

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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March 2007

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol.12, No. 3

KANZA-01

COL. TIM CAHOON TO ASSUME COMMAND OF 931ST ARG

BY TECH. SGT. JASON SCHAAP
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In a way, the 931st Air Refueling Group will become 30 years older during the March Unit Training Assembly. That's when Col. Tim Cahoon is scheduled to assume command of the Group, bringing with him three decades of Air Force experience.

He was last assigned to Air Combat Command Headquarters at Langley Air Force Base, Va., as a Reserve advisor and despite the contrast in scenery, Col. Cahoon is excited about leading the 931st. He said, "It will be great to get back to a group command. I have missed the role and unit people ever since leaving command of the 340th Flying Training Group at Randolph (Air Force Base, Tex.)"

"Gee—we're going to miss the trees," the Richmond, Ind., native said smiling, also referring to his fellow Hoosier-wife and what they thought about a potential move to the plains of Kansas. "But this was such a good opportunity. I get to continue to serve, to command, which I thoroughly love and I get to fly again." They have also previously lived in the Plains states in Oklahoma and northern Texas while Col. Cahoon served as a T-38 Talon instructor pilot.

Colonel Cahoon first became acquainted with McConnell Air Force Base in 1990 while learning to fly F-16 Falcons.



It wasn't his first time flying fighters. He's flown A-10 Warthogs at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., and Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

He is currently training at Altus Air Force Base, Okla., refamiliarizing himself with the KC-135 Stratotanker. It's been a while, but Colonel Cahoon is no stranger to the tanker community. He began his career flying the original "A" models of the KC-135 soon after his active-duty commissioning in 1977. Around the time the 931st was standing up at McConnell in 1995, Colonel Cahoon was starting his second stint with the Stratotanker at Grissom.

Colonel Cahoon will take the reins of the group not just as an experienced tanker pilot, but as a war-tested leader. In addition to his squadron and group-level command experience, he voluntarily served in group command positions in Iraq and Afghanistan. He asked to go for reasons that speak to how he approaches leading.

See



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THIS UTA

Assumption of Command

Col. Tim Cahoon will assume command of the 931st Air Refueling Group in an assumption of command ceremony Sunday at the Robert J. Dole Community Center ballroom at 10 a.m.

Chili Feed

The 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's annual 'Chili Feed' takes place Saturday at 11:30 a.m. in building 1185. Cost is four dollars for: Chili, drink and a voting ballot.

3-on-3 Basketball

The 931st Air Refueling Group's 'March Madness' 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament takes place Saturday at the Robert J. Dole Community Center at 2:30 p.m. More teams are needed for the event. Teams should be registered no later than 11:30 a.m. For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown (x3196) or Maj. Travis Clark (x1071).

Chapel Service

Chapel Service will be held at 7:45 a.m. Sunday in the Southwind Conference Room. All group members are invited to attend.

Time Change

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour forward before going to bed Saturday night. Time officially changes at 2 a.m. Sunday.



VOL. 12 NO. 3

COMMANDER
Col. William T. Cahoon

SPIRIT STAFF
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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.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the March UTA.

This weekend we officially welcome Col. Tim Cahoon to the 931st family. I hope to see most of you at the assumption of command ceremony on Sunday. I'd like to take this opportunity to review what YOU have accomplished in the last 7 months that I have been your acting commander.

The 18th Air Refueling Squadron and attached flying personnel "wowed" the ASEV (Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visit) inspection team – earning an "OUTSTANDING" aircrew rating – and in a year where we flew 1,500 fewer flying hours than in previous years! We trained 100% of our crewmembers in tactics while maintaining a perfect safety record despite declining proficiency.

The 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron had an incredible write up as part of the McConnell Air Force Base LSEP (Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program) inspection. The inspectors were clearly impressed with our programs, supervision and processes. You truly set the standard for the command.

The 931st Civil Engineer Squadron had a huge deployment of volunteers who, along with the 507th Air Refueling Wing, filled an entire tasking for an Operation Iraqi Freedom requirement. Ops and maintenance supported deployed operations in Guam for over 30 days. Since August, the 931st ARG has deployed over 80 personnel in support of AEF requirements – you truly are "Operational Reservists".

Finally, the entire 931st can be proud as it had its' best performance ever on our Unit Compliance Inspection – placing us in the top third of all Air Force Reserve Command units.

