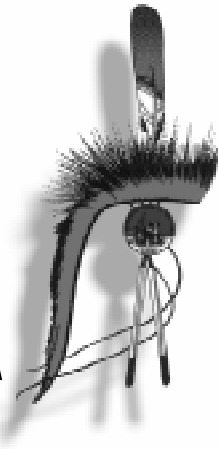


KANZA

SPIRIT 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

January 2001

931st cops deploy to Italy

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited
Kanza Spirit Editor

While most Kansans spent the Christmas season bundled up inside snacking on goodies and spending time with family and friends, a group of McConnell reservists spent their holidays more than 5,000 miles from home toting automatic weapons and guarding an air base in the cold, wet European winter.

From mid-December to just before New Year's Eve, five members of the 931st Security Forces Flight pounded the ground smack dab in the middle of Italy's rainy season at San Vito Air Station in the town of Brindisi. The deployment marked the first large-scale AEF support mission for unit members who patrolled the installation, protected personnel and property against security threats and worked as entry controllers for Army troops and Italian nationals who work at the base.

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European 'vacation'

Half of the 931st Security Forces Flight spent the holidays deployed to San Vito Air Station in Brindisi, Italy (in the boot heel) on an AEF support mission.

Team members included: Master Sgt. Chuck Smith, 931st SFF Chief, Tech. Sgt. Jon Wattenburger, Tech. Sgt. Don Ellis, Staff Sgt. Brandon Mildren and Senior Airman Brad Fields.



Staff Sgt. Jason Whited

Pint-size protection

A 931st family member takes aim under the watchful eye of Tech. Sgt. Jon Wattenburger, 931st Security Forces Flight. Flight members entertained children at the group's annual holiday party by showing off some of their hardware. No word yet as to whether this little guy has signed up for a hitch with Wattenburger and his fellow Kanza cops.

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Childs takes over 18th ARS; Johnston now ARG deputy

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited
Kanza Spirit Editor

Lieutenant Colonel Clay Childs took command of McConnell's 18th Air Refueling Squadron Dec. 9 as scores of his fellow reservists turned out for the ceremony and to wish him well.

Childs, the former 931st Operations Support Flight Commander, took over the 18th ARS from Col. Ron Johnston who is moving on to become the 931st Air Refueling Group Deputy Commander.

The Gulf War vet brings more than 17 years of military experience with him to the ARS job, having served in a variety of jobs in his career, including

copilot in the EC-135 (Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.), chief of pilot training (Malmstrom AFB, Mont.) and civil reserve air Fleet program officer (Scott AFB, Ill.).

The new squadron commander entered active duty in 1983 after graduating from Kansas State University with a degree in engineering. Childs joined the 931st ARG in 1998 and deployed in support of Operation Allied Force.

Although hired by Delta Airlines in 1999, Childs has continued to serve the 931st in jobs such as aircraft commander, instructor pilot and flight commander.

Childs is a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours of flight experience.



Staff Sgt. Dave Brumley
Col. Jim Bouska, 931st Air Refueling Group Commander, welcomes Lt. Col. Clay Childs as the new 18th Air Refueling Squadron commander as Senior Master Sgt. Bill Stacey looks on.

Other key group posts change hands

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited
Kanza Spirit Editor

January will see changes in many key posts throughout the 931st Air Refueling Group as nine reserve officers assume new jobs. Hang on, 'cause this could get a little hard to follow.

On the flying side of the house, **Lt. Col. Ray Kozak** is moving downstairs to become the operations officer for the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. **Maj. Ken Harris** is taking over the stan eval shop. **Maj. Bob Silvia** is moving upstairs to head up the safety office. **Capt. John Tarr** is taking over as the chief of pilot training. **Maj. Bill Hansel** will head upstairs to become the training director.

On the support side of the house, **Lt. Col. Steve Kett** is slated to take over the 931st Operations Support Flight (Kett's move is pending approval from higher headquarters). **Maj. Terri Kett** is taking over the 931st Mission Support Flight. **Maj. Ken Dodd**, the current 931st MSF commander, is taking over as group performance planner from **Capt. Joe Wible**, who will become the new group executive officer.

More changes could come soon; as soon as we find out, dear reader, so will you.

