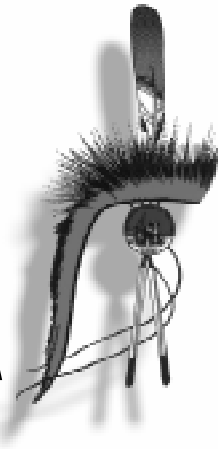


KANZA

SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



Inside

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McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

May/June 2001

Civil Engineers help Patrick AFB prepare for hurricane season

By Tech. Sgt. David Lofton
931st Civil Engineering Squadron

A team of 30 reservists from the 931st Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., this spring to help their fellow airmen get ready for this year's hurricane season.

For two weeks in March, these Kanza engineers, along with reservists and Guardsmen from Maine, Texas and Colorado, lent their expertise and a little muscle to the 45th Civil Engineering Squadron in constructing two new warehouses to be used to store severe weather equipment.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Steven White, 931st CES Chief of Operations and Management, the ground work for this project was started in November 2000 when an advanced team from the squadron went to Patrick. That team, consisting of six senior NCOs, worked the initial contracting and agreed to supply a work team of five



Tech. Sgt. Noah Ordoyne

Members of the 931st Civil Engineering Squadron help airmen at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., build two new warehouses to store weather equipment.

personnel in January 2001 to prepare and position the materials that were to be used in the construction of the structures. Upon arrival, the project became a two-fold one. The 931st CES divided into two groups: one team for the construction of the new structures and another team to assist the active duty CE sections in completing their backlogged work schedule. White said the Kansas reservists got a lot out of the TDY while at the same time being able to give back to their

active-duty brothers. "Our people got the job done, had a pleasant experience, and accomplished required upgrade training. This was an excellent way for us to gear up for the upcoming Silver Flag Deployment in May of this year." Senior Master Sgt. William Niederhofer, 931st CES Structures Superintendent said "this project was an outstanding assignment for my section. It gave the structures troops the

See CE, Page 8

Kanza warriors head to IGX

By Jason Whited
Kanza Spirit Editor

About two dozen Kansas reservists are on their way to Michigan to play in this spring's Inspector General Exercise.

The 931st Air Refueling Group participants will join their active-duty and Air National Guard counterparts on the week-long exercise as inspectors test the troops' ability to survive and operate in a simulated war.

This year is a busy one for the group, with reservists participating in a March deployment to Volk Field, Wis., to prepare for the IGX, the exercise itself this month and an upcoming deployment to France this fall. Group officials have praised their members' dedication to duty and have not missed a chance to say thanks. "All of (our people) give up so much for this unit," said Col. Jim Bouska, 931st ARG Commander. "We really appreciate them."

Mission Support Flight: working to help you!

By Maj. Terri Kett

931st Mission Support Flight
Commander

The 931st Mission Support Flight is a customer-oriented, multifaceted organization. We're here to help you, and our mission covers a wide scope of responsibilities. Here's a quick "tour" through the MSF to look at some of the services we offer and/or provide to members of the Kanza group:

Military Personnel Flight

Career Enhancements and Customer Service provide core personnel support such as maintaining each member's unit personnel management record; DEERS, SGLI and auto registrations; ID card issue, managing the EPR/OPR, awards and decorations, promotion, and weight management programs.

Employment and Relocations handles all gains, losses, internal reassignments, and administrative separations and retirements. If you need assistance with a reassignment to another AFRC unit, the ANG, another service, ARPC or an AGR tour, these are the folks who can step you through the process.

The Readiness shop maintains personnel accountability and duty status for deployed unit members using the MANPER-B system. In today's up-tempo EAF environment, Readiness has an increased focus on assisting UDMs, maintaining close contact with XP on AEF issues,

and cutting NATO and CED.

Family Readiness assists members and their families in four primary areas: Information and Referral (financial counseling/assistance, crisis intervention, a database of services in the community), Transition Assistance (resume writing, job search), and Relocation Assistance (information about other installations and the surrounding area). For the 931st, the high-visibility role has been Separation Assistance, providing contact between deployed members and their families -- noteworthy during the 1999 PSRC -- as well as informational and educational materials.

