

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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May 2007

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol.12, No. 5

Destination: TURKEY



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

A series of deployments for 931st Air Refueling Group Airmen began on April 30, with the first group of four rotations departing the base en route to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

"Fifteen are deploying today and nine on the second (rotation)," said Lt. Col. Andy Dorsey of the 931st plans office. "We'll have 64 on the third and approximately another 30 on the last rotation."

A variety of personnel are deploying, to include, pilots, boom operators, maintainers

and support personnel.

"I volunteered to go in order to get some experience," said 1st Lt. Jon Murphy a pilot with the 18th Air Refueling Squadron.

The 931st ARG will be joining personnel from the 434th Air Refueling Wing from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., the 452nd ARW from March ARB, Calif., the 459th ARW from Andrews AFB, Md., and the 916th ARW from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. in the deployment.

"We will complete the deployment on July 3 with the last deployer returning home," said Lt. Col. Dorsey.

THIS UTA

HRDC

There will be a 931st ARG Human Resources Development Council meeting on Saturday at 3 p.m. in the Southwind Conference Room (Bldg. 850).

Family Days Planning Group

There will be a Family Days planning group meeting on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in room 128, Bldg. 850. All volunteers and those who would like to volunteer are asked to attend.

Dining Facility

The hours of operation for the Chisholm Trail Dining Facility are:

Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dinner: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Military Pay

Military pay will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday. Please contact Ms. Dee Thornton for more information at extension 3629.

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.



VOL. 12 NO. 5

COMMANDER
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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.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP VIEWPOINTS

CSAF Airman's Test

Take a moment and reflect on what you think it means to be an Airman today. How do you feel about the following ten statements? If you agree with these statements, you'll like where I am leading our Air Force. You'll appreciate the renewed emphasis on our warfighting heritage and my constant highlighting of the many roles Airmen play in combat today. You'll understand how imperative it is for us to take care of our most treasured asset – our Airmen – while we re-capitalize and modernize our aging air and space inventories now to ensure our future combat capability. And you'll appreciate our efforts to deepen and broaden our Airmen's warfighting ethos.

1. Our mission is to fly, fight and win in three warfighting domains: air, space and cyberspace.
2. We are a seamless Total Force composed of Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Air Force Civilians.
3. Being an "American Airman" has nothing to do with a person's rank, AFSC, or uniform of the day.
4. American Airmen live by the core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence.
5. American Airmen are warriors who play decisive roles in defending our Nation, its ideals and interests.
6. American Airmen are disciplined, agile, combat-focused and expeditionary.
7. American Airmen are heirs to a rich heritage of valor, honor and sacrifice displayed at places like St. Mihiel, Regensburg-Schweinfurt, Ploesti, the Berlin Airlift corridor, MiG Alley, the Than Hoa Bridge, the Hanoi Hilton, Belgrade, Roberts' Ridge and Baghdad.
8. American air power history is built on the heroic foundation of such legendary units as the Lafayette Escadrille, Eagle Squadrons, Flying Tigers, Doolittle Raiders, Tuskegee Airmen, Jolly Green Giants and Air Commandos.
9. American Airmen want and deserve to be the best trained force in the world, schooled from basic training through every level of PME on the value of air, space and cyberspace power.
10. American Airmen can articulate and should defend the criticality of the Air Force to today's and tomorrow's fights.

T. MICHAEL MOSELEY
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

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: June 9-10

July 14-15

Aug. 12-13

Sept. 15-16

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Respect, Integrity and Trust

All the Airmen of the 931st Air Refueling Group-Traditional Reservists, Air Reserve Technicians, and Civilians have important jobs to do to make our organization succeed. Everyone contributes to our mission accomplishment, and in turn the 931st contributes to the overall Air Force mission. This echoes all the way to the top in our Global War on Terrorism. We can't be successful if we don't trust one another. This applies from our smallest shop to the group as a whole. We have to be able to count on one another to do the job right, and to do the right thing, all the time, whether someone is watching or not.

There are two key elements to trust-respect and integrity. All members of the team want to be respected. At the most basic level all humans have earned the right to respect by virtue of being created equal. That is, each deserves to be treated as each wants to be treated regardless of race, creed, sex and religion. All members of the team must treat their co-workers, up, down and across the organization with respect and dignity. I will accept nothing less in our group; to accept less would mean someone did not trust another in the group, and it would put our mission accomplishment at risk.

