

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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March 2006

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol. II, No. 2



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. MAURICE HESSEL

An F-22A Raptor from the 27th Fighter Squadron based at Langley, Air Force Base, Va. refuels with a KC-135 Stratotanker crewed by the 18th Air Refueling Squadron from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., during the Raptor's first operational mission Jan. 21. The mission was flown in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Raptors refueled by 18th ARS

F-22A completes first operational refueling

BY TECH. SGT. GENEVIEVE S. MORRIS
22ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Airmen from the 18th Air Refueling Squadron here took part in the first operational aerial refueling mission for the F-22A Raptor Jan. 21 in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

The F-22A Raptor was declared operational by the Air Force Dec. 15. It is the newest fighter aircraft for the Air Force, combining stealth, supercruise, maneuverability and integrated avionics.

During the eight-hour mission, the KC-135 Stratotanker transferred 18,200 pounds of fuel into two Raptors from Langley Air Force Base, Va.

The boom operator on the mission, from Wichita, Kan., was Air Force Reserve Tech. Sgt. Chris Norris.

"It's the first time we've ever refueled an F-22 in operational usage; that's what makes this kind of a big deal," Sergeant Norris said. "The testing phase is done, and we're finally

taking it out. We're making it official. It's a whole new way to look at military fighters."

Lt. Col. John Stansfield was the pilot on the KC-135 that carried the fuel for the Raptor. He said he understood the significance of the mission but described it as "just another day at the office."

"Most of the time, we don't even see the fighters," Colonel Stansfield said. "The only way I have of knowing how far away he is and where he is, is from the boom operator."

Members from the squadron have refueled the F-22A during training missions at Edwards AFB, Calif., so they were also involved in the testing phase of the new weapons system.

The unit normally refuels F-15 Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons, but now it is taking on the additional new aircraft in an operational role, said Lt. Col. Jon Woods, chief of current operations for the squadron.

THIS UTA

931st AMXS Chili Feed

The 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron will hold their annual 'chili feed' on Saturday, March 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the upstairs Reserve area of building 1185. Cost is four dollars, which includes a bowl, spoon, soda, condiments and a voting ballot.

Fit Test 'heads up'

Group wide fitness testing will take place during the April UTA. Individuals slated to test should prepare themselves accordingly. For more information contact your Fitness Monitor.

AMXS Shirt Set To Retire

931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant, Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Bourgeois will retire on Sunday, March 12 at 10 a.m. in the Dole Community Center ballroom. Senior Master Sgt. Shelia Russell will be coming from the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker, Air Force Base, Okla. to become the new First Sergeant for the squadron.

Vol. 11, No. 2

Commander,
931st Air Refueling
Group

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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 mailed each month to all 931st ARG members on file with Personnel. Members not receiving their copy should check with their administration section to ensure their filed address is correct.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the March UTA and thank you for the wonderful welcome home!

My deployment to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan was a very rewarding experience. The chance to work with active duty, reserve and guardsmen coming together to work as a team was an awesome thing. The incredible spirit and professionalism of all these Airmen was indeed impressive. Let me tell you Kyrgyz military officials were completely stunned when they visited Manas AB. Our skill level and teamwork was totally alien to them. Those officials view the United States Air Force as what they want their military to aspire to.

Please give Col. Clay Childs a pat on the back for the terrific job he did in my absence. In what always seems to happen, he encountered many "interesting" issues during his tenure. I applaud the skill and tact in which he handled every issue. It was and is comforting to know I had a skilled professional at the helm during my absence. Thanks Clay!

Last UTA, 4th Air Force gave our group a staff assistance visit to help prepare us for future inspections. Thanks to everyone who made the visit a smashing success. It is always good to have a different set of eyes check out our programs. They looked at and studied our programs and provided us great feedback on how to improve the effectiveness of our group. Let us all take this information now and aggressively jump in there and fix the few things that need some attention.

Finally, our Security Forces warriors have returned from Iraq. Presently they are taking advantage of well deserved down time. When you see them around campus please take a moment to shake their hand and thank them for their selfless service to our country. Also, cheers to Lt. Col. Lehigh, our Staff Judge Advocate, for volunteering for a four month plus deployment to Baghdad!

Have a great UTA!



Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel
931st ARG Commander



DID YOU KNOW?

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 31-201 RESTRICTS THE USE OF CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING ON BASE. ONLY CELL PHONES WITH HANDS-FREE DEVICES WILL BE ALLOWED FOR USE BY DRIVERS.

UTA SCHEDULE

Next UTA: March 11-12

April 8-9

May 6-7

June 10-11

Air Force releases 2006 posture statement

BY SENIOR AIRMAN J.G. BUZANOWSKI
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

The Air Force released its "posture statement" detailing the service's missions and priorities over the next year.

The 52-page document's introduction asks Airmen to look from their heritage to the horizon, taking lessons from the past and adapting them for the future.

It also opens with a letter from Michael W. Wynne, secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff.

"Our 2006 posture statement outlines our plan to accomplish ... goals regarding (the global war on terror), our Airmen, and our aircraft and equipment," they said.

The posture statement expands those three main Air Force objectives and why they're important to today's Airmen.

