

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



Inside

DFCs Awarded
Pages 4 & 5
Spirit Shorts
Page 6
931st ARG
Website
Page 7

July 2006

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol.11, No. 6

931st Officer best in AMC

Captain named top Reserve CGO in Intelligence

BY STAFF SGT. K.L. KIMBRELL
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

An Airman from the 931st Air Refueling Group has won the 2005 Air Reserve Component Intelligence Company Grade Officer of the Year award.

The award was presented to Capt. Angela Chatmon by Air Mobility Command Vice Commander Lt. Gen. Christopher A. Kelly in a ceremony at AMC headquarters at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. on June 22.

The award is presented annually to an outstanding Reserve company grade officer in an AMC gained unit.

Affiliation with the 931st ARG Intelligence section made the award possible, but support from her civilian employer also had a large impact.

"Angela's (Capt. Chatmon) civilian employer allowed her to participate much more than the other officers in the way of deployments," said Lt. Col. William Eaton, Director of Intelligence for the 931st ARG. "She spent 120 plus days in the desert, returned to get the unit through a Staff Assistance Visit and then worked at Air Force Reserve Command for 60 days."



Capt. Chatmon deployed as a senior analyst providing all-source intelligence to the largest air refueling wing in the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

While deployed Capt. Chatmon:

- Led the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron Intelligence shop to provide support to 3,100 combat missions resulting in 52 million pounds of fuel to more than 4,260 aircraft

- Personally delivered 250 pre-mission briefings and filed 198 Mission Reports, including two major Surface-to-Air Fire events
- Provided intelligence support to coalition forces.

The Captain was surprised to have won the award.

"I was definitely caught off-guard - I didn't know that I had been submitted for the award," said Capt. Chatmon. "I feel honored to have won."

"Capt. Chatmon has done everything the Air Force Reserve has asked her to do and then some," said Lt. Col. Eaton. "We are blessed to have her as a part of our staff."



THIS UTA

AMXS Assumption of Command

Major Jeffrey J. Pickard will assume command of the 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during a ceremony on Saturday, July 15 at 11 a.m. in Bldg 1185. All group members are invited to attend the ceremony. Attire is uniform of the day.



Major Jeffrey J. Pickard

CES Unavailable

The 931st Civil Engineer Squadron will be unavailable during the July Unit Training Assembly due to participation in a field exercise. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the 931st CES at 759-5499 or 759-5498. Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive Incidents (CBRNE) training for Saturday, July 15 will not be affected by the training.

Commander's Call

There will be a group-wide Commander's Call on Sunday at the Dole Center Ballroom at 7:30 a.m. Attendance is mandatory for all personnel.



VOL.11 NO.6

COMMANDER
Col. Karl J. Hurdle

SPIRIT STAFF
Maj. Dave Fruck
Chief of Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell
Editor

HOW TO REACH US

Kanza Spirit
931st Air Refueling Group
53280 Topeka St., Ste. 221
McConnell AFB, KS 67221
Commercial Phone:
(316) 759-3704
DSN: 743-3704
Fax: (316)759-3393

E-MAIL:

kenny.kimbrell-02@mcconnell.af.mil

DEADLINES

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is close of business of the UTA.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members 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 of the Dept. 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.

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.



WE REMEMBER...

CAPTAIN JASON BARTON
August 31, 1974 - June 24, 2006

Captain Jason Barton, an Air Force Reserve KC-135 pilot assigned to the 18th Air Refueling Squadron, died tragically in a single aircraft accident at Big Timber Airport, Mont. while giving flight lessons on June 24.

Funeral services were held June 30 at Gramer Funeral Home, Diener Chapel in Shelby Township, Mich.

Captain Barton is survived by his wife, Alexandra Hoffmann-Barton; his parents, Michael & Kathy Barton and siblings, Jonathan Barton and Jodi Barton.

A memorial service for Capt. Barton will be held immediately following the Commander's Call on Sunday, July 16th at the Dole Community Center.

Who do you know?

The *Kanza Spirit* staff is looking for story ideas about 931st members who have unique hobbies or jobs, especially those that offer opportunities for unusual and interesting photos. Please contact Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell at (316) 759-3686 or kenny.kimbrell-02@mcconnell.af.mil with your ideas.