How's that for seven months work? I'd like to personally thank each and every one of you. I know you work hard for yourself, your family and your country. I just want you to know I appreciate how hard you have worked over the last seven months. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to represent you at all levels throughout AFRC and the Air Force. I'm confident that Col. Cahoon's leadership will take you to even greater achievements!

With deepest thanks and appreciation for a job well done,



Clayton W. Childs, Colonel
931st ARG Deputy Commander

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@mccconnell.af.mil with your ideas.

UTASCHEDULE

Next UTA: April 14-15

May 5-6

June 9-10

July 14-15

Concealed weapons law affects McConnell AFB members

BY TECH. SGT. JONATHAN MEHRINGER
22ND SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

In 2006, the Kansas Legislature passed the Personal & Family Protection Act. Better known as the Concealed Carry Bill, SB418, gives Kansas the right to join 46 other states in the nation to seek a permit to carry concealed weapons.

The Kansas Concealed Weapon Law, went into effect in Kansas, Jan. 1. The new provisions of the law authorize certain individuals 21 years and older, undergo a background investigation, and gun safety training to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons (defined as "handguns, pistols or revolvers").

Since July more than 4,800 Kansans have already applied to carry concealed weapons. Initial predictions expect as many as 20,000 to 40,000 Kansans will seek permits within the first four years alone.

Now you may be asking yourself does that mean firearms are allowed to be carried on McConnell Air Force Base?

The answer is simply no.

A vast majority of folks from the McConnell community may have already seen this sign which is posted at the installation entry gates. What you might not know is the meaning and intent behind it.

Although the concealed weapons law applies across Kansas it comes with some restrictions and guidelines. One is the law allows land owners to prohibit or restrict, in any manner, persons with a concealed firearms license from carrying a concealed firearm on your premises. Second, the law does not grant the individual to carry concealed in an area outside the control of the state - like the federal property of McConnell AFB.

Earlier this year, Attorney General Phill Kline approved a sign for establishments to post if they don't want concealed weapons on their premises. This sign is displayed at each base entry point. Further, chapter 12, MAFBI 31-101 outlines the guidelines for control of privately owned weapons on McConnell AFB. This instruction prohibits both military and civilian personnel from carrying privately owned firearms while on to the installation unless authorized by the installation commander. The only exclusion to this policy is for local, on-duty civilian

law enforcement officers, in performance of official duties.

Military personnel who have already received or plan to apply for state issued concealed weapons permit must follow some further restrictions when carrying a concealed weapon. First, they must abide by all state/local laws and at no time, while off the installation will a military member in uniform be allowed to carry a concealed weapon regardless of their permit. Second, if on the installation, privately owned firearms must be transported in an unloaded configuration with the weapon and ammunition is separate

compartments of the vehicle. Personnel transporting firearms in their vehicle will not leave the vehicle unattended under any circumstances. Lastly, if you violate this law off the installation, you could be charged with a Class A misdemeanor by local authorities. If you violate the law on McConnell AFB military members will be charged under the UCMJ and civilians will be prosecuted under United States Codes.

Please contact your local authorities or security forces at 759-3976 if you have any question or concerns dealing with control of privately owned or concealed weapons carry policy.

Military Restrictions on Concealed Weapons

Off installation:
Must abide by state law.
When in uniform may not carry concealed weapon (regardless of state law)

On installation:
May not carry concealed weapon.
When transporting firearms they must be unloaded and ammunition placed in separate compartments of the vehicle

Storing Weapons:
Members staying in McConnell Air Force Base must store their weapons in the 22nd SFS Armory

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

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

A 931st Air Refueling Group Airman is just beyond the midpoint of a 10-month journey that started back in September and has taken her around the world and back again.

Maj. Rebecca Fox is participating in the Executive Leadership Development Program, a course sponsored by the Department of Defense and designed to expose participants to the roles and missions of DoD and provide an increased understanding and appreciation for the war fighters they support 'At the tip of the spear'.

Initially, Maj. Fox was chosen as an alternate for the program, but the tides quickly changed with one short phone call.

"I received a phone call from the ELDP office at the Air Force Personnel Center and was formally asked to become a primary candidate for the program, and I accepted" said Maj. Fox."

Her journey began with 55 other DoD military and civilian employees in an orientation in Washington, D.C. and entailed an overview that laid out the curriculum, events and requirements for the program. Maj. Fox was the lone representative from Air Force Reserve Command selected for the course.

The program requires a lot of time, energy and sacrifice.

