on deployment, is her favorite location, she said. The gorgeous beaches, the friendly people, as well as the dirt-cheap food and lodging makes it a great place to be deployed, she said.

The Navy also offered Lindahl the opportunity for her family to see the ship on which she was deployed, as



Amy Lindahl with her father, Chuck, who served in the Navy for four years. Amy’s younger sister also served in the Navy.

well as spend about a week with her on it as it returned home. On the way back to San Diego, Lindahl said ships stop in Hawaii, where family members can board the ship, and take the five-to six-day trip back to San Diego with them. This trip is called a Tiger Cruise.

Chuck Lindahl, Amy’s father, served four years in the Navy, and was never on a ship, he said. So, of course, his first Tiger Cruise was on the roughest seas Amy said she’s seen in her 14 years of service. He ended up with seasick-

ness, and his big regret was missing out on a great meal.

“I missed steak and lobster night,” he said. “I was eating saltine crackers.”

Amy Lindahl’s future with the Navy isn’t set in stone, she said. She has six more years before her 20-year mark, after which she qualifies for retirement pay. If she keeps hitting the milestones to move up in rank, she said she could see herself going for 24-25 years. But the deciding factor won’t be laurels, she said.

“As long as I’m still having fun, I’ll stay in,” she said.

Just like Border State Bank has adopted her and sends her care packages, Lindahl said her favorite memories of her service involve the bond she shares with her fellow soldiers, whom she “adopts as family,” she said.

“You’re stuck in the same crappy situation with these people, so you bond over that,” she said. “When the deployment’s over, it’s sad to see us all go our separate ways.”

JAKSA

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man Rick Nolan. And, she said getting the U.S. and Canadian ambassadors and others involved may be a step in the right direction.

She used medical and education resources as an example of mutual benefits.

International Falls has for several years sought ways to provide dialysis services in the community, but is not able to build it’s own center because of a lack of population and a lack of support by a major provider.

Fort Frances provides dialysis services, but Americans, instead of driving a few blocks across the border for the service, are forced to travel to places like Eveleth. Some people who require dialysis have said they have been forced to move from International Falls to obtain the needed medical services.

And, Jaksa said, Canadians have expressed interest in using American medical services offered in International Falls.

“We need to break down the barriers of the payer systems between the two countries, and work with various levels of government,” she said. “It’s just a matter of getting parties together to look at this.”

Jaksa said everyone who has discussed the potential of sharing resources across the border say it can be done, but there needs to be a plan.

“It’s not about laws, so

we should be able to do this and with the right will, we can get it done,” she said. “I think it’s a doable thing.”

And sharing education facilities has been discussed, Jaksa said.

A recent meeting between Fort Frances and International Falls business community members revealed that Rainy River Community College is not viewed as competition by Canadians, but rather a resource.

Jaksa said barriers to Canadian students attending U.S. education facilities must be removed to benefit both sides of the border.

“As we as pull together, there is more opportunity to see what we can do together,” she said. “With the right people in both countries, we can do something.”

She said she’s using the Beyond the Border Initiative endorsed by Canada and the U.S. to assist in the effort. On Feb. 4, 2011, President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the United States-Canada joint declaration, Beyond the Border: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitive-

ness. Jaksa said the declaration seeks more cross-border trade and intertwining of cultures.

She encouraged seeking support from similar communities across the northern border of the United States that would also benefit from removing down barriers between cross-border communities.

TEAMS

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And Anderson and Ecklund said they look forward to seeing the groups work for the long-term, 18-24 month effort, after which membership will be again considered.

“This is not a short-term thing,” said Ecklund. “Generally to put goals together will take that long”

Anderson said it’s important that the teams organize well.

“We, as Americans, love to jump into the task,” he said. “We know what we want to do, but it takes time to organize yourself and have a plan for the long run. If you fail to plan, plan to fail. And they are doing their planning, organizing themselves and paying at-

tention to the process in the first two or three meetings, getting mission statements put together so they continue to be focused on what that mission statement is in the next 18 to 24 months.”

Ecklund and Anderson said they’re hearing positive comments from members of the three teams.

Ecklund noted that the worker retention team has asked for representatives of organized labor to be included. A part of the team is a young worker who will lose his job at the mill, Ecklund said. And, he said the long-term vision and strategy team has asked for a county commissioner to be a member to give balance.

Aside from members of the teams, Anderson said a number of resources have come forward to assist the community and the teams.

He pointed to Randy Lasky, of The Northspan Group, who is facilitating the team meetings and helping to bring the team members together.

In addition, he said staff from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development are offering assistance.

Staff with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission are assisting with the application of a planning grant, that could range from \$200,000 to \$250,000, from the federal Economic Development Administration. Anderson said details about a local match that would be required, should the money be granted, from the community have not yet been determined. The grant would be used to assist in developing informa-

tion that could be provided to prospective business as well as government agencies.

And he said all three federal representatives of Borderland have assisted in obtaining Trade Adjustment Assistance for displaced mill workers.

In addition, U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken and Congressman Rick Nolan are working to have Koochiching County designated as a distressed county, which would be helpful in seeking grants and getting additional money for the community, including for airport improvements, Anderson said.

But Anderson stressed that the community cannot rely solely on the teams and agencies to help the community recover from the

loss of jobs at the mill.

“We need every citizen thinking about economic development,” said Anderson. “Some citizens would say ‘what can I do?’ Just keeping homes and yards neat adds to look of the community, and it’s the same with businesses. People are visiting our community every week of the year and we need to look like a progressive, well organized community. People driving up and down the streets of the community may be looking to retire here, or to have a business here, who knows?”

Anderson pointed to successful efforts in the community that have assisted the local economy, including the confidence by several businesses which made recent investments, an additional \$1 million

generated by a second cold-weather testing box, and a comeback in the tourism industry following a setback during the recent recession.

And he said the community has been fortunate in that the paper mill has continued to operate during the recession when other sections of the nation were experiencing worse economic troubles.

He also pointed to Rainy River Community College as a great community resources which has stepped forward to be a part of the recovery process.

“If we are to be successful, it’s because we’re all pulling together and our city and county government are working together. So there is hope we can weather the storm and come back even better.”

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Dennis and Annette Bush & Family
would like to thank every one who so generously gave to our benefit on Saturday the 17th of August. We are so overwhelmed with the compassion and generosity of all the wonderful people who sponsored, with food, monies and their time.


Words cannot describe the love and compassion that we feel and how this has made us feel so welcome in the church and community.

Friends from both the U.S. & Canadian side responded with love and compassion.



Thank you from the bottom of our heart and may God bless you all.

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Happy Birthday Brenda
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*I sit here and think how very much
I'd like to talk with you today
There are so many things
That we didn't get to say.
I know how much you cared for me
And how much I cared for you,
And each time I think of you
I know you'll miss me too.*

*An angel came and took you by the hand, and said
Your place was ready in Heaven, far above...
And you had to leave behind, all those you dearly loved
You had so much to live for, you had so much to do...*

*It still seems impossible that God was taking you.
And though your life on earth is past, in Heaven it starts anew
You'll live all eternity, just as God has promised you.
And though you've walked through Heaven's gate
We are never far apart
For every time I think of you,
You're right here, deep with-in my heart.*


Love, Mom

**From the Family of
Jim McKelvey**

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped make Jim's memorial turn out so beautiful. To his Boise family:

Thank you for all your support during Jim's sickness and after his death from lawn care to helping prepare his memorial. To the staff and faculty at RRCC: Thank you for your kindness, it is very much appreciated.

To all the other people who've helped and contributed with everything during Jim's year long battle with cancer.

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.
We are truly thankful to you all.