UTASCHEDULE

Next UTA: July 15-16

Aug. 12-13

Sept. 16-17

Oct. 14-15

Reason To Run



Master Sgt. Gary White holds the torch at the intersection of 63rd and Rock Rd. in Derby, Kan. as he prepares to begin the 931st SF portion of the run.

BY STAFF SGT. K.L. KIMBRELL
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

931ST SF CARRIES 'THE TORCH'



Members of the 931st SF, escorted by a 22nd SFS patrol car, run alongside the base during the annual torch run.

Members of the 931st Security Forces assisted the 'Kansas Torch Run for Special Olympics' on June 2. The run began in Derby, Kan. with the Derby Police Department running the torch up Rock Road to the intersection of 63rd Street. The 931 SF took over and ran the torch all the way to McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. where the torch was ran through the base and passed off to the Wichita Police Department at the back gate. Wichita Police then ran the torch to Wichita State University for the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics. Staff Sgt. Tyrel Askren, 931st SF, coordinated the 931st ARG involvement in the event.



931st SF members run with Derby police during the Special Olympics torch run on June 2.



Members of the 931st SF, braving temperatures in the upper nineties, ran the Special Olympic torch from Derby, Kan. through the base.

Distinguished Flying Cross

AWARDED TO 18TH ARS PILOTS

BY STAFF SGT. K.L. KIMBRELL
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Majors Michael Moeding and Marco Moor of the Air Force Reserve's 931st Air Refueling Group have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their actions in an event that occurred over Afghanistan in 2003.

The 18th Air Refueling Squadron pilots will receive the award, that is given to any officer or enlisted member who distinguishes himself or herself in combat in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight, in a ceremony sometime later this year.

Their story is told here.

It was January 23, 2003, somewhere over the skies of Afghanistan. A KC-135R Stratotanker crew assigned to the 384th Air Expeditionary Wing based in Southwest Asia was in the final stages of a nine-hour mission when an unlikely and unexpected event occurred.

"The number one Control Display Unit had a programming fault failure that corrupted the number two and three CDUs causing a complete heading, navigation, attitude, transponder, auto-pilot, and Flight Management System failure," said Maj. Michael Moeding, pilot and aircraft commander of the flight.

The problem was not addressed in the technical orders, so the pilots had to come up with a solution.

"There is no airborne solution for the problem," said Maj. Moeding.

Circumstances beyond the crew's control made it impossible to communicate with the ground or through the Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.



Majors Michael Moeding and Marco Moor were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their actions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Majors along with an active duty boom operator, Staff Sgt. Christopher Murphy recovered the KC-135R Stratotanker while flying a refueling mission over Southwest Asia. Sergeant Murphy received an Air Medal for his actions.

DFC History



The Distinguished Flying Cross was designed by Elizabeth Will and Arthur E. Dubois. It is a bronze cross pattée, with rays between the arms of the cross. On the obverse is a propeller of four blades, with one blade in each arm of the cross and in the re-entrant angles of the cross are rays which form a square. The cross is suspended by a rectangular-shaped bar and centered on this is a plain shield. The ribbon has a narrow red center stripe, flanked on either side by a thin white stripe, a wide stripe of dark blue, a narrow white stripe and narrow dark blue at the edge of the ribbon.

Subsequent awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross are indicated by oak-leaf clusters for Army and Air Force personnel and by additional award stars for members of the Naval services.

The Distinguished Flying Cross, authorized by an Act of Congress of July 2, 1926 (amended by Executive Order 7786 on January 8, 1938), was awarded first to Captain Charles A. Lindbergh, of the U.S. Army Air Corps Reserve, for his solo flight of 3600 miles across the Atlantic in 1927. The Aviatrix Amelia Earhart also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the only such award, as an executive order on March 1, 1927, ruled that the DFC should not be conferred on civilians.

Flightdeck Failure

INFORMATION COURTESY OF MAJ. MICHAEL MOEDING



ABOVE: Flightdeck of a KC-135R (simulator) during normal operation.
BELOW: The same flightdeck with the exact failures the Majors encountered during the incident with alphabetical identifiers and explanations of the failed systems, their functions and the problems encountered.