I do need to point out that there is a difference between being liked and being respected. All too often people strive to be liked, and fail to be respected. It is easy to like someone you respect, but not necessarily always easy to respect someone just because you have fun with them. If one has to choose, then one should always strive to be respected first. When co-workers respect one another there will be a strong working relationship that strengthens the organization at its foundation. If co-workers are only bound by a weak sense of "liking" one another, the bonds are easily weakened by stress and the mission ultimately suffers.

When respect goes up and down the chain,

the unit can tackle challenges, and succeed over and over. When respect is absent, a unit can easily fail when challenges arise. When members of a unit respect one another as humans and believe in the mission, they help one another grow; they look forward to excelling at their mission, they enjoy coming to work, and they trust and depend upon one another to contribute all that is required to help get the mission done-they are willing to go above and beyond. When respect, trust and integrity exist in an organization the members are focused on the unit and the mission, rather than just what is in it for them.

Beyond basic human respect each may earn additional respect. That comes from the reputation one earns based upon his or her character, honesty, hard work, passion, dedication, persistence, sacrifice, moral courage, ... the list goes on and on. It is hard to earn such respect, and easy to lose it. One must pursue it daily. One must possess integrity in his heart to earn and maintain this vital added respect. When a unit is made up of members who have earned this level of respect from co-workers there is little they can't accomplish. They will implicitly trust one another, depend upon one another, and work as a cohesive team to succeed at their mission.

I ask each of you, along with me, to look inward and ask yourself if you have earned and are maintaining the respect of your fellow Airmen. I hope the answer is yes, as our mission is too important to not give this your all. If not, I ask that you change your focus immediately to help further in taking our unit to the next level of greatness.



William T. Cahoon

William T. Cahoon, Colonel
931st Air Refueling Group Commander

Integrity



Service



Excellence

'LEAN' ON ME:

RESERVE CAPTAIN PUTS LEAN KNOWLEDGE TO USE

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

An Air Force Reservist here is helping lead Air Force Smart Operations

21 (AFSO 21) rapid improvement events. Capt. Doug Crow of the 931st Air Refueling Group assists Mr. Kim Dixon, a contractor hired to assist Air Mobility Command with AFSO 21 implementation, in heading up teams of Airmen that review processes and functions, analyze them

and eliminate wasted time, resources and manpower. Capt. Crow, formerly employed by Cessna Finance Corporation as a Six Sigma expert, saw a senior leadership message and it led him to do some research.

"I saw Secretary Wynne's letter to Airmen on AFSO 21," said the Captain. "I googled it and found out it was their term for "lean". (Lean is a process improvement methodology that eliminates waste across an enterprise, such as excess time and non-value-added steps.)

Not long after a call was put out by Air Force Reserve Command to attain unit AFSO 21 points of contact and have them come to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., for training.

"I emailed Col. Childs (then acting 931st ARG commander) and told him that I would be interested in going," said Capt. Crow. "He agreed, so off I went."

While at Robins AFB, Ga., the captain met the AFRC AFSO 21 staff.

"I told them that if they needed any help getting this (AFSO 21) started or running any lean events that I would like to assist," he said.

Capt. Crow was tasked to assist the AFRC staff with the development of the concepts of operations for the command's AFSO 21 program.

"While I was there working on the concept of operations, Col. Sitrin (Director of AFRC AFSO 21) asked me if I would be willing to lead an event for them. After speaking with the team lead that is responsible for the overall process, I agreed," said Capt. Crow.

There are three levels of expertise associated with AFSO 21.

"On April 14, I received confirmation that I was certified as the second level two expert within AFRC," said the captain.

The captain's participation is appreciated.

"Bottom line - we are delighted with his (Capt. Crow's) involvement. One Air Force, Same Fight on continuously improving the way we do business and deliver combat capability," said Col. Eric Sitrin, Director of AFSO 21, AFRC.

From there, things just sort of took off back home in Kansas when Capt. Crow met Mr. Dixon and started working on a series rapid improvement events with the 22nd Air Refueling Wing associated with isochronal phase inspections.

