

# KANZA SPIRIT

## 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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February 2007

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol.12, No. 2

## Guam In The Rearview

### 931st Airmen back from Andersen Air Force Base

BY STAFF SGT. K.L. KIMBRELL  
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from the 931st Air Refueling Group recently deployed to Guam on two rotations with members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Three elements of the 931st ARG deployed to the location: aircrew, intelligence and maintenance.

The deployment was in support of Pacific Air Forces and Pacific Command.

"We were manned for 24 hour operations, but only implemented the 24 hour operations during perceived escalations in the region," said Lt. Col. William Eaton, 931st Operations Support Flight, Chief of Intelligence.

Some of the Airmen were there for a little longer than two weeks, but some stayed the duration.

"I spent 15 days in theater," said Maj. Michael Moeding, 931st OSF, Chief of Current Operations.

When not on alert status, the crews flew training sorties.

"The tankers would refuel one or two B-52's on training missions daily," said Lt. Col. Eaton. "Occasionally, the aircraft were tasked by the Tanker Airlift Control Center for other missions, including prisoner transport."

Crews rotated the missions.

"I flew twice and offloaded about 85,000 pounds of fuel," said Major Moeding.

Quite a bit of fuel was transferred dur-



ing their time there.

"The 931st aircrews and support staff supported contingency missions totaling 220 plus hours while offloading in excess of 1.3 million pounds of gas," said Lt. Col. Eaton.

Some missions were performed on the ground.

"I gave current intelligence briefings to the aircrew daily, debriefed them when they returned for each mission report, and submitted the situation reports," said Master Sgt. Cindy Edwards, 931st OSF, Intelligence.

Between missions and briefings, the Airmen found a little time for some rest and relaxation.

"This was a great trip to escape the below freezing weather in Wichita and enjoy the Pacific island weather of 80-90 degrees," said Lt. Col. Eaton. "Activities that were accomplished included SCUBA (self contained underwater breathing apparatus) certification and diving, snorkeling, WWII island tours, golf, physical fitness, beach parties, and some volunteer work also."

### THIS UTA

#### HRDC

There will be a 931st ARG Human Resources Development Council meeting on Saturday at 3 p.m. in the Southwind Conference Room (Bldg. 850).

#### Dining Facility

The hours of operation for the Chisholm Trail Dining Facility are:  
Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.  
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Dinner: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Chapel Service

Chapel Service will be held at 7:45 a.m. Sunday in the Southwind Conference Room. All group members are invited to attend.

#### Employer Award

Reservists and their family members are encouraged to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards. The nomination process is currently open and will conclude on February 28, 2007. The goal of 5,000 nominations is a relatively small number, as ESGR estimates over 200,000 employers in America employ National Guardsmen and Reservists. To Register your employer, visit the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve website at:

[WWW.ESGR.MIL](http://WWW.ESGR.MIL)

[WWW.931ARG.AFRC.AF.MIL](http://WWW.931ARG.AFRC.AF.MIL)



**VOL. 12 NO. 2**

**COMMANDER**  
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**DEADLINES**

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is close of business of the UTA.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Kanza Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government of the Dept. of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 931st Public Affairs Office. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

The *Kanza Spirit* is mailed each month to all 931st ARG members on file with Personnel. Members not receiving their copy should check with their administration section to ensure their filed address is correct.

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to the February UTA,

First of all, I'm sure you will be happy to know that we are not participating in an Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) or other exercise with the 22nd Air Refueling Wing this weekend. The best thing we can do to prepare for our Operational Readiness Inspection is to stay current on our chemical defense training and mobility requirements. Please work with your training managers and unit deployment managers to make this happen.

Since the January UTA, we have had several outstanding expeditionary Airmen and Noncommissioned Officers from the civil engineer squadron return from deployment. Please join me in welcoming them home. I also would like to underscore that since last fall we have continuously had at least one aircrew deployed with the 22nd ARW. What a great total force effort! Thanks to all of our patriots and volunteers!

Congrats to the four 1st Lieutenants that were selected for promotion to captain. As of this writing, three of them were deployed fighting the Global War on Terrorism – what a great example from our young officers.

Col. Tim Cahoon will assume command of the 931st Air Refueling Group during the March UTA. Under his leadership we will quickly be facing deployments for civil engineering, operations and maintenance. Also, mass fitness testing will be held during the April UTA. Please start preparing for these events now.

Notice above, I mentioned our CE expeditionary Airmen. The Air Force and Air Force Reserve are emphasizing our Airman Heritage and Airman Pride. No longer will I refer to our enlisted force as "troops" or "kids". Please join the command's efforts to re-instill the fact that we are all Airmen First and we should be proud of it! Enjoy the UTA.