A & F: Primary Attitude Indicators. Both were locked at level. These normally show when the aircraft climbs or turns.

B & G: Horizontal Situation Instruments. These normally show which direction the aircraft is headed and also display navigational aid information. The HSI was locked on North even though the aircraft was headed roughly South. The navigation information was also locked and showing red flags, which means the information is not being displayed due to a failure.

C & E: Control Display Units. These were the source of the problem. The CDUs control the display inputs and give access to many of the aircraft electronic systems including the transponder (IFF) which is required for the Traffic Collision and Avoidance System (TCAS) to work. All three CDUs failed (there is one at the navigator's station) and therefore caused any CDU input to fail as well.

D: Center Multi-Function Display (MFD, just like A, B, F, & G). This is where route of flight and TCAS information is normally displayed. This screen was basically blank following the failures.

"AWACS was refueling and unable to talk to us, and the ground control agency was too far away to hear us on the radio," said Maj. Moeding.

"We (AWACS) have to shut down our systems during refueling due to fire and radiation hazards," said Capt. Lonzo Wallace, pilot and flight safety officer for the 552nd Air Control Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

With yet another strike against them, the crew, now on their own, had to act promptly and decisively.

"We elected to depart the combat AOR for the relative safety of the open ocean," said Maj. Moeding. "We didn't have the fuel to loiter over Afghanistan waiting for help; we had to resolve our problem alone."

Running low on fuel and instruments gone awry, the crew turned south.

"We guessed at position and started timing and air-speed to get out of the AOR," said Maj. Moeding. "We climbed 500 feet to help avoid coalition aircraft."

Hope was found over the ocean.

"We heard another tanker on the radio we asked them to try and catch up to us and lead us home," said Maj. Moeding. "We made a visual only rejoin over the Indian Ocean just off the coast."

"We were in the right place at the right time," said Capt. Shelby Basler, pilot and aircraft commander of the rescuing KC-135R Stratotanker.

What ensued was a necessary game of follow the leader.

"We declared an emergency for them and coordinated with air traffic control to modify both flight plans for the most direct routing to their recovery base," said Capt. Basler.

Capt. Basler and her crew guided the other aircraft all the way to their base.

"We led them in for a visual approach, flew straight through initial and waited until the crippled aircraft landed before commencing a second approach," said Capt. Basler. "The landing was uneventful and both planes were recovered safely."

The crew of the malfunctioning aircraft was happy to have had the help.

"The assisting tanker crew did a great job considering it was their first flight in the AOR," said Maj. Moeding.

The problem with the equipment wasn't resolved until months later.

"After a lot of research following the incident, Rockwell Collins (the CDU manufacturer) determined that the CDU failed due to a one in a million programming code error that caused the failure and allowed the corrupted data to infect the other two CDUs much like a virus," said Maj. Moeding.

Since the incident, All KC-135 Stratotankers have received the software patch that prevents this type of failure; the problem shouldn't occur again

Former active duty Staff Sgt. Christopher Murphy was the boom operator on the mission; Sergeant Murphy was awarded an Air Medal for his actions on the flight.

Capt. Basler's crew was chosen as 15th Air Force Aircrew of the quarter for first quarter 2003 for their actions that helped avert a potentially deadly situation.

Awards recognize Citizen Airman, employer

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND NEWS SERVICE

Air Force Reserve Command is seeking nominees for its Citizen Airman and Employer of the Year Awards. Deadline is July 31.

The awards recognize an enlisted reservist and an officer who deployed in support of current operations from Jan. 1, 2005, to Dec. 31, 2005, and their respective employers for supporting their activation and deployment.

Unit reservists give their nominations to their wing commanders for endorsement and submission to the number air force commanders.

Individual mobilization augmentees assigned to the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver submit their nominations through their chain of command to the ARPC commander. Other IMAs submit their nominations to their unit commander who sends them to the Readiness Management Group at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Air reserve technicians and members of the Active Guard and Reserve cannot enter because the awards are for reservists who are not employed full time by the federal government.