Flying high: Future leaders check out Air Force Reserve mission

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited
Kanza Spirit Editor

More than 20 future Kansas leaders took to the skies Dec. 7 as 931st Air Refueling Group members gave them a first-hand look at the Reserve mission.

The attendees came to McConnell as part of Leadership Wichita, a Chamber of Commerce program designed to familiarize community leaders with different aspects of their state.

Participants took part in a two-hour air refueling mission observing a McConnell reserve aircrew in action -- most even crawled into the boom pod, either taking a turn at the controls or snapping off a few quick photos as a souvenir.

Most participants had never

Whirlwind tours

Each year, more than 125 Kansas community leaders fly with the 931st Air Refueling Group. The purpose of these flights is to give future leaders in Kansas a better idea of how the Air Force Reserve plays a crucial role in protecting America's interests and its citizens' freedom.

been so close to so much military hardware, and participants oozed anticipation as they sat through pre-flight briefings. Program leaders said they were grateful to 931st officials for hosting their group and for opening their eyes to how much their fellow Kansans

contribute to the fight for freedom.

"The Team McConnell briefing and air refueling mission is an integral part of (our program). The members of the class truly receive...hands-on experience of the important work done by Team McConnell."

Such orientation flights have long been a staple of the Air Force community relations program. Each year, thousands of civilian leaders take these so-called orientation flights in all types of Air Force planes. Military leaders hope that allowing civilians to see their tax dollars at work will give them a clearer idea of how valuable the support of the American people is to the military.



Around the Air Force



U. S. Air Force photo

Fill 'er up!

Flying at 20,000 feet and more than 270 mph, Navy Cmdr. Phil Yates pulls the X-32A Joint Strike Fighter in behind a Travis Air Force Base, Calif., KC-10 Extender during a flight-testing Dec. 19. This mission is part of a five-month flight test program of the X-32A at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The fighter will complete nearly 60 flights totaling about 75 hours to validate the JSF's predicted flying characteristics.

Air Force announces changes in Oregon, Florida and Arizona

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force announced in late December a plan for a force structure change affecting locations of people, aircraft and organizations in Oregon, Florida and Arizona. This change results from mission changes, adjustments for efficiency and implementation of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept.

The 939th Reserve Rescue Wing (RQW), Portland International Airport, Ore., will convert to a Reserve Air

Refueling Wing beginning in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2002. The new ARW will consist of eight KC-135R aerial refueling aircraft. Air Force Reserve Command will temporarily maintain a pararescue team presence at Portland IAP for an undetermined time. This mission change will result in an increase of 4 Air Reserve Technician positions, while its Reserve authorizations (part-time drill) will be reduced by 107 positions.

The Combat Search and Rescue assets from Portland IAP, consisting of eight HH-60 helicopters and five HC-130 aircraft, will be an active force

gain to Air Combat Command and relocated to a stateside base. ACC will begin site visits this year to determine the future location of these CSAR assets.

AFRC will immediately begin actions to convert the 920th Reserve Rescue Group at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., into a rescue wing structure. This action will involve the transfer of position authorizations, not force structure assets, to the 920th. The 305th Reserve Rescue Squadron, at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., which has reported to the 939th in Portland, will report to the new rescue wing at Patrick after the conversion.

Before making final decisions concerning this major movement of forces, the Air Force will conduct appropriate environmental analyses and ensure compliance with Clean Air Act provisions. (Air Force News Service)

Commissaries, Fisher House cosponsor scholarship-essay program

WASHINGTON -- High school students of active duty, reserve and retired military members have until Feb. 15 to write their way to a share of more than \$400,000 in college money.

The new Scholarships for Military Children program, cosponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency and Fisher House Foundation Inc., plans to present more than 280 awards worth at least \$1,500 each.

"The program will enhance our local commissaries as important

quality of life benefactors for military families," said commissary agency director Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert Courter Jr. "Our stores will be able to increase their impact by providing educational opportunities for the children of our military communities."

Children of active duty, Guard, reserve and retired military identification card holders need a minimum 3.0 high school grade-point average to apply. They also must write a short essay on "What Being a Military Dependent Means to Me." Interested students can pick up instructions and applications at commissaries or download them from the Internet at DeCA's Web site, www.commissaries.com.

Applications and essays must be returned before Feb. 15 to the student's local commissary.

Fisher House is administering the scholarship program and accepting the donations to fund it, spokesman James Weiskopf said.

