

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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April 2008

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol. 13, No. 4

photo by Staff Sgt. Connor Burkhard



Total MOPP Force

Staff Sgt. Julie Stephenson (*right*) and Airman 1st Class William Ewing take cover during a readiness exercise at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., in March. Sergeant Stephenson is a Reservist with the 931st Air Refueling Group and Airman Ewing is an active-duty Airman with the 22nd Air Refueling Wing. They are scheduled to train together again in April at another exercise in Wis-

Group heading to Volk with active duty, guard

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st ARG Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. John Bryan has two words for Group members heading to Wisconsin: long underwear.

Snow banks and cold temperatures greeted Sergeant Bryan and other personnel when they arrived March 12 at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wis., to survey the location of the Group's upcoming readiness exercise and inspection. Much of the same was expected when Airmen touch down at Volk Field in early April. "It will either be snowy and cold,"

Capt. Mark Villacis predicted, "or it will be muddy and cold."

Captain Villacis, 18th Air Refuel-

ing Squadron pilot, was among the 931st members who flew with Sergeant Bryan and 22nd Air Refueling Wing personnel to survey Volk Field.

Sergeant Bryan, Readiness and Emergency Management Flight Superintendent, 931st Civil Engineer Squadron, Captain Villacis and others shared their thoughts during a meeting a few days later at the 931st headquarters.

Sergeant Bryan was the first to answer with his long underwear suggestion when the Group's training chief, Lt. Col. Keith Kontz, asked for feedback.

"Expect snow to be out there," Lt. Col. William Dorsey, 931st logistics plan officer, said. Colonel Dorsey has

Farewell to Col. Childs

All Group members are invited to bid farewell to the Col. Clay Childs, the outgoing 931st deputy commander, on Saturday of the April Unit Training Assembly. Colonel Childs is transferring to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., to be vice commander of 931st's parent wing, the 507th Air Refueling Wing. A get-together is scheduled for 5 p.m. at the McConnell Air Force Base NCO Club. A \$5 ticket covers the cost of hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

ReserveNet requests needed for ORI orders

Orders for all military duty, to include mandatory training like participation in an Operational Readiness Inspection, are to be generated after 931st members submit requests via ReserveNet, available through the Air Force Portal at:

WWW.MY.AF.MIL

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Vol.13 No.4

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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

60 Years of Citizen Airmen

On the eve of our 60th Anniversary, I am especially proud of the dedicated service and sacrifices that

Air Force Reservists have made to the security of this great Nation and the world.

Our diamond anniversary recognizes the Air Force Reserve—military, civilians, and family members—that have made countless and enduring contributions throughout these past 60 years.

Since our formal establishment in April 1948, we have amassed a rich heritage with heroic accounts of responding to disasters, humanitarian aid, and conflicts. Our history is also a study of

changing, adapting, and evolving from a strategic force held in “reserve” into an operational Reserve force with the most advanced weapons systems.

I congratulate each one of you—military, civilians, and family members—who helped us to fly, fight and win. As an Unrivaled Wingman, we are confident of tomorrow’s challenges and will serve with the same courage, commitment, and confidence that defined us in our first years.

We reaffirm our commitment to today’s fight as a reliable and adept Total Force partner in air, space and cyberspace.



LT. GEN. JOHN A. BRADLEY
CHIEF, AIR FORCE RESERVE
COMMANDER, AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND



LOG ON TO:

A web page dedicated to AFRC's 60th anniversary, to include timeline, photos, Reserve heroes and milestones, is located at www.afrc.af.mil/library/history/index.asp

Relevant Times

UTA SCHEDULE

April 5-6
May 17-18
June 21-22
June 28-29
August 9-10
September 13-14
October TBD
November TBD
(Dates in red are mandatory)

DINING FACILITY

Breakfast 6:30 - 8:15 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSARY

Tues/Sat 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun 10 am. - 6 p.m.
Mon Closed

FITNESS CENTER

Mon/Sun 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.

BARBER SHOP

Mon/Fri 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SHOPPETTE

Mon/Fri 6:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sat/Sun 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.



**CHIEF MASTER SGT.
ROBERT R. STEPHENSON**
*MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT,
931ST AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON*

ADDING UP ATTITUDE

Are you receiving 100 percent? It sure isn't fair when we don't! Don't we expect others to give us 100 percent in most situations?