**Clayton W. Childs, Colonel**  
*931st ARG Commander*

**Who do you know?**

The **Kanza Spirit** staff is looking for story ideas about 931st members who have unique hobbies or jobs, especially those that offer opportunities for unusual and interesting photos. Please contact Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell at (316) 759-3686 or kenny.kimbrell-02@mccconnell.af.mil with your ideas.

**UTA SCHEDULE**

**Next UTA: March 10-11**

*April 14-15*

*May 5-6*

*June 9-10*



## LETTER TO AIRMEN

**Honorable Michael W. Wynne**  
**Secretary of the Air Force**

### *Every Airman an Ambassador*

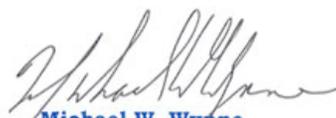
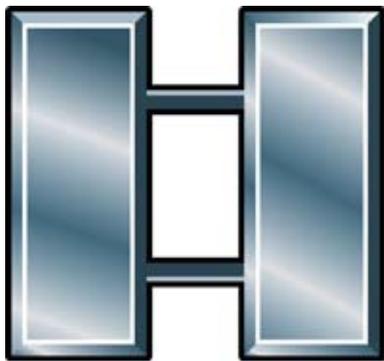
Delivering sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America, as well as her global interests, and winning the Global War on Terror are our Air Force's most fundamental objectives. We provide the air, space and cyberspace capabilities necessary for Joint and Coalition forces to execute decisively, interdependently, and dominantly in every engagement. Our Air Force is unequalled in its ability to do so for one reason: the passion, talents, and ingenuity of you, our matchless Airmen!

Yet one of our most remarkable skills remains largely untapped and unrefined. I am referring to your service as Ambassadors in Blue, both around the world and in our communities here at home. Your actions, behavior, and words, both on and off duty, have a great impact on your host nation's or local community's perception of America and our Air Force. But these areas are not the only components of the Every Airman an Ambassador mindset we need to enhance.

Presently, over 200,000 of our Airmen carry out missions on a daily basis for Combatant Commanders around the world; of these, over 60,000 of you are stationed forward and more than 26,000 are deployed, working hand-in-glove with our international partners. We are truly a globally engaged force. More than ever, we depend on our allied Airmen to succeed, and they depend on us. We must fly and fight as one. We teach, we partner, we learn--and in building friendships, we build trust. America's security today and in the future depends on building successful international partnerships, one Airman at a time.

Likewise, we must capitalize on your talent as Ambassadors to your communities here at home. As I related in the August 2006 Letter to Airmen, Every Airman a Communicator, sharing the Air Force message is not just for our senior leaders and public affairs representatives. I encourage Airmen to engage your communities and their leaders with your personal stories of service, to share your views on the unique capabilities our Air Force brings to the fight, and to articulate what we need to keep that force strong and vital. One message, many voices; it is essential we communicate our role in fighting the Global War on Terror in addition to the Global Vigilance, Reach, and Power the Air Force provides the Nation across the strategic commons of air, space, and cyberspace.

As your Secretary, I am committed to boosting your regional, cultural and language skills to make you a more capable Ambassador so that you can help build lasting long-term relationships with our allies and coalition partners. At the same time, I want you to unleash your talents here at home, so that you can tell the greater Air Force story, share your personal Air Force story, and serve as an example in your local community. With Every Airman an Ambassador, America and its Air Force will shine as the protector of the beacon of freedom that is our nation!

  
  
**Michael W. Wynne**  
Secretary of the Air Force

Congratulations to the 931st Air Refueling Group's newest Captain selects:

**Austin Aggson**

**Kevin Dark**

**Carl McLain**

**Jonathan Murphy**

# 931st CES In Iraq

# Desert Duty

Supporting the War on Terrorism

STORY BY STAFF SGT. K.L. KIMBRELL  
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

M

embers of the 931st Civil Engineer Squadron have returned from supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

Eight civil engineer Airmen returned from Iraq on Jan 19 to a warm 931st Air Refueling Group welcome at Mid-continent Airport in Wichita, Kan.

The deployed Airmen supported building and rebuilding efforts around Iraq.

Master Sergeants Jeff Kilian and Melvin "Rusty" Kurtz were assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

Master Sgt. Kilian was assigned to the structures shop and Master Sgt. Kurtz to the welding shop.

Sergeant Kilian's team was kept quite busy.

"We (the structures shop) became involved with a major remodel of existing facilities for the moving of the Kirkuk Headquarters facility," said Sergeant



Kilian.

The structures shop took on a large scale project.

"This involved over a dozen functions and with no facility large enough to handle moving all of the functions in one move, nearly a dozen buildings had to be

remodeled," added Sergeant Kilian.

The project, nearing completion was passed on to the next rotation of expeditionary civil engineer Airmen.

"After four months the complete move was still not finished and spilled over into AEF 5/6," stated Sergeant Kilian.