Reservists type their nominations on an Air Force Form 1206; employer nominations are typed on a single 8 1/2- by 11-inch bond paper. Both use point paper or talking paper format – bulleted short statements or key points.

The packages should explain the reservists' contributions to the Air and Space Expeditionary Force or contingency, and the employer's support of military members and the Air Force Reserve.

In addition to nominee's name, job title, organization, mailing address, commercial phone number, fax number and e-mail address, each nomination should include the same information on the nominator.

Other requirements are a one-page biography on each nominee and a 70- to 80-word citation that captures the essences of the achievement.

Commanders have until Aug. 21 to submit the nominations to HQ USAF/REI, 1150 Air Force Pentagon, Room 5D712, Attention : Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Barnes, Washington, D.C., 20330-1150.

A panel in the Office of Air Force Reserve will review the nominations and submit them to the commander of AFRC for approval.

The Air Force Association will recognize the selected reservists and employers at its annual convention in Washington in September. The reservists will receive a plaque. The employer will get an eagle trophy.

The awards program pays the travel expenses of the employers and spouses. Units fund the selected reservists' trips.



TSGLI Not Just For Combat

Some Air Force reservists may not be aware they don't have to be on active duty or serving in combat to receive assistance if they become severely injured.

The Traumatic Injury Protection program, which is part of the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance plan, went into effect Dec. 1, 2005. Traumatic SGLI pays benefits of between \$25,000 and \$100,000 to seriously injured service members.

The program has a retroactive provision for people injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom before Dec. 1, 2005.

Veterans' organizations expressed the need for financial assistance because family members were leaving their homes and jobs behind to be with injured members at a medical or rehabilitation facility far from home during an extended period of recovery. For more information visit:

WWW.INSURANCE.GOV/SGLISITE/TSGLIFACTS.HTM

New SGLI Premiums

The new Servicemembers Group Life Insurance premium rate will be 7 cents per month per \$1,000 of coverage effective July 1. This will increase the monthly premium rate for a member with maximum coverage of \$400,000 from \$27 to \$29. (The premium includes an additional \$1.00 per month for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage, which is mandatory and added automatically. Premiums are increasing because the current rate is below the "break-even" point and therefore is insufficient to cover the cost of peacetime claims. (The cost of wartime SGLI claims is borne by the uniformed services, not by service members.) In July 2003, The Department of Veterans Affairs substantially reduced the premium rate for basic SGLI from 8 cents per \$1,000 of insurance per month to 6.5 cents per \$1,000 per month. That premium reduction was implemented to reduce surplus reserve funds in the program. With this essentially accomplished, a slight increase in the SGLI premium rate is now necessary in order for the program to remain in sound financial condition. The increased rates are reflected in the chart below.

Coverage Amount	Basic Premium Rate	TSGLI Premium	Total Monthly Premium Deduction
50,000	\$3.50	\$1.00	\$4.50
100,000	\$7.00	\$1.00	\$8.00
150,000	\$10.50	\$1.00	\$11.50
200,000	\$14.00	\$1.00	\$15.00
250,000	\$17.50	\$1.00	\$18.50
300,000	\$21.00	\$1.00	\$22.00
350,000	\$24.50	\$1.00	\$25.50
400,000	\$28.00	\$1.00	\$29.00

For more information on this topic and the decrease in the Family Servicemembers Group Life Insurance Program, please visit:

[HTTP://INSURANCE.VA.GOV/SGLISITE.HTM](http://INSURANCE.VA.GOV/SGLISITE.HTM)

931st Website 'Live'



The new and improved 931st ARG Website is finally up and running. The new site, which conforms to the new Air Force web consistency standards contains Air Force news on local and national levels, unit photographs, biographies and fact sheets, videos, links and online versions of Air Force Reserve publications, including the Kanza Spirit.

WWW.931ARG.AFRC.AF.MIL

VA Laptop recovered

The stolen Department of Veterans Affairs laptop computer and hard drive containing the personal information of more than 26 million veterans were turned in to the FBI June 29, the Veterans Affairs secretary said before Congress.



