

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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July 2007

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol.12, No. 7

931st Returns From

Turkey



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

The last rotations of 931st Air Refueling Group Airmen have returned from supporting operations at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Since May 30, more than 118 of the group's personnel have served on rotations ranging from two weeks to the entirety of the mission.

A wide range of specialties from the group took their skills to support operations at the base.

"While deployed, we flew 24 flights for over 70 hours and were able to offload

1,348,000 pounds of fuel to multiple receivers," said Maj. Joe Oline of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron.

The 931st joined forces with other Reserve units 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.

"I enjoyed the deployment because there was a lot of comradery with all the people here," said Tech. Sgt. David Severt of the 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

THIS UTA

Family Days

The 931st Air Refueling Group Family Days have arrived! Schedule is located below.

Saturday:

9 a.m. Spouse Tours

10:15 a.m. Benefits Briefings

Sunday:

9 a.m. Mini-Mobility Line

10:30 a.m. Picnic

2:30 p.m. Signout

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.

ARPC Briefings

Members of the Air Reserve Personnel Center will be here on Saturday of the July Unit Training Assembly at the Dole Center to brief members of the Group. Schedule is as follows:

1015 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Entitlements, TRICARE, USERRA

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

OPR Briefing at Dole Center

EPR Briefing at Bldg 1185

1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Break

1:45 p.m. - 2 p.m. Hot Topics

2 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Career Opportunities

2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Retirements



VOL. 12 NO. 7

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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.

SECAF MESSAGE

Force Reduction Update

Probably the most difficult part of my job as your Secretary is releasing patriotic Americans from serving in our Air Force, but it is a step we nevertheless must take. One of the duties we have as Airmen is assuring future Airmen that they will be as capable and confident to accomplish the mission as we are today. We are faced with the need to ensure ongoing GWOT operations and personnel readiness across the spectrum of conflict around the world; versus the age, health, capacity and capability of our current air and space inventories as we move into an uncertain world future.

Faced with these competing demands, our options are to either let our unmatched capabilities wither or cut our manning to invest in tomorrow's warfighting capabilities. We must accept the latter - as painful as it is - if we are to remain the world's premier air, space and cyberspace force.

I know this means more of our fine Airmen will be departing our service early, and I am not happy about it. But ultimately our duty is to answer our Nation's call, and to fund our readiness requirements means we must also reduce personnel.

The 40,000 Active, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian Full-time Equivalent cuts highlighted in the Fiscal Year (FY) 07 President's Budget freed critical resources. We are using these funds to begin recapitalizing and modernizing our air, space and cyberspace systems to fight the GWOT, and give our future Airmen the tools to dominate all levels of warfare and across the spectrum of conflict.

We cannot continue to merely "get by" with old equipment. Our aging airplanes are increasingly expensive to operate and maintain, and many are on flight restrictions.

We're also continuing Force Shaping initiatives that move the right number of Airmen into the right jobs to relieve stress in critically manned AFSCs. Rest assured, we are doing all we can to ensure the Air Force is properly shaped to optimize our contributions to the joint fight, and to ensure our Airmen are equipped to dominate air, space and cyberspace.

Thank you for your service, commitment, and dedication to our Air Force and Nation during these challenging times.

Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

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: Aug. 12-13

Sept. 15-16

Oct. 13-14

Nov. 3-4

Are You a Warrior?

A warrior you say? You may be thinking, "I am not a Soldier or a Marine!" You are right, we are Airmen, and we are all warriors. Just because we don't all shoot guns at bad guys or drop bombs on targets does not mean we aren't warriors. Webster's Dictionary defines warrior as, "a person engaged or experienced in warfare." In our military today you volunteer to serve and you all have chosen to be warriors. You are engaged and experienced in a global war against terrorists who want to take over the world, impose their draconian will upon us, and drag us back into the Dark Ages. They have no scruples and will stop at nothing—only has to look at the attempted car bombings in London recently to know how far they will go.