Maj. Fox said that the participants are not allowed to miss any training or deployments for the duration of the course, so the support of participant's families



Maj. Fox during the Marine Corps Basic Training Bayonet Assault Course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego Calif.

Maj. Fox's ELDP class outside a training scenario. The class consists of 48 students, two soldiers, two Airmen and 44 DoD civilians.



WARFIGHTER APPRECIATION DEEPENS WITH ELDP VISIT TO BROOKS

BROOKS CITY-BASE, Texas -- Like every place else they have visited, Brooks City-Base provided yet another reminder of how important it is for them to learn about what warfighters do to ensure America's freedom.

During their Jan. 30 stopover here, part of the "Air Force Week" phase of their 10-month training journey, 48 members of the Executive Leadership Development Program collectively experienced aerospace medicine's contributions to Air Force readiness. They did so by actively participating in hands-on training that is the hallmark of a unique and challenging Department of Defense program.

"The level of dedication and commitment with all the warfighters we've seen has been impressive. It makes me feel proud," admits ELDP member Kathy Forman who works for the U.S. Army's Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

[HTTP://WWW.BROOKS.AF.MIL/NEWS/STORY.ASP?ID=123039916](http://www.brooks.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123039916)

A BIT OF BOOT CAMP LEAVES MARK ON DOD CIVILIANS

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, SAN DIEGO -- Breaking away from the daily grind, 48 Department of Defense world-wide employees found themselves on the yellow foot prints of the depot in a small taste of Marine Corps recruit training Jan. 9-12.

The Executive Leadership Development Program is a DoD sponsored program designed to broaden leadership capabilities and provide a general understanding of the current military. Several of its members stopped at the depot and Edson Range, Weapons Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., to witness the making of Marines.

The group battered the depot's bayonet assault course, hiked three miles, practiced Marine Corps martial arts and underwent simulated weapons training at Edson Range.

[HTTP://WWW.USMC.MIL/MARINELINK/MCN2000.NSF/MAIN5/53868F568B15BB328525726700821803](http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/53868f568b15bb328525726700821803)

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Colorado Springs, Colo. for Air Force Week, San Diego, Calif. for training with Marines and the U.S. Navy and a trip throughout Pacific Command with stops in Korea and Hawaii.

“Our next trip is National Guard week which takes place March 11 – 17 in Phoenix, Ariz.,” said Maj. Fox.

After the trip to Arizona, trips to Europe to experience European Command and Fort Benning, Ga. to train with the Army await before the program culminates with a graduation ceremony in Washington, D.C. in June.

Maj. Fox holds an M-16 training aid during a class on self-defense tactics at the Security Forces Academy at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Maj. Fox at the Demilitarized Zone overlooking the North Korean border, in front of the North Korean headquarters building.

Maj. Fox rappelling at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe, Hawaii during a ELDP training exercise with the U.S. Marines.

Editor’s note: Photos are courtesy photos. The headlines below (left) share stories about ELDP.



and their workplace for the success of the program is necessary.

“I am extremely lucky to have both areas offering tremendous support,” she said.

After a trip home, the “deployments” began.

So far the participants have traveled to a plethora of locations at home and abroad, including trips to San Antonio, Tex. and



DOD EXECUTIVES TOUR MIRAMAR, TRAIN WITH MARINES

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. -- Department of Defense personnel participating in the Executive Leadership Development Program visited Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Jan. 11 to participate in Marine Corps specific training and familiarization.

The visit was part of a week-long tour to Southern California military installations.

The 10-month program, currently in its 31st year is designed for DoD executives who work in support of military personnel but rarely interact with them, according to Joe Snow, ELDP coordinator.

“This training for the representatives is important because it gives them a better idea of what the military does, it’s a civilian version of bootcamp,” said Snow. “The appreciation they will gain will help them on their decision making.”

[HTTP://WWW.MARINES.MIL/MARINELINK/MCN2000.NSF/LOOKUPSTORYREF/20071181433253868F](http://www.marines.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/lookupstoryref/20071181433253868f)

WWW.CPMS.OSD.MIL/JLDD/ELDP_INDEX.ASPX

Military OneSource offers free on-line tax filing

BY GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON -- The Defense Department's Military OneSource family support program is once again offering free, online tax preparation and filing for servicemembers and their families, officials said.

The service is available to active duty servicemembers, National Guardsmen and reservists and their families.

