

From the commander

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Vol. 4, No. 11

Kanza

SPIRIT

Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

931st hosts annual Bosses' Day

Dozens of civilian supervisors head to McConnell to get 'first hand' look at Air Force Reserve

Senior Airman Jason Whited
931st ARG Public Affairs

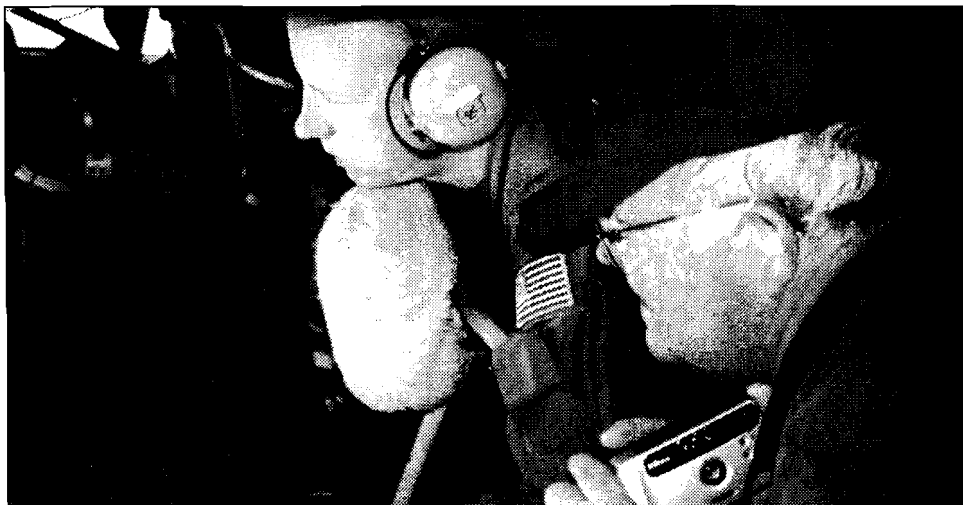
Members of the 931st Air Refueling Group had more than their fair share of supervisors to put up with last month when unit members hosted their annual Bosses' Day Oct. 16.

The more than 40 civilian bosses who participated in the event not only came to get a better feel for what their part-time reservist employees actually do when they put on all that camouflage and head out for the weekend but also to get an "up close and personal" view of the 931st ARG mission.

Employers began their day with a ride aboard a KC-135 as Reserve aircrews refueled F-16s. Participants rotated in and out of the boom pod to get a front row seat as each fighter was topped off.

"It was a good experience – a lot of fun," said Bill Axtell, an electronics technician with Sedgwick County and civilian supervisor of Master Sgt. Dallas Jones, 931st Civil Engineer Squadron. "That was my favorite part of the day," he added.

After touching down, attendees headed



Photos by Staff Sgt. David Brumley

A civilian employer gets his camera ready as he watches a 931st Air Refueling Group boom operator refuel an F-16.

to Emerald City for a quick lunch and a briefing from Col. Daniel Opp, 931st ARG Commander on the unit's mission and capabilities.

From there, employers headed to work centers to catch a glimpse of where their employees spend their UTA weekends.

Participants said they had a great time and developed a better understanding for the sacrifice their employees make for their country.

"It was great," said Tim McGinness, a manager with Boeing and supervisor of Tech. Sgt. Gerald Janzen, also with the 931st CES. "After (seeing how the 931st operates)



Employers chowed down at Emerald city as they listened to a mission briefing from Col. Daniel Opp, 931st Air Refueling Group Commander.

and seeing the enthusiasm here, I want to continue to support (Janzen) in his military service. It's basically a win-win situation for everybody."

From the Commander...

Col. Daniel E. Opp
931st ARG, Commander

Bosses' Day was a huge success! I want to thank each of you who invited their boss out to be a part of our annual event.

From the comments I received from some of our guests, I am sure you made big points that day. Most of the comments I received verified my opinion that most civilians do not realize the level of responsibility and dedication it requires being a "citizen-soldier". Not only did they see each of your individual work areas, but also witnessed first hand how America is able to project power anywhere in the world.

Your mission is the essential ingredient in that equation. They were definitely impressed.

What's a DACOWITS?

Ms. Jo Zakas will be visiting with the 931st on Saturday of the UTA. She is a new appointee to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) and a local Wichita resident. She will be conducting three forums throughout the day, and I encourage all of the women in the 931st to make it to one of these forums.