Being a warrior is more than a job. It is more than being a competent technician or manager. It is a calling. It is about attitude. Do you have the warrior ethos? Again, Webster's tells us that ethos is, "a distinguishing character, sentiment, moral nature, or guiding belief of a person, group or institution." Do you understand your calling? Do you have the intensity and the passion that being a warrior requires? All of us must be prepared to do our job in the best possible way, to be willing and able to go into harm's way if necessary to do it. You must be able to endure sacrifice and hardship to execute your mission. Are you ready?

Everyday you must ask yourself, "What am I doing to guarantee that I am the best, that my team, and my unit are ready and the best?" You have a personal respon-

sibility to be fit, trained, prepared and ready. Life is about choices and you have chosen this demanding path. Airmen

must be warriors in the way they go about their missions regardless of the specific jobs they have. We are part of a warrior team and our success requires us to intensely, passionately, and aggressively attack our mission. We must use our resources: people, time, equipment and money in the most effective, efficient way possible to train and carryout our mission. We can not slack off.

You never know when you will be called upon to act. You must do all you can to ensure the highest state of training and readiness. You must take every opportunity to prepare. Warriors don't delay or make excuses. Warriors focus on the mission. Are you preparing yourself or making excuses? Are you fit? Are your shots up to date? Have you studied your equipment and procedures? Are you looking ahead rather than back? Remember, what got you here won't necessarily get you there. The enemy does not care how good or prepared you were yesterday. He worries about how good you are today, this minute, and tomorrow when he intends to attack. Are you thinking like a warrior? The enemy is.



William T. Cahoon

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

Integrity



Service



Excellence

ReserveNet On The Way

Online Program Helps Reservists Manage Military Life

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

No matter where traditional Reservists are, they are just a mouse click away from a new tool that should make managing their military life a lot easier.

That's the idea behind ReserveNet, an online program that is quickly becoming the Air Force Reserve Command way of things.

The program was originally designed at a Randolph Air Force Base unit to help Reserve pilots manage their schedules. Once the program's potential was realized by AFRC, it was expanded and developed for all Reserve members.

"There are hundreds of units using it," Maj. Tom Wood said after one of two ReserveNet briefings given during the June Unit Training Assembly. Major Wood, 18th Air Refueling Squadron pilot and ReserveNet point of contact, gave the second briefing to a group of mostly 18ths ARS members and was met with many questions.

Helping Wood with the answers was Mike Thomas, a ReserveNet Facilitator from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., who has traveled to many AFRC units to help with the start of ReserveNet. The two-year-old program is "working out real well," Thomas said, and the flyers many questions during Wood's briefing was typical of what he has seen at other units, especially with Airmen who have a change-is-never-good mentality.

Once the resistance to change is overcome, Wood said, "everybody likes (ReserveNet)."

Access to ReserveNet is granted through the Air Force Portal. As long as Airmen know their Portal username and password, they can get to ReserveNet without use of the common access card. The



immediate goal for ReserveNet, Wood said, is to allow Reservists to get on a computer anywhere and request days for duty and communicate availability for missions that pop up. In turn, the process also gives Reserve leadership a much-improved picture of troop availability and mission obligations.

Many of the questions during Wood's briefing in June related to the various bells and whistles that accompany ReserveNet, but AFRC leaders are currently concentrated on getting Airmen familiar with the program's basic features. Keeping access simple is part of its implementation.

"We know you're not going to use it if you have to jump through a bunch of hoops," Thomas said to one 18th ARS member during the June briefing.

ReserveNet was the virtual

brainchild of some "very intelligent" members of the 340th Flying Training Group at Randolph AFB, said Col. Cahoon, 931st Air Refueling Group commander. Colonel Cahoon is a former member of the 340th and fan of ReserveNet's friendly design.

"I am not a computer geek and I can use it," he said. "It is automated and it is easy."

Wood said 18th ARS members should expect full implementation of ReserveNet by the start of the next fiscal year. Some members of the 931st's other units are already using it but a date for full implementation of the program Group-wide has yet to be determined. Further guidance and training is expected.

"(ReserveNet) is coming," Colonel Cahoon said. "This is not something we are pondering. It is coming."