This is the second year of the program. Last year, more than 327,000 tax claims were filed using a similar program, said Jane Burke, the principal director in the office of the deputy undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

Filers who use Military OneSource's online system can expect to receive their refund within 10 days, Ms. Burke said. And Military OneSource tax consultants, she said, are trained to answer questions on preparing and filing taxes and provide other financial management information.

Additionally, through the Military OneSource Web site at www.militaryonesource.com, servicemembers and their families can get guidance and answers to questions, Burke said.

The Military OneSource service augments the long-standing voluntary income tax assistance program offered through legal centers at most military installations, Ms. Burke said.

Military OneSource's online tax preparation and filing was very popular with servicemembers and their families last year, Ms. Burke said.

"It is just one more way we can help improve the quality of life for our troops and their families," she said.

Six inducted as Honorary Commanders for Team McConnell

BY MATT TULIS
22ND ARW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Six members of the local community were inducted during a banquet Feb. 22 as honorary commanders for various units on base at the Dole Community Center here.

The honorary commanders program provides an interactive learning experience to increase public awareness and understanding of the armed forces and the mission, policies and programs of the Air Force by affording influential civilians the opportunity to get an up-close and personal look at McConnell Air Force Base and the Air Force. Each civic leader is paired with a McConnell commander and invited to participate in a variety of activities held on base.



Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pickard, 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander, presents the unit coin to Gary Rebenstorf, the 931st ARG honorary commander, and his wife Melody. Mr. Rebenstorf is the Director of Law and city attorney for Wichita, Kan. (Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Laura Suttles, 22nd CS)



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**COL. TIM CAHOON TO ASSUME
COMMAND OF 931ST ARG From Page 1**

"I try to set a good example," he said. "I didn't think it was right to encourage my people (to deploy) if I was not willing to do it myself."

Colonel Cahoon "strongly believes" in the mission and expects his Airmen "do what it takes" to accomplish it. He's a fan of history and reading biographies and tries to lead with determination, and inspire like Sir Winston Churchill, someone he admires. "He persevered in the face of tremendous adversity, stuck to his guns and stood up for what he believed in," Colonel Cahoon said.

It isn't a secret that he also shares Churchill's face of focus. He's been told he has a stern look, but he wants his Airmen to consider him approachable. He has an open-door policy,

and he shouldn't be too hard to find. He confessed that he's been called a workaholic. He believes in hard work and expects those under his command to commit themselves to the core values of the Air Force.

He also expects Airmen to commit themselves to the staying physically fit to fight. The Group's fitness program is something he plans to be "very interested" in after he takes command in March.

"I've seen the value in being fit and how it leads to good health and better health, stamina and endurance in the demanding deployed environment," he said.

Colonel Cahoon also knows how important it is to families for servicemembers to take care of themselves before and during war. His father served in World War II and both his sons, Chad and Eric, deployed to Iraq with the Army and the Air Force,

respectively.

Ironically, Colonel Cahoon's father started pilot training and realized it wasn't for him. But Colonel Cahoon always liked airplanes and although he received a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University, he jokingly tells people he majored in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. "I was so looking forward to being an Air Force officer and flying," he said.

While he's far from being a sports fanatic, Colonel Cahoon said, he does cheer for all things Boilermaker. His wife of 35 years, Vicki, is also from Richmond and not only shares his Hoosier roots but his love of roots, plants, paint and projects featured on the Home and Garden Network. They also spend lots of time adoring the next Cahoon generation, all four of them. "I love being a Grandpa," Colonel Cahoon said.

SPiRiT SPOTLiGHT

Senior Airman Brenda Ramon has served for more than four years, including nine months in the Air Force Reserve.

Job Title: Information Management

Civilian job: Leasing Consultant

Favorite way to relax: Lay back and listen to music

What I.m listening to: My MP3 player full of old school classics.

What annoys me: Chewing with your mouth open

Most influential person in my life: My daughter. I joined the military because of her. If I never had her, I don't know where I'd be today.

If I won \$1 million, I would: Go to school fulltime, take my daughter out to see the world and show her everything there is to see.



931st ARG Headquarters

vPC-GR

Air Force Reserve members can now request corrections to their awards and decorations or submit their personnel for an award or decoration online. You also can make corrections to duty history, apply for retirement, and request other personnel support. Log on to vPC-GR today and learn how to accomplish all this without leaving the office.



For more information or to register and begin accessing vPC-GR, log on to:

[HTTPS://ARPC.AFRC.AF.MIL/VPC-GR/](https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vpc-gr/)

Need AF Forms? Regs?