Ch- Ch- Ch- Changes

We will be having a change of command in the 18th Air Refueling Squadron this UTA. Lt. Col. Ellis Yoder will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Ron Johnston on Saturday morning in the Emerald Ballroom. As Col. Yoder hands the guidon away, he will immediately become the 931st ARG Deputy Group

Commander. Col. Johnston will be in the rare position of being a commander and an Air Reserve Technician, which is quite an anomaly in a flying squadron. Please give him your support as he tackles this new and challenging position. Lt. Col. Al Simmons will become the 18th ARS Operations Officer. Each has been acting in their new positions since Col. Goico became the Vice Wing Commander of the 507th.

Anthrax update

I have been informed that the vaccine is on back order right now, and we probably won't be getting it until late spring. Between now and then, I encourage each of you to talk with your personal physician, the flight surgeons, etc. to get the information you need to make an intelligent, informed decision.

If you are getting your information from the Internet, please confirm your sources. Anyone can post just about anything on the Internet. Just because it's in print doesn't make it true or we would believe everything in the supermarket tabloids. Use sources such as the CDC or the Aviation Medicine website at www.aviationmedicine.com. This website offers answers to a lot of the rumors floating around out there.

I want to reiterate what I said at commander's call. We can kick this down the road for as long as it takes to get the vaccine in, but once it does, we will begin vaccinations. If we are activated and deployed to a location requiring the shot and we have the vaccine provided to us, it then becomes mandatory. If you refuse to



Col. Daniel Opp

get inoculated at that time, you may be subject to UCMJ action. I want everyone to realize this part of the equation.

Speaking of shots, the flu vaccine has arrived and will be offered Saturday, Nov. 6 at the immunization clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Be sure to take your shot record with you because they are not giving out stickers this year. You will be turned away without it. This is a mandatory shot, so make arrangements to get yours. The good news is that there have been no reports of anyone getting sick this year from it.

In light of the recent Blue Angel crash, safety must be paramount in every thing we do. If it can happen to the "best of the best", it can happen to anyone of us. Think about what you are doing before you do it, act, don't react and use the six steps of operational risk management in all aspects of your life to keep your workplace, home or anywhere else you might be, a safe environment. Have a great UTA.

Kanza Spirit

Volume 4, No. 10

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931st Commander
Col. Daniel Opp

Chief, Public Affairs
Maj. Dave Fruck

Editor
Senior Airman Jason Whited

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. David Brumley



Spirit Spotlight

Tech Sgt. Morris Findley Readiness Technician, 931st CES

From: *Albany, Mo.*

Civilian Position: *Readiness Technician ART*

Favorite Food: *My wife's homemade spaghetti sauce with thin spaghetti*

Favorite Music: *Hard Rock*

Favorite Movie: *"The Rock"*

Hobbies: *Surfing the Internet (at home, of course), fishing, watching the Kansas City Chiefs*

Ideal Vacation: *Camping with my family at a remote location*

Favorite Way to Relax: *Fishing, hunting, visiting family and friends*



Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Pet Peeve: *People who exert more effort trying to avoid doing something than they would have exerted just getting the job done*

What would you do with \$1 Million: *Pay off my debts!*

Personnel News

Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are as follows:

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday – UTA 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday – UTA 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OUTPROCESSING HOURS

If you or any unit member you know needs to out process for TDY, reassignment or retirement, keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay section (Sharon Thayer) is only open for business on 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 Relocations at Ext. 3665.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC)

We will resume our normal schedule of monthly meetings beginning in November. Anyone wishing to have an issue addressed by the council may forward it to the council through their unit representative. Commanders and first sergeants are always welcome to attend.

See Personnel, page 4

UTA Schedule

November 6, 7
December 4, 5
January 8, 9

Chapel Service

UTA Sundays, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.
 Building No. 850,
 upstairs conference room
 Maj. Charles Peters, Chaplain
Everyone is Welcome!

Refer a Friend

There are positions available within the 931st ARG. Help your unit recruit by providing them a name of a friend or have them contact Tech. Sgt. David McCormick at Ext. 4350, Master Sgt. Terry Gosh at Ext. 3766, or one of their area recruiters listed below.