The posture statement also "reflects our commitment to good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us, and our dedication to protecting our nation in air, space and cyberspace," General Moseley and Secretary Wynne wrote.

Winning the global war on terror

"Our first priority is winning the global war on terror," according to the statement. It goes on to outline the importance of air, space and cyberspace operations and their importance in both homeland defense and fighting

the nation's enemies. The statement also cites

emerging threats and the risk of weapons of mass destruction.

"The Air Force has been at war continually for 15 years," General Moseley said recently in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee. The posture statement further illustrates the Air Force contributions not only to missions past, but to operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Developing and caring for Airmen

The posture statement takes into consideration the total force. Considerations for active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen are at the forefront of shaping and developing the Air Force.

"We must manage our force to ensure the Air Force is properly sized, shaped and organized to meet the global challenges of today and tomorrow," the posture statement reads.

It also details recruiting and retention efforts, updates on military housing, as well as new management systems for personnel actions and civilian employment.

Maintenance, modernization and recapitalization

The posture statement outlines that the Air Force is also looking to use its oldest aircraft for as long as it can while newer weapon systems are brought online. To extend the use of platforms such as the C-5 Galaxy for airlift operations, certain upgrades are essential. The Air Force is also looking to bring its newest aircraft to the forefront of the Air Force mission, such as the F-22A Raptor, unmanned aerial vehicles and



intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft. The posture statement also illustrates the importance of space as part of the Air Force mission.

Heritage to horizon

To successfully reach the three goals, the posture statement describes how the service will establish Air Force Smart Operations 21 practices. Essentially, AFSO21, as it's known, is the application of business plans meant to streamline everyday processes across the Air Force to be more effective and more efficient.

Air Force leaders believe AFSO21 practices, as well as energy conservation, total force integration and exploring new technologies are what will bring the Air Force forward into the future.

"We have received a proud heritage forged through the ingenuity, courage and strength of the Airmen who preceded us," the statement reads. "Our duty today is to deliver their Air Force to the limitless horizon ahead of us."



HELPING OUT

(LEFT) Master Sgt. Johnny Stephenson, Information Systems Manager for 931st ARG Star/Eval, assists a disabled veteran in selecting a prize after getting a 'bingo'. (RIGHT) Valerie Hood, Budget Analyst, 931st ARG watches over a veteran's bingo cards to make sure he catches all the numbers being called by the announcer. The 'bingo' event took place at the Veteran's Affairs medical center and was sponsored by McConnell AFB Top Three. (Photos by Senior Airman K.L. Kimbrell)

SPIRIT SHORTS

Uniform board results

The 97th Air Force Uniform Board has made some changes to the way Airmen will maintain their dress and appearance. For example, female Airmen will no longer be allowed to wear scrunchies in uniform. Also, the decision was made to discontinue the award of the Good Conduct Medal. You can view the full list of changes and updates to AFI 36-2903 at :

WWW.AFPC.RANDOLPH.AF.MIL

Request DD-214 online

Military veterans and their next of kin can now request copies of their DD-214 and other military records through a new Web site established by the National Personnel Record Center.

The center hopes to eliminate its mailroom processing time with the site and speed up responses to requests. By law, the center is required to obtain a written signature verification by fax or mail within 20 days of an online request. The new site is located at:

[HTTP://VETRECS.ARCHIVES.GOV](http://VETRECS.ARCHIVES.GOV)

Effective writing seminar

The Human Resource Development Council is pleased to announce that Senior Master Sgt. Karen Perkins from Headquarters Air Force

Reserve Command will offer effective writing classes during the April UTA. You can learn how to improve your skills at writing Officer and Enlisted Performance Reports, award packages and Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP) packages. Classes will be held in building 1185 in the upstairs auditorium at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9. Class size is limited to 20 participants and will last from an hour to an hour and a half in length. Please contact Senior Master Sgt. Pam Summers at 759-5423 to register.

ARPC expands hours

Beginning March 3, Air Reserve Component members will be able to speak to an Air Reserve Personnel Center customer service representative the first weekend of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

This enhanced customer service step gives drilling Reservists the flexibility and opportunity to speak with a customer service representative to help resolve personnel issues during their primary UTA.

Reservists who still aren't able to call ARPC are encouraged to log on to the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service web portal operated by ARPC at:

[HTTP://ARPC.AFRC.AF.MIL/SUPPORT.ASP](http://ARPC.AFRC.AF.MIL/SUPPORT.ASP)

Air Force implements new cell phone restriction

The Air Force has implemented a new cell phone restriction for drivers.

Drivers are not allowed to talk on their cell phones while driving on Air Force installations without a hands free device.

This restriction also applies to all government owned vehicles, or GOVs, at all times. No GOV drivers are permitted to talk on a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device on or off base.

Only cell phones with hands-free devices will be allowed for use by drivers. This guidance also allows the Air Force to use portable breath screening devices as long as they conform to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards.

Using a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device will be considered a "primary offense." This means violators will be able to be stopped solely for this offense.

Drivers who violate this cell phone driving restriction will be given three assessment points against their driving records or an appropriate fine. Drivers should be aware that if two or more violations are committed, even on a single occasion, a ticket may be given to the driver for each violation.

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