

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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Neither Rain Nor Ice

Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap



Lt. Col. John Stansfield, 18th ARS pilot, instructs Mark Koehn inside a KC-135 Stratotanker simulator at McConnell AFB. Koehn and other spouses of 931st members visited the Group during the December UTA.

Spouses' day continues despite bad weather

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
and Senior Airman Connor Elayan
931st ARG Public Affairs

It wasn't time to land yet, so Lt. Col. John Stansfield said to his co-pilot, Mark Koehn, "Fly around those mountains if you want to." But Koehn didn't go around them. He went between them. And when the aircraft computer quit yelling at him to gain elevation, Koehn landed safely back at McConnell Air Force Base. Not bad for less than an hour's training.

Unlike Col. Stansfield, Koehn is not one of the 931st's pilots. He is the husband of Civil Engineer Squadron's Tech. Sgt. Tina Koehn and was among the family members who visited the Group during the Decem-

ber Unit Training Assembly for a Spouse's Orientation Flight. But when freezing rain grounded the flight, Koehn and others were virtually upgraded from KC-135 coach class to the next best thing, the pilot's seat in a KC-135 simulator, what Mark Koehn called a "video game with pizzazz."

The day started off with a mission briefing in the SouthWind Conference room. From there, some spouses opted to go straight to the simulator. Others chose to take an in-depth tour of a KC-135 Stratotanker.

"For some, they have not had the opportunity to really see a KC-135," said Major Christopher Grosjean, the 18th Air Refueling Squadron pilot who organized the spouse's orientation flight. "This

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News To Use

Commander's Call Rescheduled

The Commander's Call originally scheduled for the Sunday morning of the January Unit Training Assembly has been rescheduled for a time to be announced during the February UTA. It is mandatory for all 931st Airmen to attend the February UTA.

December UTA Make-up Optional

There are two options for Group members who did not attend the Sunday portion of December's Unit Training Assembly that was cancelled because of bad weather. Airmen may have the day excused or talk to superiors about the possibility of rescheduling the two UTA blocks.

ReserveNet Deadline Set

Effective Jan. 14, the Monday following the January UTA, all 931st Airmen will be required to use ReserveNet for duty scheduling, to include annual tour, manday, UTA reschedules and other temporary duty requests. Paper requests will no longer be accepted.

Editor's Note

Due to the shortened December Unit Training Assembly and a shortage of manpower in the 931st public affairs office, this issue of the Kanza Spirit is smaller than usual. Readers' patience during this time is much appreciated.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

NEW YEAR, SAME CHALLENGE: HIGH TEMPO & MORE WITH LESS

I write this just before Christmas, but you will be reading it after Christmas. So I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that you all did have a safe, enjoyable holiday with family and friends.

We had a busy 2007. Thank you for all you did for your country during the past year. Our team accomplished much and did it in a manner that does us all proud. I especially thank your family members who supported you and allowed you to give your time, energy, and attention to the Air Force Reserve and our mission.

I get a lump in my throat, and teary eyed just thinking about the special people in our military today. We are so fortunate to have such willing, capable military members. Our nation does not fully understand or appreciate the character, talent,

skill, experience and intelligence you all possess. Yet, despite the lack of appreciation and the sacrifice required, you all continue to do what you do because you understand the importance of what we do, and that our family and friends need us to protect them and our way of life. Never in the history of the world has there been a military force so capable and courageous, yet so humble, altruistic, and so full of integrity as you. You should be proud. I know I am.

So where does this fine force go from here? The work is never done. The sacrifice never diminished. Manpower goes down overall, things get more expensive, and more and more airplanes, vehicles, buildings and equipment have to be replaced, but funding does not go up proportionately. Our work will require that you continue to believe that your service is indispensable, your sacrifice is worthy and necessary, and desire stronger than ever to give of yourself.

We can't look back, we can't rest on our laurels. There is much still to be done, and you can rest assured the bad guys aren't going to give up any time soon. They aren't distracted, they aren't tiring, and our successes are only encouraging them to redouble their efforts to diminish the Western world and permanently

alter our way of life by one terrorist act at a time if necessary.

Make no mistake about it, despite what some politicians, news commentators, media stars or college professors may say, we are at war, we are warriors, and we must lead our lives with that in mind. We can not give the bad guys an opportunity, show our weakness, or relax, because they will take advantage of it. Our nation's future depends upon us.