The current event, focusing on the prepa-



Airman 1st Class Jamie Wellbrock and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Scheer of the 22nd Maintenance Group discuss ways to improve the aircraft wash process during a 'ISO Prep Rapid Improvement' event in the 22nd MXG conference room. The event was led by Mr. Kim Dixon, AFSO 21 contractor and Capt. Doug Crow, 931st Air Refueling Group. (Air Force Photo/Capt. Doug Crow)

ration for the isochronal inspection, began long before the process improvement team was assembled.

“Each event takes four to six weeks to plan, the actual event (RIE) is usually scheduled for five days, and implementation usually takes 30 to 90 days,” said Mr. Dixon.

After applying the initiative to the isochronal preparation process it was determined that the Air Force would save 127 hours of labor per inspection and more than a mile of distance traveled once the new

procedures are installed.

There will be two more RIEs in the upcoming weeks focusing on the isochronal phase inspection process.

AFSO 21 is a total force effort.

“Teaming with active duty and the Air National Guard, particularly where we have direct associations such as McConnell is an outstanding means to maximize our commitment to continuous process improvement,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Clayton of the AFRC AFSO 21 team.



Air Force Reservist Capt. Doug Crow discusses the outcome of an AFSO21 Rapid Improvement Event for Isochronal Preparation / Wash Process improvement with Mr. Kim Dixon, a contractor dedicated to assisting with the implementation of AFSO21 initiatives throughout Air Mobility Command. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell)



'ISO Prep Rapid Improvement event' team, from left rear: Master Sgt. Scott Schindler, Tech. Sergeants Kevin Scheer, Doug Wilson, Airman 1st Class Jamie Wellbrock and Tech. Sgt. Del Janes. From front left: Senior Airman Martin Gray, Staff Sgt. Alejandra Valenzuela, Tech. Sgt. Henry Burns and Capt. Doug Crow take time for a photo after completing the five day event. The updated procedures reduced Isochronal Phase Inspection shift time from 12 hours to 8 hours, and resulted in a calculated labor savings of 144 Man Hours. (Air Force Photo/Mr. Kim Dixon)

What is AFSO 21?

Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century, also known as **AFSO 21**, is a program that encourages Airmen to maximize value while minimizing waste.

AFSO 21 is about results. Senior leaders have identified the major result areas, which are called “Five North Stars.” They are Productivity of our People; Equipment Availability; Agility; Safe and Reliable Operations; and Energy Efficiency.

“We must fundamentally change the culture of our Air Force so that all Airmen understand their individual role in improving their daily processes and eliminating things that don’t add value to the mission. For such a comprehensive effort to be successful, it has to be led by commanders at all levels -- from the front,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff.

AFSO 21 mandates leaders at every level to support this effort. Airmen are asked to orient themselves about **AFSO 21** principles and apply lessons learned for success in any process or mission.

No process is immune from critical reviews of **AFSO 21**. Airmen are applying the principles of **AFSO 21** with positive results on the flightline, in maintenance shops, in customer service centers, in offices, and on construction sites -- everywhere.

Editor’s note: The following was taken from the Jan. 5, 2007 Roll Call. Air Force Roll Call is a one-page print product, posted online every Friday for all Airmen.

Have Guitar, will travel.....



INFORMATION AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF SENIOR MASTER SGT. KEN GIRTY AND MRS. LAURA GIRTY

Senior Master Sgt. Ken Girty recently spent a Wednesday evening entertaining Oklahoma House and Senate members and other guests at an 'agritourism' event in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Sergeant Girty, the 18th Air Refueling Squadron First Sergeant, performed live for a crowd of more than 200 on April 18 at the Phillips Pavilion at the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion.

The Shirt, from Cherokee, Okla., entertained the audience with Oklahoma themed songs originally written or performed by Oklahoma artists with a special presentation of "Oklahoma Rising" the Oklahoma Centennial Anthem.

Those in attendance were mostly members of the Oklahoma State House and Senate, as well as Lt. Governor Jari Askins, the Executive Director of Oklahoma Department of Tourism, Mr. Hardy Watkins and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Terry Peach.



SPiRiT SPOTLiGHT

Airman 1st Class Christopher

Espartero, a Houston, Texas native, has served for more than nine months in the Air Force Reserve.