## CES DEPLOYERS

Lt.Col. Kim Thompson  
 SMSgt Eric Osen  
 SMSgt Dallas Jones  
 SMSgt Al Janzen  
 MSgt Jeffrey Kilian  
 MSgt Melvin Kurtz  
 MSgt Noah Ordoyne  
 MSgt William Souder  
 TSgt Jay Agnew  
 TSgt Erin Hubbard  
 TSgt Steven Tracy  
 TSgt Frank Ritter  
 TSgt William Westpfahl  
 SSgt Arthur Banks  
 SSgt Ryan Larson  
 SrA Tim Porter

The structures Airman was also called upon to open some safes.

"I personally was involved with the opening of five safes with lost combinations, which saved the government more than \$20,000," said Sergeant Kilian.

Master Sgt. Kurtz and Tech. Sgt. Dustin Munroe of the 507th CES were tasked to improve the design of a metal box, but did more than that.

"Sergeant Kurtz and Tech. Sgt. Dustin Munroe improved the design of an external robot security container that they were asked to replicate for the Joint Explosive Rapid Response Vehicles," said Capt. Wil-

liam Frost, 506th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight Commander.

Sergeants Kurtz and Munroe weren't willing to settle.

"They were unsatisfied with the design and not willing to build an inferior product," said Capt. Frost.

The EOD flight weren't the only ones impressed with the design. The duo also will receive the Army Commendation Medal for their work on the project.

"The design was approved by the JER-RV manufacturer and is being appraised for theater wide asset modification," said the Captain.

TSgt Steven G. Tracy was the Non-commissioned Officer in charge of the barrier Maintenance Section.

"I helped provide mission essential aircraft arresting system capability at the primary divert base in Iraq," said Sergeant Tracy.

Appreciation for 931 CES Airmen was shown at home and abroad.

"Not everyone can deploy, but when you do, you represent the best this unit and our country have to offer; the Citizen Airman, the selfless sacrifice of the everyday American citizen taking up arms to support our country in its time of need," said Col. Clayton Childs, 931st ARG Commander. "For this reason, each and every deployer has my greatest respect and admiration."



MSgt Jeffrey Kilian



## Military OneSource offers free on-line tax filing

BY GERRY J. GILMORE  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

**WASHINGTON** -- The Defense Department's Military OneSource family support program is once again offering free, online tax preparation and filing for servicemembers and their families, officials said Feb. 2.

The service began Jan. 15. It's available to active duty servicemembers, National Guardsmen and reservists and their families.

This is the second year of the program. Last year, more than 327,000 tax claims were filed using a similar program, said Jane Burke, the principal director in the office of the deputy undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

Ms. Burke added servicemembers can put their tax refunds to good use as a deposit in a savings or retirement account or to pay off debts.

"How to use the refund may be the first financial decision of the year" for servicemembers in improving their financial readiness, Ms. Burke noted. DOD is launching a campaign called "Military Saves" to encourage servicemembers to save money and eliminate or reduce their personal debt.

Filers who use Military OneSource's online system can expect to receive their refund within 10 days, Ms. Burke said. And Military OneSource tax consultants, she said, are trained to answer questions on preparing and filing taxes and provide other financial management information.

Additionally, through the Military OneSource Web site at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com), servicemembers and their families can get guidance and answers to questions, Burke said.

The Military OneSource service augments the long-standing voluntary income tax assistance program offered through legal centers at most military installations, Ms. Burke said. Volunteers at the centers provide free tax preparation and filing services.

Tax-filing assistance also is available through the Internal Revenue Service's electronic filing program.

Military OneSource's online tax preparation and filing was very popular with servicemembers and their families last year, Ms. Burke said.

"It is just one more way we can help improve the quality of life for our troops and their families," she said.

**WWW.MILITARYONESOURCE.COM**



## Still time to apply for Commissary scholarship

BY CARRIE WILLIAMS  
DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

**FORT LEE, Va.** -- While chocolate and flowers are traditional Valentine gifts, perhaps for students the best gift is a \$1,500 college scholarship.

The Scholarships for Military Children program might be just the ticket this Valentine's Day, but don't procrastinate because applications must be turned in at a commissary by close of business Feb. 21.

The scholarships are available to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired members. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

An applicant must be planning to attend an accredited college or university full time in the fall term of 2007, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Scholarship applications are available at 263 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at <http://www.commissaries.com>, <http://www.militaryscholar.org> or <http://www.dodea.edu>.

Along with their application, applicants must include an essay on "how and why" they would change an historical event. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

"Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program," said Patrick Nixon, the Defense Commissary Agency director and chief executive officer. "Nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling more than \$4 million have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001."

Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers who sell groceries in commissaries, and every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships. The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

A significant number of scholarships, about 10 percent every year, go to high school students at Department of Defense schools overseas. "Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future," said Joseph Tafoya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"With college costs soaring, our DoD students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many of our families to better afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard," said Tafoya. "They also demonstrate that military communities are committed to education and increased opportunities for all students."