Tinker AFB, OK

Master Sgt. Victor Bradford (405) 739-2980

Tech. Sgt. Rhonda Nolan (405) 734-5331

Lawton, OK

Tech. Sgt. Nathan Bickle (405) 357-2784

Sheppard AFB, TX

Master Sgt. Larry Giles (817) 6763382

Midwest City, OK

Master Sgt. Linda Smith (405) 733-9403

Staff Sgt. William Thompson

NEWCOMERS



Staff Sgt. David Brumley

Senior Airman Brent Danley,
931st Aircraft
Generation Squadron;
Senior Airman Amber Kamm,
931st Civil Engineer
Squadron;
Senior Airman Erin Hubbard,
931st CES; and
Maj. Jeffrey Young,
18th Air Refueling
Squadron

Personnel *continued from page 3*

IS YOUR EMERGENCY DATA UP-TO-DATE?

Is your emergency data current? If not, be sure you fill out your DD Form No. 93.

This form provides info on primary and secondary next-of-kin notification in case of death, injury or emergency. This form also serves as the official document required by law for designating beneficiaries for death gratuity pay and unpaid pay and allowances.

MPF IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The MPF is closed each Sunday of the UTA from 7:30 to 10 a.m. for in-house training.

Classes are held in the TNET (Room No. 217), and all administrative personnel are welcome to attend.

NCO ACADEMY DATES

NCO Academy slots/dates for fiscal 2000 are here! Interested staff sergeants with eight years time in service and tech. sergeants may contact Group Training for specific dates/location as well as application procedures.

AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

We have received our quotas for fiscal 2000. Senior airmen with four years time in service are eligible to attend.

Class dates available are April 11 to May 12, 2000; May 30 to June 30, 2000; and July 25 to August 25, 2000.

Contact Group Training for further information.

GROUP T-SHIRTS

The ever-popular 931st Air Refueling Group T-shirts are for sale again -- just in time to help you knock out your Christmas list!

You can purchase your T-shirts through the end of this UTA from your unit representative.

The black, pre-shrunk 100 percent cotton T-shirts feature the full-color Kanza roach and unit/base identification on the left chest

in gold lettering. T-shirts cost \$10 for sizes S-XL; XXL T-shirts cost \$11. Cash or checks will be accepted.

Payment must be made in advance, and delivery will be made on the December UTA (4, 5).

TRICARE DIFFICULTIES

Members who are having problems with Tricare paying medical bills incurred while their spouses were activated should contact Lt. Martha Kuder at Ext. 3546.

SENIOR NCO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Applications are being accepted for the Dec. 18, 19 Senior NCOLDP at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

E-7s through E-9s who have not attended an academy in residence are welcome to attend. The deadline to apply is Dec. 10. Call Group Training at Ext. 5423 or 6082 for more information.

'WHY I SERVE' ESSAY CONTEST

Air Force Reserve Command is sponsoring an essay contest, "Why I Serve," with the top three essays to be printed in the April 2000 issue of Citizen Airman Magazine.

The contest is open to all unit reservists, individual mobilization augmentees and active-duty members assigned to AFRC. Submissions must be typed and no more than 250 words.

You can submit your entries via regular mail to: HQ AFRC/PAP, 255 2nd Street, Robins Air Force Base, GA 31098-1637; via e-mail to: citizen.airman@afrc.af.mil; or via fax to: DSN 497-0878 or (912) 327-0878.

Entries are due by Dec. 31. For more info, contact the Citizen Airman staff at DSN 497-1773 or (912)327-1773.

KANZA SPIRIT SUBMISSIONS

If you'd like to submit an article or have a story idea for the Kanza Spirit, contact Senior Airman Jason Whited in the Public Affairs Office at Ext. 3616 or via e-mail at Jason.Whited@mcconnell.af.mil.

Knucklebusters Banquet '99

Reservist revel as 931st wrench turners rack up awards

By Chief Master Sgt. Robert Stephenson
931st AGS Maintenance Superintendent

On Aug. 14 1999, members of the 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron, along with troops from the 22nd Logistics Group, 22nd Maintenance Aircraft Coordination Center and Detachment 8 came together to commemorate the 19th Annual Knucklebuster's Banquet.

This awards banquet honored all aircraft maintenance mechanics.

Some Knucklebuster history

For those who do not know, the term Knucklebuster comes from what can happen to any mechanic.

There you are trying to loosen a bolt, pushing with all you have, and wham! The bolt loosens quickly, and your knuckles hit the item

behind it, causing all sorts of pain.