If we take our car to get it worked on, we don't want to guess at what was accomplished. Was the work done correctly? Did they take more time than they really needed? Did they put the right parts on or cut corners?

We would like to believe that the person working on our car not only gives their 100 percent so time wasn't wasted and the work was great, but if parts were needed, they provide the best parts possible, don't cut corners, and give us back the car in the best possible condition.

Also, if someone is working on our home, don't we truly desire that we are getting 100 percent of their best services? Whether it's the labor, parts, or products, we want things done correctly.

Another area where we expect 100 percent is in relationships. We want others to give us their best with a good, positive attitude. We want to know they will be willing to help us and count on the fact that they will give 100 percent, especially when it isn't easy or deserved, and many times

comes at an inconvenient time.

Subsequently, we are that other person providing a service to someone. We are that person putting on parts and providing products to others. We are on the other end of that relationship where someone else is hoping we are giving our 100 percent. Why should we expect a good job from others and 100 percent with a good attitude if we are not willing to do the same?

Thus, the core values of "Integrity First, Service before Self and Excellence in All We Do." We become a much better Air Force member and person to others and ourselves by giving 100 percent to our work or in providing a service.

Integrity: doing what needs to be done even when nobody is watching.

Service before self: going that extra mile; putting others before yourself, and treating others like you want to be treated; giving that 100 percent when you have to work extra and keeping a good attitude for your coworkers and your supervisor.

Excellence in all we do: evaluating yourself each day to ensure you are doing the best job you can; being the best coworker, subordinate,

supervisor, friend, mom, dad, wife or husband.

Finally, don't forget your attitude has the majority of impact as to how well you will do your job. Look for the positive in everything you can. Do your best to be positive to all those around you.

If you don't think your attitude is the main ingredient, then let's prove it mathematically. Take the alphabet and number each letter 1 through 26. Now, write out "HARDWORK," like so: H = 8 + A = 1 + R = 18 + D = 4 + W = 23 + O = 15 + R = 18 + K = 11. Add that up and you get 98 percent.

What about intelligence? Well, add up the word "KNOWLEDGE:" 11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96 percent.

Okay, now add up the word "ATTITUDE:" 1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100 percent!

Next time you don't feel like giving 100 percent, check your attitude. Then ask yourself, "What if it was turned around? Am I treating this situation or person like I would want to be treated?"

Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do — not just a motto but a way of life.



Senior Airman [redacted] provides intelligence support during a training exercise at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., in early March. Airman [redacted] and his fellow Airmen in the 931st Air Refueling Group Intelligence Directorate were recently named Air Mobility Command Outstanding Air Reserve Component Intelligence Unit of the Year for 2007.

Intel troops overcome underdog status to earn AFRC award

Senior Airman Connor Burkhard
931st ARG Public Affairs

The 931st Operations Support Flight Intelligence Directorate was recently named Air Mobility Command Outstanding Air Reserve Component Intelligence Unit of the Year for 2007.

"(Last year) was a busy year for us," Lt. Col. William Eaton, 931st OSF, Director of Intelligence, said.

Primarily, Colonel Eaton and his team provide intelligence support to the 931st Air Refueling Group and its assigned flying unit, the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. But last year, the unmanned unit consistently went above and beyond its primary mission.

For example, they were chosen to support a working group designed to eliminate unnecessary training require-

ments as part of the Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century initiative. Thanks in part to the 931st Intelligence Directorate, Reservists' training requirements were greatly decreased.

"We computed and logged an-

"We were told that, as an associate unit, winning the award would be very difficult."

cillary training and how long it took to complete," Colonel Eaton said. "The work we did helped to get the required ancillary training knocked down to 90 minutes per year."

Another big feat for the office was its support of two separate Air Expeditionary Force cycles.

"We covered two AEFs in one year: Turkey and Guam," Colonel Eaton said. "That's a big deal because we had to get volunteers for both of those."

The 931st's Intelligence troops have also been working hard to support the mission at home.

"We've been providing 24-hour intelligence operations for Noble Eagle for a long time," Colonel Eaton said, referring to the Department of Defense's ongoing homeland defense effort. Colonel Eaton's team knew they had been working hard, he said, but they never thought their

efforts made them the obvious award winners.