Reports indicate the FBI has made a preliminary determination that data contained on the computer and hard drive has not been accessed.

There have been no reports of identity theft or other criminal activity related to the stolen computer, R. James Nicholson told the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He added that the VA would still honor its promise of free credit monitoring for a year.

An unnamed individual turned over the laptop and hard drive to FBI officials in Baltimore. No persons are in custody at this time, officials said.

Family Care Plan

Who needs one?

Certain service members are required to have a Family Care Plan in place, including:

- Single parents with custody of children under 19 years of age
- Single service members who are pregnant
- Dual military couples with custody of children under 19 years of age.
- Service members who are solely responsible for the full care of another person.

When should you make one?

Service members should notify his or her supervisor or commander about creating a Family Care Plan as soon as the service member enters any of the categories described above.

For more information contact the 931 Mission Support Flight Customer Service Section in Bldg 850 Room 201 or your unit First Sergeant.



PASS THE GUIDON

Maj. Gen. Robert Dugignan, 4th Air Force Commander passes the command guidon to Col. Jeffery R. Glass, the new 507th Air Refueling Wing Commander in a ceremony July 8 at the 507th ARW, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Col. Glass was preceded in command of the 507th ARW by Brig. Gen. Dean J. Despinoy and most recently served as Reserve Advisor to the Commander, Air Mobility Command located at Scott AFB, Ill.



WICHITA WEEKEND

Rock River Rapids

July 14 — Rock River Rapids waterpark, located off of Rock Rd. in Derby, Kan. will have free admission for military, including Reservists, DoD Civilians and their immediate family members on Friday, July 14 from 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. For entrance to the park just present your Military ID card at the pass gate. For more information call: **316-788-POOL**

Ron White

July 15 — Blue collar comedian Ron White brings the 'You can't fix it' tour to the Century II concert hall on July 15 at 7 p.m. Doors open one hour prior to start of show. Tickets are \$43.00 and can be purchased by visiting www.wichitatix.com. For more information visit:

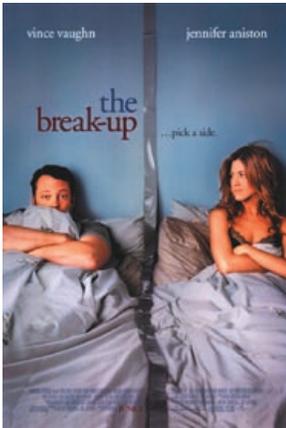
WWW.TATERSALAD.COM

Michael Bublé

July 14 — The Kansas Coliseum presents, Michael Bublé LIVE on Friday, July 14 at 8 p.m. The show will be presented in a special theatrical configuration so limited seating will be available. Tickets are available at the Kansas Coliseum box office, charge by phone at 316-755-SEAT or by visiting:

WWW.SELECTASEAT.COM

At the Movies

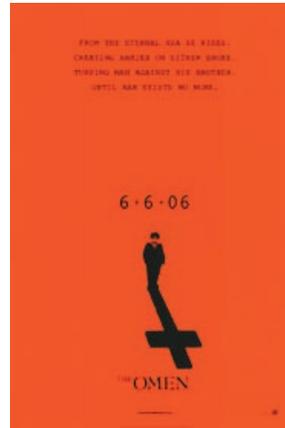


The Break-up

FRIDAY, JULY 14 7pm

1 hr. 50 min. After Brooke calls it quits with her boyfriend Gary neither person is willing to move out of the condo they share. Taking the advice of their respective friends and confidants, they both engage in mental warfare designed to force the other person to flee the premises.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 some nudity and language



The Omen

SATURDAY, JULY 15 7pm

1 hr. 45 min. A senior American diplomat whose wife endures a difficult delivery where their newborn child has died. He knows the news will devastate his wife who had suffered two previous miscarriages. The hospital priest presents the diplomat with another child born that night, whose mother died in childbirth.

MPAA Rating: R for disturbing violent content and graphic images

Movies are shown at the McConnell Air Force Base Theater and are subject to change. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

McConnell Movie Line – (316) 759-4181

**931st ARG/PA
53280 Topeka Street
Suite 221
McConnell AFB, KS
67221-3767**