If you're interested in furthering your military or civilian education, stop in the Education and Training office. They will assist you in acquiring course dates for formal military or civilian continuation training, PME, Executrain courses, and local seminars/conferences. They can also provide guidance on higher education, administer CLEP and DANTES testing, assist with your CCAF accreditation, and handle all CDC registrations and testing. As a courtesy to the HRDC, this office maintains their video/audio library, which is available to all group members and the 22 ARW.

The Career Assistant Advisor

See MSF, Page 8



Jason Whited

Members of the 931st Mission Support Flight: Jerry Smith, Tech. Sgt. Bob Lorenz, Dawne Hargrove, Master Sgt. Thelma Herrera, Master Sgt. Mack Housman, Maj. Terri Kett, Master Sgt. Pam Summers, Master Sgt. Corrina Seitz, Tech. Sgt. Debroada Cornelius, and Tech. Sgt. Anick Wallace (kneeling). See any of these personell pros to see how they can help you. Not pictured (and for good reason) Senior Master Sgt. Dave Malenky.

KANZA
SPIRIT 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP

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Cha-ching! Congress considering tax break for employers

By Capt. James Wilson
419th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah -- This spring the U.S. House of Representatives is considering legislation, which if enacted would compensate employers of reservists with a credit to their annual income tax.

House Resolution 394, introduced by U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt of Washington, would allow employers a credit of up to \$2,000 for each reservist who supports contingency operations in an active-duty status. The legislation would allow a total credit of \$7,500 per employer each taxable year.

Utah area employers viewed the Reserve Employer Tax Credit Act of 2001 as a sensible initiative and one that signals a change to an age-old paradigm.

"In the past, companies have allowed their employees to serve the country because it's viewed as the patriotic thing to do," said Steve Frampton, owner of a tire store in Fillmore, Utah, and employer of guardsmen and reservists. "Now, when two of my employees are fulfilling their

military obligation, I've just lost one-third of my work force. While I believe in supporting our country's Armed Forces, I also think it's time the government gave companies incentives to employ members of our military." Frampton went on to say the monetary relief would serve as a good "first step" in building a true partnership between businesses and the Armed Forces.

"If this [legislation] is approved, it would be a real plus to me as an employer," Frampton said. "This would send a clear message that Uncle Sam is willing to share in the bottomline costs for maintaining today's citizen airmen and citizen soldiers. From my standpoint, it's a win-win situation."

Increased operational tempo has resulted in many drilling and mobilized reservists spending more and more time away from their civilian jobs. Consequently, businesses must either hire temporary help or otherwise attempt to get by without critical employees while reservists are deployed.

"It's difficult for a company when someone in a strategic

position is gone -- even when it's for a short period of time," said Jeff Tiede, president of a packaging company in Salt Lake City. "Often times these are the individuals with diverse backgrounds which include military service. For that reason, I think a tax credit for employers makes a lot of sense."

While the fate of the bill has yet to be decided, the fact that the proposal is even being considered was an encouraging sign to one area employer.

"If nothing else, I think it's a good gesture," said Gerald Higgins, owner of body and paint shop in West Jordan, Utah.

Higgins employs a reservist from Air Force Reserve Command's 419th Fighter Wing and even goes so far as making up the difference between his military and civilian salaries when deployed.

"I know other business owners who don't see the true benefits of hiring a reservist," Higgins said. "So from a business perspective, I think a tax credit for employers would help offset some of the challenges that result from military duty."



Bucks for the boss

The U. S. House of Representatives is considering a bill which would provide employers of reservists an annual tax credit of up to \$7,500.

Experts say the tax break would influence employers who might otherwise be hesitant to hire reservists to change their minds.