"We were told that as an associate unit, winning the unit award would be very difficult," Colonel Eaton said. "It was a real surprise we won."

Seven people are assigned to the intelligence office here, two Air Reserve Technicians and five traditional Reservists. They now wait to see the results of competing against other intelligence units at the Air Force level.

also been a liaison for planning inspection preparation with the 22nd ARW.

Unlike the last exercise, Group members are required to bring personal bags for the flyaway exercise and packing warm clothing is encouraged. The average high temperature at Volk Field in April is 59 degrees with a low of 34 degrees, according to www.weather.com. But March, with an average high of 44 and low of 22, will barely be gone when the exercise starts.

Group members will likely experience their share of the temperature lows that usually occur in the early morning hours. Initial chills will should start the hour and a half flight to Volk when most people would be sound asleep, Colonel Dorsey said. And in the days following, shift changes will happen before the sun comes up.

Inside temperatures, for the most part, should be well regulated. Dormitories have been recently renovated, Sergeant Bryan said, and the base boasts a new squadron operations building and other updates. Not everyone should expect more contemporary accommodations at Volk, however.

"They have new facilities there," Sergeant Bryan added, "and some of the ancient facilities I remember from 24 years ago."

Other expectations were stressed to Unit Deployment Managers at the meeting. Group members should expect to use their current Airman's Manual, Colonel Kontz said, because the arrival date of updated manuals is unknown. "(The manuals) should be tabbed and ready to go by now," he added.

Colonel Kontz also asked UDMs to be sure exercise participants all have the same "red" reflective belts. Those slated to participate in the Operational Readiness Exercise in June "have to have the right color," he said. The belts not only increase safety but are essential for differentiating between the three units participating.

The belts 931st Airmen have been using for previous

exercises may appear to be more orange than red, Colonel Dorsey said, but they are far more red than the orange belts that will be worn by Air National Guard participants from Tennessee.

About 300 Airmen from the 134th Air Refueling Wing from McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., are scheduled to join the 931st and 22nd at Volk Field.

The 931st Airmen headed to the ORE should be ready to start the initial response process as soon as they show up for duty, Colonel Kontz said. The same availability conflict that caused Group members to be late joining the last exercise with the 22nd ARW will result in a later showing in April as well. Personnel from the 22nd are expected to start ORE participation two days before 931st members report.

photo by Lt. Col. David Fruck



Members of a site survey team talk between the snow banks and in the cold of Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wis. Personnel from the 931st Air Refueling Group and the 22nd Air Refueling Wing travelled to Volk Field in March to see the location of an upcoming exercise and inspection. Air National Guard members from Tennessee also joined the team.

Aircrews, maintainers get ready for RAT

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st ARG Public Affairs

Thanks to a RAT, a bunch of the 931st's flyers and maintainers will not be Operational Readiness Inspection participants.

Instead, they and at least a hundred active-duty flyers and maintainers will be evaluated in May by a readiness assessment team (much more commonly known as a RAT), according to Lt. Col. William Dorsey, 931st logistics plans officer. About 45 maintenance personnel and

three aircrews from the Group are expected to participate in the RAT inspection.

"(A RAT) reduces the load on units being tested," Colonel Dorsey said, "and on the Inspector General's team." RATs not only translate to less people to inspect and manage during an ORI, they can offer other advantages as well.

The assessment in May, for example, is scheduled to take place at McConnell Air Force Base and is expected to save the 931st the large cost of flying personnel to another

location for inspection.

RAT grades are incorporated in units' final ORI grades, according to information listed on the Air Force Portal. But unlike an ORI, RATs conduct "non-interference" inspections.

"There is no war scenario," Capt. Mark Villacis said, clarifying the main difference between the two inspections. Captain Villacis is a 931st pilot.

More information about RATs is available inside Air Mobility Command Instruction 90-201.