A contractor supervised by Fisher House will screen the essays and applications and determine scholarship recipients, he said. Winners will be notified by April 30.

The nonprofit Fisher House is perhaps best known for its 26 Fisher Houses, located near military and Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country. Fisher Houses help 5,000 military families annually by offering them a "home away from home" while loved ones are receiving medical care.



KANZA SPIRIT 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP

Vol. 6, No. 1

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Deadlines

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is the 20th of each month.

Legal info

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for member 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 or the Department 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.

Get One: Command asks reservists to help with recruiting

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited
Kanza Spirit Editor

Whoever said "less is more" never worked as an Air Force Reserve recruiter.

For the men and women working around the clock to sign up as many qualified people as possible, it's all about the numbers. Recruiters live and die by them, and in recent years, the numbers just haven't been there.

To help boost those numbers and meet recruiting goals, Reserve officials have not only revamped the entire process of how they attract and train new recruiters, but they are now asking reservists themselves to help out, too.

Officials believe the Get One program might mean the difference between not making their recruiting goals -- as happened in fiscal 1999 when only 81 percent of the more than 11,000 airmen needed signed up to wear the uniform -- and having every unit in the Reserve fully manned.

An old idea made new again

The program, which rewards reservists for bringing their civilian friends and co-workers into the Reserve, has actually been around for quite some time. However, members of the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Branch at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., are revamping it, trying to make the program even more attractive.

As part of this effort, officials are both updating the type of incentives offered to reservists who bring in new blood and trying to spread the word that it pays to talk up military service.

Chief Master Sgt. Eric Snipes, superintendent of the AFRC Recruiting Advertising Branch, said the command is optimistic about the re-tooled program. "It's better to be able to use all 72,000 reservists than only 300 recruiters," he said. "The leads we get from our own people are very good because the reservists themselves already know who does and doesn't qualify (to enter the Reserve)."

Everybody wins

Snipes said updating the program to fit today's force and letting units know about it creates a win-win situation for everyone.

"Getting the word out on Get One substantially increases the number of qualified leads for us, and it also internally brings to light the need for recruits so (all our) people will be out there looking."

Get more info on Get One

To get more info on the Get One program, be sure to attend the commander's call this UTA Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the Emerald Ballroom.

Snipes said officials are introducing the new Get One program to the force this year, complete with a formal tier of what he called "premiums" for recruiting people into the Reserve.

Premiums will start with simple things, like portfolios or gym bags, and improve with the more people a particular reservist brings in.

Recruiters themselves are optimistic about the revamped

program, although they've already been using it for years, with remarkable success.

"This is a very effective program," said Senior Master Sgt. Al Garza, a senior recruiter with the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB, Ariz., who has been in the business for more than 12 years. "Wherever I've been, if they weren't already using Get One, I started it up."

Garza knows what he's talking about. In addition to the people he's put in so far this fiscal year, he's recruited an extra 12 airmen through Get One referrals alone - an average of two extra people a month. For units that are undermanned, those extra dozen could be a godsend.

Garza and other recruiters said they believe that with a renewed emphasis and enhanced rewards for bringing in more people, there is no limit to what the Get One program could do for Air Force Reserve recruiting.

"There are so many possibilities with this program," Garza said. "After all, the best recruiters are often reservists themselves."

Not a substitute for recruiters

Staff Sgt. Pat Johnson, 931st Air Refueling Group recruiter, said he's excited about the new program, but added he doesn't want reservists to get the wrong impression. "The Reserve isn't asking reservists to become full time recruiters," he said. "This program is meant to be a team effort for the entire Reserve component. The Reserve believes people are our strongest asset."

See GET ONE, Page 6



COPS

Continued from Page 1

Group officials said they were impressed at the commitment of the reserve cops and pleased that the team volunteered for the mission -- especially at this time of year. "I think it really shows our folks' commitment to the Total Force that these guys volunteered to support this mission over the holidays," said Maj. Ken Dodd, 931st Mission Support Flight Commander. "Their dedication to duty is an example to us all."

Flight Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Smith said all team members were eager to support the mission when they were asked to do so last fall. "I almost didn't even have to ask my guys to do this -- they stood up for it from the get go," he said.