Planning for this event goes on year-round. The very next week after this year's banquet, the planning meetings for next year's banquet started.

One of the most important areas is fund raising.

Most of these fundraisers for this award are only done by the 22nd AGS.

To raise money for this, the mechanics bag groceries year-round at the Commissary, wash cars, hold bowling and golf tournaments, etc.

A proud partnership

The 931st AGS, over the past years, has not participated in any fund raising which tends to cause hard feelings. It was a very proud moment this year to be able to donate almost \$850 from the 931st ARG.

I personally want to thank every member that donated money as well as the different organizations within our unit

who donated money from their coffee fund.

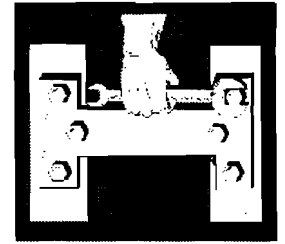
Members of the 22nd AGS said they were "shocked" at the amount of money the 931st donated.

The money was used to buy trophies and keep the meal costs down for the younger airman. It also buys many other things for the event. Again, I personally want to thank all of you for the donations.

The winners of the Knucklebuster's Awards are voted on by the mechanics only. The staff or supervision does not vote. For this reason, is quite an honor to be voted as top mechanic by your peers.

The winners for 1999 were Tech. Sgts. Martin Curry, James Kirk and Jeff Schrier.

This year's nominees were: Master Sgts. Wade Jones, Bryan Lawley, Dale Schaffer; Tech. Sgts. Martin Curry, Jeremy Karczmarczyk, Jim Kirk, Jeff Schrier, Milton Willhight, Gary Justice; and Staff Sgts. Tim Calhoun, Jeff Hicks and Albert Ryder. Congratulations to all of the



931st Winners:

Tech. Sgts. Martin Curry, James Kirk and Jeff Schrier

931st Nominees:

Master Sergeants Wade Jones, Bryan Lawley, Dale Schaffer; Tech. Sgts. Martin Curry, Jeremy Karczmarczyk, Jim Kirk, Jeff Schrier, Milton Willhight, Gary Justice; and Staff Sgts. Tim Calhoun, Jeff Hicks and Albert Ryder.

nominees and winners.

A special thanks to all of the many spouses that also make it possible for the members to be able to perform their jobs while their spouses are doing so much to support them and our unit.

931st troops to meet with DOD official Saturday

By Senior Airman Jason Whited
931st ARG Public Affairs

Dozens of women assigned to the 931st Air Refueling Group will get a rare opportunity to meet face to face with a top Defense Department official Saturday when a representative of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services visits the unit to talk with

troops and observe them at work.

Jo Zakas, a Wichita resident and new DACOWITS appointee, is scheduled to spend most of the day with 931st ARG members in several "informal discussion groups" in an effort to listen to any concerns or suggestions airmen might have relating to force utilization, career opportunities and quality of life.

DACOWITS was created in 1951 to help avert a manpower shortage caused by the Korean War. At that time, DACOWITS focused primarily on recruiting and retaining women during the conflict, but shifted its focus after the war to retention and career progression for women.

According to DOD officials, the committee continued its work through the years, but really got a jump

start after the Gulf War.

After hostilities ended and Pentagon officials took stock of how women had performed during the war, they realized the need to reassess women's role in the military.

Through DACOWITS' efforts, DOD officials opened more than 250,000 combat-related jobs to women by the mid-1990s as well as undertake a host of other initiatives that benefitted women in uniform.

Officials believe raising flying training age limit to help Reserve program

By Bo Joyner
AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – On July 1, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan raised the age limit for applicants for undergraduate pilot and navigator training from 27 ½ to 30.

Air Force Reserve Command officials here think the change – the first of its kind in 45 years – should strengthen what is already a very healthy Reserve undergraduate flying training program.

“I think the air reserve components stand to benefit greatly from the increase in the age limit,” said Master Sgt. Cynthia Crocker, chief of undergraduate pilot and navigator training at AFRC headquarters.

“In the past, we’ve had a number of enlisted aircrew members who worked extremely hard to get their degree and get private flying time while involved in a very high operations tempo for the Reserve. When they finally met all of the requirements for undergraduate flying training, we had to tell them they were too old. There are a number of candidates like this who will benefit.”

Why the change?