SPIRIT SHORTS

Development plan available for AFRC officers

Ten to 15 minutes is all it takes to radically change a Reserve officers career—or not. It's ultimately up to the members to decide if they want to move up, move on or just stay put. But in any case, completing a Reserve Officer Development Plan can help make it happen. The R-ODP is Reserve officers' opportunity to communicate with their supervisors, commanders and career field leaders on what they want out of their careers—and learn how to get there. R-ODPs are studied by career-specific development teams that convene at the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

The 22 career fields that have met to date have provided more than 14,000 vectors, and have recommended many officers for continued education and 872 for command certification. R-ODPs can be completed online at:

[HTTPS://ARPC.AFRC.AF.MIL/VPC-GR/RODP.ASP](https://ARPC.AFRC.AF.MIL/VPC-GR/RODP.ASP)

Submit uniform ideas online

Ideas for improving dress and appearance standards can now be submitted to a new Virtual Uniform Board via the Air Force's IDEA program. Uniform ideas will

be routed through the same channels as other IDEA suggestions before major commands consider them for submission to the Air Force Uniform Board. A common access card is required to access the website for suggestions at:

[HTTPS://IPDS.CSD.DISA.MIL](https://IPDS.CSD.DISA.MIL)

TaxCut free to Airmen

Military OneSource has teamed with H&R Block to offer TaxCut Basic Online free to all Airmen and their families. The software, available through the OneSource Web site, includes tax-relevant questions about military-related issues.

The deadline for filing taxes in 2008 is April 15. Airmen can access the free software online at:

WWW.MILITARYONESOURCE.COM

ADLS to become faster

The Advance Distributed Learning System is the official method for taking and keeping track of ancillary training. On April 15, the system is scheduled to have new servers added to speed up service.

ADLS is accessible from home without a Common Access Card reader and is also available through the Air Force Portal at

[HTTPS://GOLEARN.CSD.DISA.MIL](https://GOLEARN.CSD.DISA.MIL)

Airmen's children eligible for Purple Camp

Children of Air Force Reservists have until May 5 to apply for Operation Purple Camp, a nationwide program of the National Military Family Association. Camps are a week-long, free and available in several states.

Space is limited and acceptance is not based on when an application is submitted. First priority goes to military children of a parent who is currently deployed. Applications are only accepted online at:

WWW.OPERATIONPURPLE.ORG

vRed update required even if no changes

Every year, all Air Force members are required to review and update their Virtual Record of Emergency Data. Thousands of Reserve members who have not completed the annual requirement must update their vRED by April 15, 2008, per a mandate from Air Force Reserve Command. Members are required to access/update their vRED (even if information does not need to be changed) through the Virtual MPF.

Contact Master Sgt. Debroada Cornelius at 316-759-3587 for more information.

WWW.MY.AF.MIL

— SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT —

Senior Airman Lindsey Bedegi is a Columbia, Mo., native who has been in the Air Force for 15 months.

Air Force job: Dental Assistant

Civilian job: Dental Assistant at McConnell AFB

Favorite way to relax: Taking my dog to the park

What annoys me: Not following through with promises

Most influential person in my life: My mom. She has shown me what it takes to be a strong individual and how to live my life to the fullest.

What I'm listening to: Red Hot Chili Peppers

What I'm reading: 5-Level CDCs

Favorite movie: The Truman Show

If I won \$1 million, I would: Travel the world beginning with Italy



Aerospace Medicine Flight

Chili Champ



The 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Master Sgt. Eric Peel (*center*) and Tech. Sgt. David Sevart discuss some paperwork during the March Unit Training Assembly just prior to the squadron's annual chili cookoff. Sergeant Peel's "Tailgate Chili" was voted the best at the cookoff. Mary Boulett, wife of the squadron's Senior Master Sgt. John Boulett, earned second place and the squadron's Senior Master Sgt. Ernest Goethe came in third. Sergeant Sevart, cookoff organizer, said the event raised more than \$140 for AMXS' retirement fund.

New name, mission for MEO

Capt. Layne Wroblewski
931st Equal Opportunity Office

Equal Opportunity in the Military has had several official titles. The office that facilitated human relations issues was originally called "Social Actions." In 1999, its title was changed to Military Equal Opportunity.

MEO was the office designed to support mission effectiveness by promoting an environment free from personal, social, or institutional barriers that prevent members from rising to the highest level of responsibility possible based upon individual merit, fitness, and capability. The MEO office managed military issues and a civilian Equal Employment Opportunity Office handled complaints from civilians and military personnel who were in civilian status at the time of the incident.