2008 will require much of us-constant practice, planning and preparation for training exercises, inspections, and real-world deployments to far away places; training, training, training; doing more with less; figuring out how to do what we do more efficiently and effectively; reviewing our processes to reduce wasted time and money, and focusing our time and effort to better produce the desired effect. We need to be better trained with more limited resources.

It will take all of us, and it will take all of our energy. We need your ideas to do this smarter and better. We need to eliminate wasted motion, duplicate training sessions, excess purchases. You name it, we must do it better. We need your initiative and follow-up. We must be 100 percent ready to do our mission absolutely right all the time. Reserve duty is no longer a part-time hobby or a club, if it ever was.

This is an intense business, and being a warrior requires intensity, enthusiasm, focus, and devotion. Whether we like it or not, it is now an Operational Reserve, and an integral part of the Total Force. We have no choice. Are you ready?

Again, thank you for all you have done in the past, and I wish you and your family the best in 2008.



"Reserve duty is no longer a part-time hobby or a club, if it ever was."

William T. Cahoon

William T. Cahoon, Colonel
931st Air Refueling Group Commander

Integrity



Service



Excellence



Vol.13 No.1

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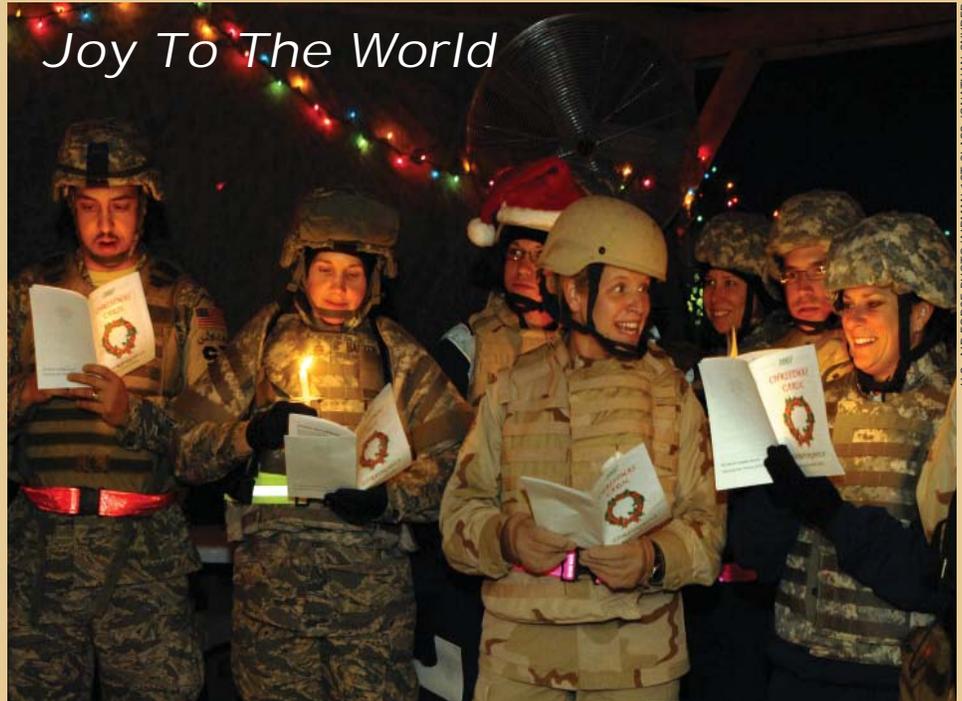
Deadlines

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

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The *Kanza Spirit* is emailed each month to all 931st ARG members. Members not receiving their copy should check with their workgroup manager. The publication is also posted monthly on the unit website: www.931arg.afrc.af.mil

Joy To The World



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JONATHAN SNYDER

Airmen of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group at Ali Base, Iraq, sing Christmas songs Dec. 24 during a caroling event hosted by the base chapel. 931st ARG members are expected to continue deployments to "far away" places in 2008.

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gave them the time to crawl around the aircraft and see the cockpit and boom pod."

Family members were allowed to experience the simulator after the KC-135 tour, to include practicing take-offs and landings in a variety of weather and lighting conditions.

"The opportunity to fly a simulator gave some of the spouses real hands on experience doing what their husbands do everyday," Major Grosjean said.

Brooke Wroblewski, wife of Capt. Layne Wrob-

lewski, 931st Military Equal Opportunity, was one of a number of spouses to brave the weather for the orientation events and take advantage of the aircraft tour and the flight simulators.

While Mrs. Wroblewski has seen a KC-135 from the outside, this was the first time she was given an opportunity to tour the inside.