The age limit, which had been either 27 years or 27 ½ years since 1953, is being



U. S. Air Force photo

Air Force officials say they are raising the age limit for applicants for undergraduate pilot and navigator training in hopes of providing “maximum opportunity for otherwise qualified candidates.” They hope the change allows more people to apply for pilot and navigator slots for aircraft such as this KC-135, which is flown by the 931st Air Refueling Group.

raised to broaden the pool of qualified applicants, Ryan said, emphasizing that the change is not due to a shortage of qualified applicants.

“The age limit is being raised to provide maximum opportunity for otherwise qualified candidates,” Ryan said. “It will increase the pool of highly motivated applicants who, for various reasons, started

their Air Force careers slightly later in life, and allow the Air Force to pick the best of that group. We have incorporated multiple contributing factors to arrive at an age which provides the maximum opportunity for outstanding candidates while ensuring that Air Force medical, safety, rated management and warfighting standards are met.” (AFRC News Service)

Election year do's, don'ts also affect reservists

WASHINGTON – As election campaigns heat up, military members need to know the guidelines concerning political activities.

While it is a civic duty for service members to exercise their democratic rights to vote, certain political activities are off limits, say Air Force legal officials.

These rules also apply to reservists on active duty or while in uniform. However, there are some exceptions for reservists on active duty for 30 days or less. They should contact their legal office to address these exceptions individually, advise legal

officials at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Restrictions on election campaign activities are aimed at keeping the military a politically neutral entity by avoiding partisan politics. They are stated in Air Force Instruction 51-902 and in Department of Defense Directive 1344.10.

Prohibited partisan political activities include soliciting votes for a particular candidate or political issue, soliciting or receiving campaign contributions from other military members or civilian employees, and selling tickets or

promoting political dinners and fund-raising events. Service members may not attend political events in uniform or speak before a political gathering as an advocate of a political party or candidate.

Additionally, they may not distribute petitions, literature and buttons, nor can they perform clerical or other duties for a partisan, political committee during the campaign or on election day.

Such issues can create divisiveness among service members, and there is a

See Election, page 7

The threat is real...

Terrorism

By Staff Sgt. Russell Hunt
931st Intelligence

(Note: This is the first article of a series that will be presented in the Kanza Spirit over the next few months.)

In this day and age when reservists are called upon more and more to augment active-duty forces in hot spots around the world, it is vital for deploying troops to be aware of all possible terrorist threats at their deployed location -- and how these threats fit into the bigger, worldwide picture of state-sponsored terrorism.

We all remember the June 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia which killed 19 airmen and injured hundreds more. Terrorism experts say the threat of this type of attack will only continue to increase in the future as more and more fringe groups with a grudge become armed -- often by hostile governments.

American troops are a prized target for terrorists -- and it doesn't matter whether they're active duty, guardsmen or

reservists -- just as long as they represent the United States.

As Osama Bin Laden, the terrorist wanted by American officials in relation to numerous terrorist attacks around the world, recently said: "If someone can kill an American soldier, it is better than wasting time on other matters."

The Secretary of State has designated seven governments as state sponsors of terrorism: Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

These governments support international terrorism either by engaging in terrorist activity themselves or by providing arms, training, safe haven, diplomatic facilities, financial backing, logistic and/or other support to terrorists.

The U.S. policy of bringing maximum pressure to bear on state sponsors of terrorism and encouraging other countries to do likewise has paid significant dividends.

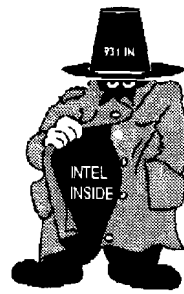
There has been a marked decline in state-sponsored terrorism in recent years.

A broad range of bilateral and multilateral sanctions serves to discourage state sponsors of terrorism from continuing their support for international acts of terrorism, but continued pressure is essential.

Here is a partial listing of these seven nations and some of the reasons the government lists them as state sponsors of terrorism. Watch the Spirit in the coming months for more info and expanded articles on these countries.

Cuba

Although there is no evidence



to indicate that Cuba sponsored any international terrorist activity in 1997, it continues to provide sanctuary to terrorists from several different terrorist organizations.

Cuba also maintains strong links to other state sponsors of terrorism.

Iran

Notwithstanding some conciliatory statements in the months after President Khatami's inauguration in August 1997, Iran remains the most active state sponsor of terrorism.