These "top cops" were in Italy in support of an Air Expeditionary Force mission and provided much-needed augmentation to the active duty forces at the air station. "We were all extremely proud to support our active duty brothers and sisters," added Smith. "For us in the 931st Security Forces, it's always all about the mission."

GETONE

Continued from Page 5

Johnson said that having unitmembers taking a look at friends and neighbors who might want to sign up for a hitch with the Reserve just makes good sense. "I know that if hundreds of 931st members are out there talking up the service and seeing if people they know might want to join, that's only going to benefit everyone involved -- the unit, the Reserve and the reservists. After all, the Reserve is a great way of life...what's wrong with spreading the word?"

Bank of America 'cracking down' on delinquent travel card holders

WASHINGTON -- Bank of America is saying "enough is enough" and taking action this month on delinquent government travel cardholders, terminating those accounts with balances more than 120 days past due.

"Since the government travel card program was implemented in October 1998, the bank has written off about \$8 million in bad debt owed by Air Force members," said Col. Greg Morgan, director, accounting, banking and comptroller support at the air staff.

"(BOA has) been losing about \$250,000 a month," he said.

"That's the amount Air Force members owe and never pay. The bank has been taking this loss but has decided to uphold the contract terms and exercise its option to terminate those delinquent accounts."

The number of Air Force members who have accounts written off total less than 2 percent of the force's active cardholders, but the impact in terms of members' financial reputation and to the service is much higher, Morgan said.

"We cannot stress enough that people need to take responsibility for their financial obligations. That's the bottom



Bank of America officials are saying "enough is enough" to cardholders who have balances more than 120 days past due.

line," Morgan said. "Your financial reputation is critical. It can either help you or hurt you."

It shouldn't be a surprise to those whose cards are being terminated, Morgan said.

New year good time to get familiar with government travel card program

By Capt. Edward Kreiner
AETC Financial Services Division

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- For airmen around the world, each new year brings new challenges, new opportunities and yes, new rounds of TDY travel. As we all get into the swing of things in this new year and begin to gear up for upcoming TDY travel, we should perhaps take a few moments to become familiar with the opportunities and responsibilities available while carrying the individual government travel card.

The Nations Bank or Bank of America Visa card has proven to be a great benefit for members on temporary duty assignments. The card allows holders access to automated teller machines,

and most travel expenses, such as lodging, rental cars, airline tickets and meals, can be paid using the card.

Along with these benefits are responsibilities for proper use of the travel card. The card can only be used for official travel expenses, not for personal expenditures, and delinquent accounts may be identified to unit commanders for appropriate action.

Misuse of the travel card is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so take the time to become familiar with some of the more common abuses:

- Using the government travel card when not on official TDY assignment. The card is designed for use only when performing official duty on a TDY assignment.

- Improperly using the card while on a TDY assignment. The card cannot be used to purchase personal items unrelated to the assignment.

- Failing to pay the balance on the due date. The card balance must be paid in full upon receipt of the monthly statement.

The government travel card can simplify prompt TDY payments by allowing the money to be disbursed directly to the account, including interim settlements. Additionally, the card gives holders the opportunity to pay for expenses incurred while on a TDY assignment without having to carry a large amount of cash.

The card is an excellent tool for the government traveler, and it can be extremely useful when members use it responsibly and don't abuse it.



Spirit Shorts

Hails and farewells

Welcome to the newest members of the 931st Air Refueling Group:

Senior Airman Darin Moyer, 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron; **Senior Airman Michelle Richards**, 931st Mission Support Flight; **Staff Sgt. Gary White**, 931st MSF; **Capt. Randall Sauer**, 18th Air Refueling Squadron; and **Senior Airman Michael Miller**, 18th ARS.

Keep it together

Congratulations to the latest batch of re-enlistees:

Staff Sgt. Dinah Balladeo, 931st MSF; **Tech. Sgt. David Moore**, 931st Civil Engineer Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Marvin McBride**, 931st CES; **Tech. Sgt. Wesley Miller**, 931st MSF; and **Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Lough**, 931st CES.

Rissmiller to pin on colonel

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Ralph Rissmiller, 931st ARG Inspector General, who was recently selected for promotion to colonel!

Military Personnel Flight hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are as follows: Mondays – Fridays: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; UTA Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; UTA Sundays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Need to outprocess?