"I wanted to get a better look," Mrs. Wroblewski said. "We really got to see how everything works."

Another first for her: the flight simulator.

"The first time I took off, I crashed, so they had to reset it," Mrs. Wroblewski said. "It's definitely hard, but it was really a lot of fun."

Major Grosjean thought the event was successful in showing spouses how the unit stays mission-ready.

"Hopefully, they (the spouses) can understand a little more to what happens on a daily basis and how important our training is to stay proficient," Major Grosjean said.

The next spouse's orientation flight is planned tentatively for the spring.

UTA Schedule

Next UTA: January 12-13

February 9-10

March 8-9 (March 6-7 Mandatory Annual Tour, March 5 Optional)

April 5-6 (March 31-April 4 Mandatory Annual Tour)

DATES IN RED DENOTE MANDATORY UTAs

SPIRIT SHORTS

Coin artist needed

Col. William Cahoon, 931st ARG commander, is looking for design ideas for a new Group coin. Proposed designs should be submitted to Tech. Sgt. Kristina Mixon in the Headquarters Office by the end of the March Unit Training Assembly. Sgt. Mixon's phone number is (316) 759-5551.

Employer nomination deadline approaching

Airmen have until Jan. 21 to nominate employers for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. All Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in support of military employees. The award is the U.S. government's highest recognition given to outstanding employers. Nominations can be submitted at www.esgr.mil

Flu vaccine clarification for Air Force Reservists

Personnel at the McConnell Air Force Base medical clinic have reminded Group leadership that Reservists are not allowed to receive immunizations unless they are in military status, to include Air Reserve Technicians. Reservists who visit the

clinic between Unit Training Assemblies should also tell immunization personnel of their Reserve status. Failure to do so will result in administration of the intranasal Flumist given this year to all Active Duty, Guard and family members, rather than the flu shots reserved for Group members.

Identity theft victims should contact MSF

Air Force Reserve Command has instituted procedures to help protect Airmen who become victims of identity theft. Group members who have their identity stolen should contact the Military Support Flight's Lt. Col. Kerry Lehman at (316) 759-3788 or Master Sgt. Alma Fewlass at (316) 759-3793.

Flag giveaway postponed til February

The Pearl Harbor Flag sponsored by the Human Resource Development Council has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. on Feb. 10, the Sunday of the February Training Assembly.

The giveaway was previously scheduled for the second half of the December UTA that was cancelled due to bad weather.

Donations to be considered for the flag giveaway will be accepted up until 2 p.m.

on Feb. 10. Contact Staff Sgt. Marvell Sumerow at (316) 759-4851 or Tech. Sgt. Tanya Lange at (316) 759-5484 for more information.

Policy changes made for enlisted promotion

Air Force Reserve Command recently adopted changes to policies concerning promotion for enlisted personnel, to include:

—24 months retainability for promotion to E-7 through E-9

—ineligibility for all members with any unexcused absences within the previous 12 months

—annual promotion enhancement program (PEP) board to meet in September with promotions effective Oct. 1 (PEP boards were previously held twice per year)

Wichita locations deemed off limits for Airmen

The McConnell Disciplinary Control Board has ordered the Papi's Ultra Lounge at 430 E. Douglas Street and the Kat Eyez Club and Fat Katz restaurant, located at 1206 South Rock Road off-limits to McConnell Airmen (in active-duty status) effective immediately due to circumstances deemed unsafe for military members and their families.

WICHITA WEEKEND

Shocker Basketball

Jan. 12 — Catch Division 1 basketball and the fan frenzy at Koch Arena as the Wichita State Shockers take on the Bluejays of Creighton. Tip off scheduled for 7:05 p.m.

WWW.GOSHOCKERS.COM

U.S. Hot Rod Thundernationals

Jan. 11 & 12 — Watch ten thousand pound monster trucks fly through the air at the event that millions have watched for seventeen years. Shows scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

WWW.SELECTASEAT.COM

Jason Boland & the Stragglers

Jan. 12 — Listen to country sounds of Jason Boland & The Stragglers, with special guest South 40, at the Cotillion. Doors scheduled to open 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$12.50. Tickets on the day of the show will be \$15.

WWW.THESTRAGGLERS.COM
WWW.THECOTILLION.COM



Editor's Note

The movie schedule at the McConnell AFB theater during the January Unit Training Assembly was not available at the time the *Kanza Spirit* was published. When updated the schedule will be posted at: WWW.AAFES.COM/EMS/CONUS/MCCONNELL.HTM