H.R. 394 contains provisions that would afford reservists who are self-employed a comparable tax credit. If Congress adopts the legislation, the effective date would begin after the calendar year in which the bill is enacted. More information about H.R. 394 is available on the House of Representatives Web site www.house.gov. (AFRC News Service)

'By law' not best way to name SGLI beneficiary

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- When it comes to Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, completing the election form correctly is as important as the size of the benefit.

With the maximum SGLI now at \$250,000, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Judge Advocate lawyers here are

concerned about people who either indicate no SGLI beneficiary or select the "by law" option.

"The best way to ensure that the proceeds are paid to intended beneficiaries is to specifically name them on the SGLI form," said Col. Rebecca Weeks, AFRC staff judge advocate. "Otherwise, strict interpretation

of beneficiary definitions in the SGLI statute may result in payment inconsistent with the servicemember's intent."

According to the statute, the proceeds will first go to the spouse. If there is no spouse, surviving children share the proceeds equally. Next in line are surviving parents. If there are no parents, the proceeds will go

to the executor of the deceased's estate. In the absence of an executor, the proceeds go to the next of kin according to state law.

Weeks suggests reviewing wills and insurance documents every couple of years or whenever family circumstances change. "It is an important element of military readiness," she said. (AFRC News Service)



Around the Air Force



DLA honors reservists for work in Bosnia

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Two individual mobilization augmentees from San Antonio, Texas, are reaping Defense Logistics Agency honors for saving millions of tax dollars while deployed to Bosnia last year.

Master Sgt. Luis Recio and Capt. Raul Trevino of the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office were named DLA's Reservists of the Year for 2000. They will receive their awards April 21 during a ceremony at the agency's headquarters in Fort Belvoir, Va.

While deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Recio was assigned to Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service International as a military liaison for the joint peacekeeping force. He assisted in locating and acquiring excess government property needed by U.S. troops assigned to the operation.

His efforts resulted in the reuse of more than 6,300 line items, saving more than \$2.5 million in procurement costs for equipment, furniture, clothing and mission critical items.

As the sole DRMSI representative in Bosnia, Recio was credited with providing non-stop service 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Working as the forward liaison officer in Tuzla, Trevino assisted U.S. military units with the turn in and destruction of weapons confiscated from the warring

factions in Yugoslavia. His reutilization efforts saved American taxpayers more than \$100,000 in equipment and material used by peacekeepers in the Balkans.

Trevino was also responsible for identifying people to augment the DRMO in Panama during the closure of the U.S. military presence in the Panama Canal Zone. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

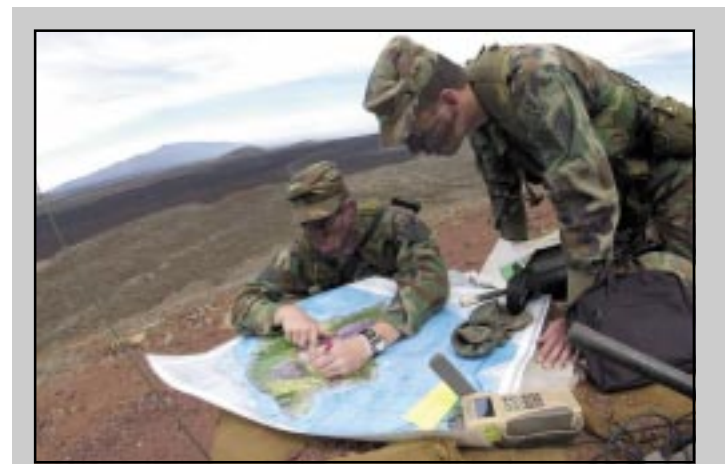
Total force honor guard covers California

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — An aging veteran population, dwindling resources and the recent Department of Defense law requiring military funeral honors for all eligible veterans has stretched military honor guard programs to their limits.

With as many as five funerals per day -- often several hours driving time apart -- and an increase of 35 percent in veteran deaths expected over the next seven years, no where is that quandary more evident than in Southern California.

One solution to the honor guard shortage there was the formation of the Blue Eagles, the Air Force's first total force honor guard, which now completes more than 1,000 functions annually.