There is no evidence that Iranian policy has changed, and Iran continues both to provide significant support to terrorist organizations and to assassinate dissidents abroad.

Iraq

Iraq provides safe haven to a number of terrorist and rejectionist groups. It continues to rebuild its intelligence network, which had been used to support international terrorist activity, but there is no available evidence to prove active Iraqi participation in terrorist activity in 1997.

Libya

Libya also continues to provide safe haven to accused terrorists, refusing to hand over the two suspects in the Pan Am 103 attack and the six suspects named by French authorities in the attack on UTA 772.

Libya refuses to comply fully with UN Security Council sanctions imposed because of Libyan involvement in both bombings.

Election

continued from page 6

potential for undue influence over subordinates' political choices. This potentially undermines morale, explained officials who also remind members to keep in mind the armed forces are under the control of elected civilian officials and should not appear to support particular candidates or issues.

Military members may, however, engage in certain political activities. They may register, then vote for the candidates and issues of their choice. Personal opinions may be expressed about issues and candidates, but not as a representative of the military. Along the same lines, letters may be written to editors of periodicals expressing personal views, taking care to limit such articles to public, nonpartisan issues and signing it personally -- not as a military member.

Attending rallies and meetings of political clubs, as well as wearing political badges or buttons, is also permissible when not in uniform. Service members may also display political bumper stickers on their personal vehicles.

Also, contributions to a political party or committee that favors a particular candidate are not prohibited, but direct contributions to a political candidate are prohibited.

More information about political activities is available at base legal offices. (AFRC News Service)

United States Air Force

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WICHITA WEEKEND

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O N BASE

I N TOWN

Friday, November 5

Wichita Thunder hockey vs. Tulsa Drillers -- Kansas Coliseum, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9 to \$12 and can be purchased either through the Thunder Box Office (264-4625) or at the door.

Saturday, November 6

"Coward and Friends" -- A tribute to Noel Coward by Simon Gledhill on the Wichita Wurlitzer. 8 p.m. at Century II, 225 W. Douglas. Tickets cost \$12 at Central Ticket Agency (263-4717) or at the door.

Wichita Wings soccer vs. St. Louis Ambush -- Kansas Coliseum at 7:35 p.m. Tickets cost \$9 to \$13. Tickets for children 5 and under cost \$1. You can purchase tickets by calling the Wings Box Office at 262-3545 or at the door.

Sunday, November 7

Men's Basketball -- Wichita State vs. Athletes First (Exhibition Match). 7:30 p.m. at Levitt Arena on the WSU campus. Tickets cost \$11 to \$16 and can be purchased by calling WSU-FANS (978-3267) or at the door.

UTA Movies

All Movies \$2.00; All times 7 p.m.; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Friday, November 5 -- IN TOO DEEP -- (Omar Epps, LL Cool J); Detective Jeffrey Cole is going undercover on a mission so dangerous, it could cost him his life. His target: a gangster called "god" who's hooked into 80 percent of the city's crime. **Rated R** (*strong sensuality and language, some violence*), 1 hour, 46 minutes.

Saturday, November 6 -- STIGMATA -- (Gabriel Byrne, Patricia Arquette); Terrible things are happening to Frankie Paige -- things she can't understand or explain. Paranormal attacks which cause her to bleed from her head, hands and feet plague her. The Vatican dispatches Father Kiernan to investigate. What he finds in Frankie will challenge his faith as a priest. **Rated R** (*intense violence, language, some sexuality*), 1 hour, 42 minutes.

Sunday, November 7 -- OUTSIDE PROVIDENCE -- (Alec Baldwin, Shawn Hatosy); In a blue collar town in Rhode Island, Timothy has a broken home, a three-legged dog and a full-blown attraction to trouble. His father sends him off to prep school where he's out of place and outclassed. **Rated R** (*pervasive teen drug use, strong language, sexual references*), 1 hour, 43 minutes.

LIVE THEATRE

Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
through November 14th
Call 681-1566 for dinner and showtimes.

	MAFB	Gate
Thurs. & Sun.	\$21.45	\$24.30
Fri. & Sat.	\$24.45	\$27.48

The McConnell Ticket and Tour office has discount tickets on dozens of events in the Wichita Community and surrounding area, including movies, theatre, sports trips and other tours.

For information on what is available, contact the office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The numbers are (316) 652-6007 and 652-6038.

931st Air Refueling Group
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McConnell AFB, Kan. 67221