Service members seeking Air Force and Department of Defense forms, Air Force Instructions and other official documents can obtain them from Air Force E-Publishing online, the official Source Site for Air Force administrative pubs.

To obtain your documents, visit:

[WWW.E-PUBLISHING.AF.MIL](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil)

Slow Down, Pay Attention

The McConnell Air Force Base speed limit is 25 Miles Per Hour unless otherwise posted. There's a 25 miles per hour sign with "UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED" below it at the East and West Gates. The rule is to go 25 miler per hour unless there are signs posted stating otherwise. McConnell speed limits are determined by safety, civil engineers, security forces and input and approval by the 22nd Air Refueling Wing Commander.



Reporting Statement

Reserve and National Guard members receiving Veteran's Affairs compensation or pension benefits at the time called to active service must contact a VA regional office to report the date of activation. Failure to report will result in possible overpayments.

[WWW.SEAMLESSTRANSITION.VA.GOV](http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov)

v-RED

Virtual Records of Emergency Data are no longer maintained by the Military Personnel Flight. The vREDs are now maintained online and updated on the vMPF. Should something happen to a servicemember this form is used to contact your next of kin. It is recommended that two copies be made after updating the record, one for personal record to be kept at home and one for the servicemembers mobility folder maintained by the unit. Several things that can change and require vRED updates are: marriages, deaths, births, address changes and promotion.

NCO Leadership Development Course

The Noncommissioned Officer Leadership development course is being held at the 931st Air Refueling Group March 19 - 30. The course was created by Air Force Reserve Command to provide future supervisors and mid-level enlisted personnel, with meaningful, challenging leadership training. There have been more than 60,000 AFRC graduates to date. To sign up, contact Senior Master Sgt. Pam Summers at 316-759-5423.

Rodney Atkins

Feb. 9 — Rodney Atkins with special guests Blue County at the Cotillion. Doors open at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$23. Tickets on the day of show will be \$25. For further information and to charge by phone call 316-722-4201. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit:

WWW.THECOTILLION.COM

3-on-3 Basketball

Mar. 10 — The 931st Air Refueling Group's 'March Madness' 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament takes place at the Robert J. Dole Community Center at 2:30 p.m. More teams are needed for the event. To sign up see your squadron first sergeant.

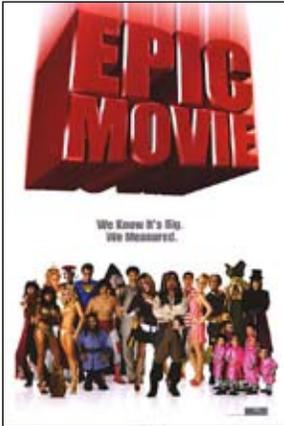
WWW.931ARG.AFRC.AF.MIL

Cosmic Bowling

Mar. 9 & 10 — 7 - 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Tornado Alley Bowling Center located at the Robert J. Dole Community Center. \$2.25 per game or \$10 all you can bowl. For more information contact the 22nd Services Squadron at 316-759-6187 or by visiting:

WWW.22SVSSQ.ORG

At the Movies

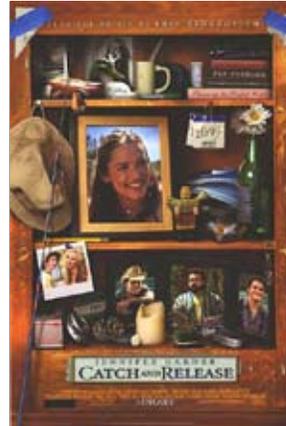


Epic Movie

FRIDAY, Mar. 9, 7pm

1 hr. 26 min. In the spirit of "Scary Movie" and "Date Movie," a parody that spoofs recent mega-blockbusters. The comedy centers itself around four orphans who visit a chocolate factory and are transported to the wonderful land of Gnarnia, after stumbling upon an enchanted wardrobe.

MPAA Rating: PG-13, crude-humor, language, comic violence



Catch and Release

SATURDAY, Mar. 10, 7pm

1 hr. 51 min. After the sudden death of her fiancé, Gray Wheeler finds comfort in the company of his friends. As secrets about her supposedly perfect fiancé emerge, Gray comes to see new sides of the man she thought she knew, and drawn to the last man she ever expected to fall for.

MPAA Rating: PG -13, Mild action, language, rude humor

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

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