The Blue Eagles Honor Guard provides funeral honors and performs ceremonial functions for a territory covering 82,000 square miles. It is composed of



U. S. Air Force Photo

Call it in

Staff Sgts. Vincent Delorenzo and Matt Nugent use a map to coordinate targets for incoming fighter aircraft during close air support training at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii.

active-duty members, reservists and guardsmen from Edwards and Los Angeles Air Force Bases, and the 163rd Air Refueling Wing and the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March Air Reserve Base.

The 35-member team's origin resulted from the military drawdown that followed the Cold War's demise, which resulted in base closures.

In the mid-1990s, as bases shut their gates, it became clear that remaining active-duty honor guards needed Air Reserve Component augmentation. Accordingly, Col. Stephen Keen, commander of the 452nd Support Group at March ARB, received a call in June 1997 from the Air Force Reserve Command services section about testing integration of active-duty, Guard and Reserve members who

performed funeral services. Two months later, airmen from Edwards and Los Angeles AFBs and March ARB pulled together to form the Blue Eagles, achieving together what none of them could do separately.

Chief Master Sgt. Tom Golden, Air Force Materiel Command services enlisted manager, was sent to March not long after the program started to evaluate the total force honor guard in action.

He came away instantly impressed.

"I have had the opportunity to visit many honor guards around the Air Force ... and this program is the premier program," the chief said. "Many other programs around the Air Force have spun off of this program, right here, and because of that, we're able to meet the mission."



Making rank

A history of the American chevron

By 2nd Lt. Christine Breighner
64th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

The American chevron is not a new idea. For thousand of years the military, ecclesiastical and civil authorities have used some outward symbol to identify rank and function in society. In the U.S. military, noncommissioned officer rank insignia evolved over the past 150 years from a mishmash of epaulets, sashes, cockades and stripes to today's limited set of stylized and standardized chevrons. Prior to 1872, documentation standards were almost nonexistent. A general order from the War Department dated March 27, 1821, documented the first firm reference to U.S. soldiers wearing chevrons. Today, the chevron represents a pay grade, not a specific trade.

Originally, officers also wore chevrons, but this practice began to phase out in 1829. Despite this 10-year use of chevrons by officers, most people think only of enlisted grades when chevrons are mentioned.

A rich history

The direction a chevron points alternated through the

years. Originally, they pointed down, and on some uniforms, covered almost the entire width of the arm. In 1847, the point reversed to an "up" position, which lasted until 1851. Service chevrons, commonly called "hash marks" or "service stripes," were established by George Washington to show completion of three years service. After the American Revolution, they fell into disuse and it wasn't until 1832 before the idea was reinstated. They have been authorized in one form or another ever since.

U.S. Air Force chevrons trace their evolution from 1864 when the Secretary of War approve a request from Maj. William Nicodemus, the Army's chief signal officer, for a distinctive signal rank insignia 10 years later. The names Signal Service and Signal Corps were used interchangeably during 1864-1891. In 1889, a simple sergeant's chevron cost 86 cents and a corporal's was 68 cents.

The official lineage of today's Air Force began Aug. 1, 1907, when the U.S. Army Signal Corps formed an Aeronautical Division. The unit was upgraded to an Aviation Section by 1914, and in 1918, the War Department separated the Aviation Section

(air service) from the Signal Corps, making it a distinctive branch of service. With the creation of the Army Air Service, their device became the winged propeller. In 1926, the branch became the Army Air Corps, still retaining the winged propeller design in its chevron.

The AF grows up

The Air Force won its independence Sept. 18, 1947, as a full partner with the Army and the Navy when the National Security Act of 1947 became law. There was a time of transition following the new status given the Air Force. The chevrons retained the "Army look." Enlisted personnel were still "soldiers" until 1950, when they became "airmen" to distinguish them from "soldiers" or "sailors."

No documented rationale exists for the design of the present Air Force enlisted chevrons, except the minutes from a March 9, 1948, Pentagon meeting which states that chevron designs were circulated at Bolling AFB, Washington D.C. A group of 150 soldiers (airmen) were polled and 55 percent selected the design used today. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Air Force chief of staff, then approved the choice of the

enlisted majority.