If you, or someone you know needs to out process for TDY, reassignment or retirement, please keep in mind that on UTA

weekends, the Finance Office (Traci or Dee) is only open on UTA Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thinking ahead can ensure you do not have to come out during the week to finish your out-processing. For further information contact Tech. Sgt. Anick Wallace in at Ext. 3665.

Fill out that Form No. 93

Reservists should check their Emergency Data Card (DD Form No. 93) and their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance form at least once a year.

For more information, call Customer Service at Ext. 3458.

MEO closure

The 931st Military Equal Opportunity Office will be closed during the Jan. UTA. The office will reopen for the February drill.

MPF in-house training

The MPF is closed each UTA Sunday from 7:30 to 10 a.m. for in-house training. Classes are held in the TNET room (Room No. 217), and all administrative personnel (3A0X1 & 3S0X1) are welcome to attend.

NCO Leadership Development Program

We have received class dates from both Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and Ft. Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas. Interested staffs and techs may contact Group Training at Ext. 5423.

NCO Academy in residence

Only two slots are left at the Tyndall AFB, Fla., NCO

Spirit Spotlight

Tech. Sgt.

Randy Brown

931st Air Refueling Group

This month's Spotlight selectee has been with the unit for years and supports the unit in a variety of ways. This hard-charging NCO is a Willits, Ca., native and has been in the military for more than 16 years.

Job title:
Historian

Civilian job: Computer technician

What I'm reading now:
"There's a Hole in the Sidewalk" by Shel Silverstein

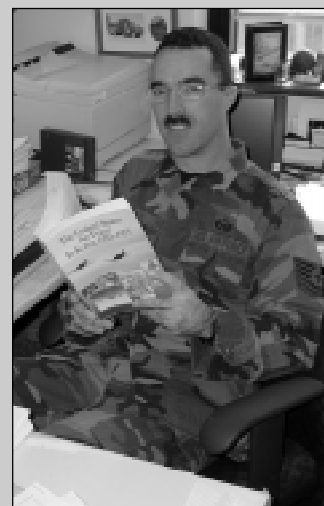
What I'm listening to now:
Andrew Peterson

Favorite way to relax:
Enjoying conversation and food with friends

Easiest way to annoy me: Give up on a challenge

Most influential person in my life: Jesus Christ for my spiritual growth since accepting Him as Lord

If I won \$1 million, I would: Assist teachers with unpaid education loans



Academy. Classes will be held August 6 to Sept. 13 and Sept. 24 to Nov. 1.

Staff sergeants with eight years' time in service and all tech sergeants may apply.

Senior NCO Leadership Development Program

Fiscal 2001 dates for the SNCOLDP are as follows:

March 24, 25; June 23, 24; Sept. 22, 23 and Dec. 15, 16.

The locations for the classes have not yet been determined.

No hats in gazebo!

The headquarters building gazebo is now a no-hat area.

Salutes should still be rendered (and hats worn) in the uncovered area between the south entrance of Building No. 850 and the gazebo itself.



Wichita Weekend

Honky Tonk Angels

Three women are Greyhound bound for Nashville with 32 country songs. Crown Uptown Dinner Theater, 3207 East Douglas. Call 681-1566 for more informatin. A Friday and Saturday buffet is offered at 7p.m. with a showtime at 8p.m. A Sunday buffet is available at 6:30 p.m. with a showtime of 7:30p.m.

Wichita Thunder hockey

The Wichita Thunder hockey team takes on the San Antonio Iguanas Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum. Tickets cost \$9 to \$13. Call 755-1243.



Staff Sgt. Jason Whited

It's a wrap!

Master Sgt. Cody Smith, 931st Air Refueling Group Safety Office, wraps one of the 50 gifts donated to this year's Operation Santa. The annual program provides needy 931st families with complete Christmas dinners and toys for the children. This year, a dozen needy reserve families were helped through the program.

Flick picks

No movies are showing at the base theater during this month's drill weekend. The theater will reopen in time for the February UTA.

Other area theaters:

- Cinemas East 6: 684-2805
- Towne East 4: 685-1121
- Towne East 2: 681-2717
- Cinemas West: 729-5665
- Towne West 5: 945-5093
- Norhtrock 14: 636-5432
- Northrock 6: 636-5431
- Palace: 721-7949
- Premier Palace: 691-9700
- Warren Theater: 721-9545

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