Job Title: Exterior Electrician

Civilian job: Nursing Assistant

Favorite way to relax: Listening to music and playing basketball

What I'm Listening to: Rock and Hip-Hop music

Most influential person in my life: My dad because he raised me to become productive and competitive.

If I won \$1 million, I would: Give 25% to charity and save the rest for my kid's future.



931st Civil Engineer Squadron

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)

Got Reservists?

Interested or know someone interested in a rewarding part time job? The 931st Air Refueling Group is looking for sharp individuals to fill vacancies in the following career fields: Security Forces, Communications/Navigation Technician, Hydraulic Technician, Electro-Environmental Technician, Jet Engine Technician, Structural Technician, Liquid Fuels Technician, Environmental Technician, Medical Administrative Technician, Lab Technician, Optometry Technician, Dental Technician and Medical Technician. If interested, please contact Senior Master Sgt. David McCormick at 316-759-3830 or Master Sgt. Stephan Kimbrough at 316-759-3766.

Submissions?

Have something such as an announcement, request or photograph you would like to see in this or another section of the Kanza Spirit? All submissions are subject to editorial review. Please email submissions to:

[KENNY.KIMBRELL-02@MCCCONNELL.AF.MIL](mailto:kenny.kimbrell-02@mccconnell.af.mil)

Email for Life

E-Mail for Life, or E4L, is a new program that will consolidate the service's multiple e-mail systems and provide senior leaders the capability to e-mail every Air Force member directly. The new E4L addresses will not be base specific but will have the extension of @us.af.mil. This means that every Air Force user -- active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian or contractor -- will keep that address for as long as they're associated with the Air Force. To find out more visit:

[WWW.AF.MIL/NEWS/STORY.ASP?ID=123046048](http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123046048)

Services Agency Scholarships

Air Force Services Agency officials are offering \$25,000 in scholarships for club members and eligible family members, including the member's spouse, son, daughter, stepson and stepdaughter.



Grandchildren are also eligible, if they are dependents of the club member. For more information about the Air Force Club Membership Scholarship Program, visit:

[WWW.AFCLUBS.NET](http://www.afclubs.net)

WICHITA WEEKEND

Freddie Jackson

May 4 — The Orpheum Theatre presents A Night of Love with Freddie Jackson on Friday at 8 p.m. Reserved tickets are \$25.00 to \$65.00. All tickets are available by calling 316-755-7328 or by visiting the select a seat website at:

WWW.SELECTASEAT.COM

Wichita Wild

May 4 — Indoor professional football: Wichita Wild takes on the Mid-Missouri Outlaws at the Kansas Coliseum at 7:05 p.m. Tickets cost between \$12 and \$24, and are available at select-a-seat outlets or by visiting:

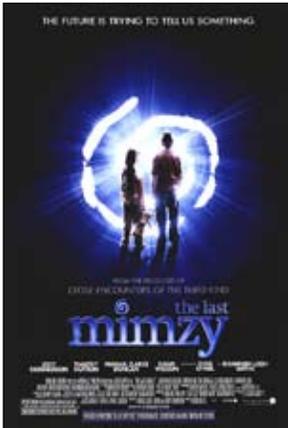
WWW.WICHITAWILDFOOTBALL.COM

Cosmic Bowling

May 4 & 5 — 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

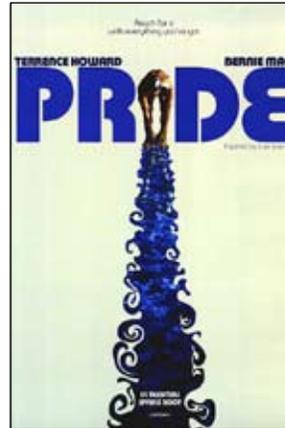


The Last Mimzy

FRIDAY, May 4, 7pm

1 hr. 27 min. Two children discover a mysterious box that contains some strange devices they think are toys. As the children play with these "toys," they begin to display higher and higher intelligence levels. Things quickly spin wildly out of their control.

MPAA Rating: PG-13, thematic elements, mild peril



Pride

SATURDAY, May 5, 7pm

1 hr. 44 min. The year is 1973, and Jim Ellis, a college-educated African-American, can't find a job. Driven by his love of competitive swimming, Jim converts an abandoned recreational pool hall in a Philadelphia slum with the help of Elston, a local janitor.

MPAA Rating: PG -13, thematic material, language

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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