Perhaps the star incorporated early aircraft markings. A star design evolved on military aircraft tails and fuselages as early as 1916, and by 1917, the world began associating the star with the United States. Perhaps the stripes, gracefully slanting toward the sky, leave a gentle hint of wings.

Rank titles and the number of
See **CHEVRON**, Page 8



U. S. Army Photo

Traces of the modern chevron can be seen in this photo of a Civil War soldier.

Spirit Shorts

Hails and farewells

This month, we say goodbye to several unit members. **Senior Master Sgt. Dave Malenky** and **Master Sgt. Thelma Herrera**, 931st Mission Support Flight, are transferring to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and **Jason Whited**, Kanza Spirit Editor, is leaving the military to work for a civilian newspaper in the South. Good luck, everyone!

Big brains

The following reservists recently completed formal training: **Maj. Jon Sabatino**, 931st Operations Support Flight, completed intelligence officer school; **Tech. Sgt. Hugo Hurtado**, 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight, completed optometry 3-level school; **Senior Airman Michael Miller**, 18th Air Refueling Squadron, completed operations resource management 3-level school; and **Senior Airman Lareina Waldorf-Schmitt**, 931st AMF, completed aeromedical 3-level school.

No KANZA SPIRIT in June

The Kanza Spirit will not be published next month because of limited public affairs manning. Your Spirit will return in July.

MPF limited service

MPF staffers will only be able to provide limited service during the May UTA because of unit participation in upcoming exercises and inspections.

Spouse Orientation Flight

The 931st ARG will host a Spouse Orientation Flight

on Saturday, June 9. Interested spouses should contact Chris Lytle at Ext. 3119 or Travis Clark at Ext. 3466. Unfortunately, children will be unable to participate.

Family Support Center

The McConnell Family Support Center provides free seminars on a wide variety of topics each month that 931st members may attend. Stop by Group Training for a complete listing of briefings available along with a brief description of what will be covered. To schedule, just call Ext. 6020 -- it's that easy!

Fitness Walk

The next fitness walk will be held on Sunday, May 6, at 3 p.m. at the track by CE. Come join us before the weather gets too hot!!

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

The group is sponsoring a series of classes for both unit members and their spouses. The spouses' class is slated for Aug. 18 and 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the class for unit members is scheduled to be held Aug. 13 to 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. Come and learn the "tricks of the trade" used by successful people the world over!

Correction

In the last issue of the Kanza Spirit, we incorrectly identified Tech. Sgt. Ralph Babcock, father of new 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron enlistee, Jeremiah Babcock.

If you find a mistake in the paper, contact Maj. Dave Fruck at Ext. 3704 or at David.Fruck@mcconnell.af.mil.

Spirit Spotlight

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Malenky
931st Mission Support Flight



Maj. Dave Fruck

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Malenky (far right) poses with two other departing reservists, Jason Whited and Master Sgt. Thelma Herrera. All three members are leaving the unit in May.

This month's Spotlight selectee was the fifth member of the unit when it stood up in 1995 and is known around the unit as the "Personnel Me." Dave is leaving the 931st Air Refueling Group this month to take a job at the Air Force Personnel Center. Watch out, San Antonio golfers!

Job title: MPF Superintendent (soon to be Grand Poobah at AFPC)

Time in the military: 23 years, 7 months, 23 days, 14 minutes and 45 seconds (information was correct at press time)

What I'm reading now: *Maxim Magazine*

What I'm listening to now: Air Force Reserve Jazz Ensemble; Singing Reservists Greatest Hits

Favorite way to relax: Playing golf and calling in sick

Easiest way to annoy me: Calling in sick

What I like MOST about the military: The people

What I like LEAST about the military: The people

Most influential person in my life: Me -- I'm a self-motivator

If I won \$1 million, I would: Quit my job, travel the world and buy an XFL franchise.