In 2006, this division began to change in the active duty Air Force. It changed for the Reserve in January 2008. Now, both are known as the Equal Opportunity Office, or "EO." Civilian and military EO advisors can take either civilian or military complaints

including mediate civilian and military issues. Michlene Tucker, EO program Manager for the 22nd, said, "We've been integrated a couple of years where we have qualified military personnel taking both civilian and military intakes. The merger is a big benefit during a time of budget constraints and manning cuts."

Lt. Col. Sue Lovas, the 931st EO Program Manager, agrees. "It makes sense to integrate the two offices to better facilitate the needs of the Air Force", stated Colonel Lovas. Manning authorizations changed and training requirements are being designed to educate both civilian and military personnel on handling the complexities of each.

It isn't clear how the change will impact the 931st EO office, but training is on the agenda.

"We're on a fast track to determine what the requirements are and integrate the necessary skill set to assist our 22nd partners with our own 931st EO team", Colonel Lovas said. "We look forward to providing any assistance to our total force within the 931st but also will be leaning on the 22nd to educate us through the process they have recently walked through."

Penny War Update

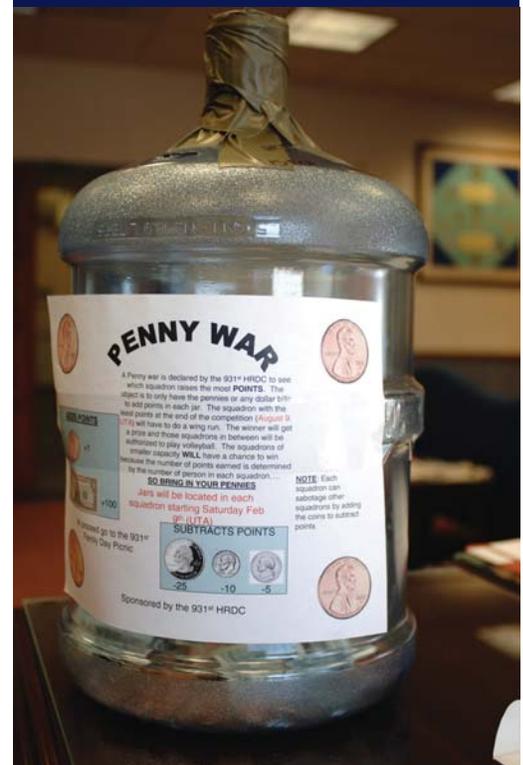
from HRDC's

Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Summers

The tally is "official" now; CES is WAY ahead with \$1.51 raised per person, and 18th ARS is WAY behind (for now) with .00 raised per person. The 18th did raise almost \$25, but more than \$35 in sabotage contributions actually put the flyers in the negative.

As you can see, the "silver" can make or break you!! Those units that got off easy thus far – watch out; it won't be that way next time we count!! The bottom three--ARS, OSF and ARG-- need to step up their game, or at least do better sabotaging the lead units.

The next update will be in June's *Kanza Spirit*. Thanks for the outstanding support so far; keep those pennies and paper coming!



WICHITA WEEKEND

Casino night at the museum

April 5 — Gamblers can sip a cocktail, count their chips and bask in the nostalgia of the Kansas Aviation Museum, all while raising funds for the McConnell Air Force Base Officers' Spouse' Charitable Association. Ace's High Casino Charity Event.

WWW.MCCONNELLOSC.ORG

Wichita Wild

April 5 — Watch former Kansas State Wildcats and other local athletes compete in the fast-paced world of professional indoor football when the Wild take on the Extreme of Bloomington, Ill. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum.

WWW.WICHITAWILDFOOTBALL.COM

Shocker baseball

April 4 — Watch the Wichita State Shockers, the 11th ranked team in NCAA Division I baseball, start a homestand against the Bears of Missouri State. Game is scheduled to begin 7 p.m. at Eck Stadium in Wichita.

WWW.GOSHOCKERS.COM

IN THE FIGHT



931st Air Refueling Group BY THE NUMBERS

Missions Flown: 356

Overall Time Flown: 1166

Passengers Flown: 306

Cargo Delivered: 147,355 lbs.

Aircraft Refueled: 279

Fuel Transferred: 247,400 gallons

The above information pertains to the period of OCT. 1, 2007 TO MARCH 23, 2008.