Donations can be made through the link at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>, the official program Web site.

**vPC-GR**

Air Force Reserve members can now request corrections to their awards and decorations or submit their personnel for an award or decoration online. You also can make corrections to duty history, apply for retirement, and request other personnel support. Log on to vPC-GR today and learn how to accomplish all this without leaving the office.



For more information or to register and begin accessing vPC-GR, log on to:

[HTTPS://ARPC.AFRC.AF.MIL/VPC-GR/](https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vpc-gr/)

**Need AF Forms? Regs?**

Service members seeking Air Force and Department of Defense forms, Air Force Instructions and other official documents can obtain them from Air Force E-Publishing online, the official Source Site for Air Force administrative pubs.

To obtain your documents, visit:

[WWW.E-PUBLISHING.AF.MIL](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil)

**v-RED**

Virtual Records of Emergency Data are no longer maintained by the Military Personnel Flight. The vREDs are now maintained online and updated on the vMPF. Should something happen to a servicemember this form is used to contact your next of kin. It is recommended that two copies be made after updating the record, one for personal record to be kept at home and one for the servicemembers mobility folder maintained by the unit. Several things that can change and require vRED updates are: marriages, deaths, births, address changes and promotion.



**NCO Leadership Development Course**

The Noncommissioned Officer Leadership development course is being held at the 931st Air Refueling Group March 19 - 30. To sign up, contact Senior Master Sgt. Pam Summers at 316-759-5423.

**Reactivated? Keep Tricare**

The families of National Guardsmen and Reservists enrolled in TRICARE Prime under the Transitional Assistance Management Program are automatically switched to TRICARE Standard when their sponsors are recalled to active duty. New rules allow them to keep their Prime coverage when they re-enroll up to 30 days after the sponsor's activation.



As long as the family gets re-enrolled in TRICARE Prime within 30 days of the member's reactivation, Prime coverage remains unchanged, with coverage back to the date the sponsor was recalled to active duty. For more information, visit:

[WWW.MILITARY.COM/BENEFITS/TRICARE](http://www.military.com/benefits/tricare)

**Reporting Statement**

Reserve and National Guard members receiving Veteran's Affairs compensation or pension benefits at the time called to active service must contact a VA regional office to report the date of activation. Failure to report will result in possible overpayments.

[WWW.SEAMLESSTRANSITION.VA.GOV](http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov)

**SPiRiT SPOTLIGHT**

**Senior Airman Theron Thompson** has served for more than four years, including three months in the Air Force Reserve.

**Job Title:** Information Management

**Civilian job:** Best Buy Geek Squad

**Favorite way to relax:** Playing acoustic guitar

**What annoys me:** Too much jibber-jabber (talking)

**Most influential person in my life:** The head of my Church, Cornelius Sanders II

**If I won \$1 million, I would:** Buy a house and cars, go on a cruise and invest the remainder

**What I'm reading now:** The power to become by Cornelius Sanders II



**931st Civil Engineer Squadron**

## Saliva

Feb. 9 — Saliva with special guests Crossfade at the Cotillion. Doors open at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20. Tickets on the day of show will be \$23. For further information and to charge by phone call 316-722-4201. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit:

[WWW.THECOTILLION.COM](http://WWW.THECOTILLION.COM)

## Midwest Cage Combat

Feb. 10 — Midwest Cage Combat: Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$75 Ringside; \$40 Reserved and \$25 General Admission. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit:

[WWW.THECOTILLION.COM](http://WWW.THECOTILLION.COM)

## Cosmic Bowling

Feb. 9 & 10 — 7 - 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Tornado Alley Bowling Center located at the Robert J. Dole Community Center. \$2.25 per game or \$10 all you can bowl. For more information contact the 22nd Services Squadron at 316-759-6187 or by visiting:

[WWW.22SVSSQ.ORG](http://WWW.22SVSSQ.ORG)

# At the Movies



## Code Name: Cleaner

FRIDAY, Feb. 9 7pm

1 hr. 24 min. An amnesiac janitor, who is duped into thinking he is an undercover agent, is subconsciously carrying a secret that can link the FBI with an arms scandal.

**MPAA Rating:** PG-13, Crude humor/violence



## Night At the Museum

SATURDAY, Feb. 10 7pm

1 hr. 49 min. Good-hearted dreamer Larry Daley accepts what appears to be a menial job as a graveyard-shift security guard at a museum of natural history. The job turns out to be more of an adventure with exhibits coming to life and causing chaos.

**MPAA Rating:** PG - Mild action, language, rude humor

*Movies are shown at the McConnell Air Force Base Theater and are subject to change. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime.*

**McConnell Movie Line – (316) 759-4181**

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