GO WILD AT THE FAMILY DAY PICNIC!

You and your family are invited to attend this year's 931st Air Refueling Group Family Day Picnic Sunday, June 10 at the Sedgwick County Zoo!

Admission and lunch are free for kids 3 and under; \$7 for kids aged 4 to 11 (price includes admission -- \$4 and lunch -- \$3); and \$12.50 for adults (price includes admission -- \$6.50 and lunch -- \$6). Don't let the cost of this event limit your desire to participate -- there are many fundraisers being held during the April and May UTAs to help offset costs.

Please fill in the following info so the picnic committee can estimate the number of zoo admissions and number of meals to purchase. Return your completed form to your unit's picnic rep no later than the May UTA.

Member's Name: _____

Unit: _____

Total # of family members attending: Ages 3 and under _____

Ages 4 and 11 _____ Ages 12 and up _____

Picnic Reps

DeBroada Cornelius, MSF

Charlene Slater, AGS

Tammy Askren, CES

Lloyd Robinson, OSF

Ken Dodd, ARG

Jim Winningham, ARS



CE, Continued from Page 1

opportunity to utilize their skills and work closely with other Air Force Reserve and Active Duty Structures personnel. Definitely a beneficial experience for all."

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Liss, NCOIC of the Patrick deployment and superintendent of the CE HVAC section, stated that what impressed him most about the project was the accommodating attitude of the 45th CES and the seamless integration of the McConnell engineers into all aspects of the work. Liss added "It's a shining example of the quality of training being accomplished by today's Air Force reserve".

MSF, Continued from Page 2

is a new full-time addition at all AFRC units with the emphasis on retaining a skilled, qualified Reserve force. The CAA is available to individuals and organizations to provide a wide variety of information on Reserve programs, reenlistment options, benefits, and bonuses.

Not as visible to most

customers is Personnel Systems Management, which oversees the operation of the various data systems that are the backbone for maintaining personnel records. PCIII links orderly rooms to the MPF and the personnel data system is set to be replaced May 1 by the MILMOD system.

Communications and Information

The Information Systems Flight provides technical assistance in the areas of records management, publishing, administrative communications, and office management, and work group administration. Responsibilities include the management of the group's Security Awareness Training and Education program, the new Defense Messaging Service, video teleconferencing, and BITS services.

Computer Operations manages and provides customer service for both "inside the wall" and "from the wall out" (desktop hardware/software) operations. For any computer related problems, simply call the Help

Desk at Ext. 4017. The Work Group Manager will prioritize your call and assign jobs to 3A0 or 3C0 technicians to troubleshoot and resolve the problem; LAN issues will be referred to the LAN manager.

Security Forces

The members of the security forces provide combat arms training, manage the group's personnel/information/physical security programs, and administer the Anti-terrorism/Force Protection program. They augment the 22nd ARW's security forces during critical manpower shortages, as well as other Air Force units including back-filling AEF commitments.

Well, if you made it this far, congratulations! There are so many functions within the MSF, it's hard to condense the all the information and still do justice to each duty section and the members of this unit. Needless to say, we're here to support each and every reservist in the 931st Air Refueling Group. Please let me know if the level of service you're receiving doesn't meet your expectations, or if someone

gave you the "kid glove" treatment and deserves some type of recognition.

CHEVRON, Continued from Page 5

stripes also changed through the years. The first basic change in the enlisted grade structure since 1920 occurred June 1, 1958. Congress authorized two new "super grades," E-8 and E-9. Design for the new chevrons presented a problem. "Zebra stripes" were not desirable, yet other suggestions were not acceptable either.

Today's enlisted chevron moved one stripe from the bottom to the top of the chevron for E-7 through E-9, giving it a "roof." The silver star returned to all enlisted ranks and bold white stripes instead of silver-tinted ones give the chevrons an even larger look.

The chevron is a study in the evolution of tradition, structure change and uniform adaptability to changing needs. It relays a long history and remains a distinguishing mark of progressive responsibility.

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