Air Force Reserve Forms KC-135 Associate Unit Partnerships

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND NEWS SERVICE

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- The Base Realignment and Closure process and other transformation efforts are making major changes to Air Force Reserve Command's KC-135 community.

As part of the BRAC process, the command will partner with an active-duty unit at MacDill AFB, Fla., by forming a classic associate KC-135 air refueling unit.

The Reserve's 927th ARW at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., will realign to establish the Reserve unit with the active force's 6th Air Mobility Wing at MacDill AFB. The associate unit is expected to be operational by next summer.

"Lots of construction is required to support the new Reserve unit at MacDill," said Lt. Col. John Rocchio, assistant chief of programs division, Air Force Reserve Command headquarters.

"It has all been funded but it still needs to be built," he said. "Our reservists there will have to be flexible and work with their interim facility plans until their full-time locations become complete."

Under the classic associate unit relationship, MacDill's active-duty unit will keep principal responsibility for the aircraft and will share flying

and maintaining the aircraft with the Reserve unit.

The reverse is happening at Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., next summer.

The Reserve's 916th ARW will retain its fleet of KC-135 aircraft and share them with an active-duty unit at Seymour Johnson AFB.

Under active associate unit relationships, Reserve units have primary responsibility for the aircraft and share them with active-duty units.

Last year the Air Force Reserve expanded the size of its KC-135 air refueling force at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., when the command's 939th ARW at Portland International Airport, Ore., turned over four KC-135 aircraft to the Reserve's 452nd AMW.

Reservists in the air mobility wing at March ARB also fly the C-17 Globemaster III, the Air Force's newest transport aircraft.

Last year under BRAC Portland's 939th ARW also turned over four KC-135s to the Reserve's 507th ARW at Tinker AFB, Okla. The 507th ARW is teaming up with the Air National Guard, which is forming an air reserve component associate unit.

Tinker's Reserve unit will retain its KC-135 air refueling aircraft, while the Air National Guard will realign its 137th Airlift Wing at Will Rogers Air Guard station, Okla., to form an

air reserve component associate unit relationship with the Reserve unit at Tinker AFB. This process has already started and should be completed early next year.

The air reserve component associate unit concept is similar to the active-associate and classic associate relationships in that one air reserve component retains ownership of the aircraft and another unit shares in flying and maintaining the aircraft as an air reserve component associate unit.

Forming associate unit partnerships streamlines mission capability and makes the Air Force Reserve more fiscally efficient, according to Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander.

"The associate unit program begun in 1968 has served the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve well over the years," General Bradley said. "Associate units make good business sense because they capitalize on the experience and skills of reservists, many of whom were on active duty before joining the Air Force Reserve. Through the associate unit programs, that training investment can be multiplied over and over as people come and go in a unit."

The mix of active and reserve component experience at associate units help to expand the KC-135 mission and makes for better use of resources to achieve air refueling goals globally, said Air Force officials.



931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

RANK & NAME

SQUADRON/SECTION

WORK/HOME/CELL PHONE NUMBERS

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMPLOYER'S NAME/TITLE

COMPANY NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

EMPLOYER'S EMAIL ADDRESS

Employer Appreciation Day is scheduled for Sept. 15, the Saturday of the September unit training assembly. This event offers the employers of the Group's Airmen the opportunity to see their employee's mission and military job up close.

Scheduled activities will include a mission briefing, a flight on a KC-135 Stratotanker during an actual refueling mission, lunch, and time to visit employee work areas.

Participating Reservists are required to be in duty status, in uniform, pay for their own lunch and provide their employer a tour of their duty section and specific work area.

Reservists wishing to nominate their employer to participate

should complete this form and submit it to the 931st ARG Public Affairs Office, Suite 221 in the Group headquarters building by August 12. Forms may also be faxed to **(316) 759-3393**, requested by email sent to **david.fruck@mccconnell.af.mil** or mailed to:

Lt. Col. David Fruck, Public Affairs Officer
53280 Topeka St., Ste. 221
McCConnell AFB, KS 67221

The selection of employers to participate is subject to mission requirements and is not guaranteed. Priority is given to employers who have not participated in previous employer events.

Completion of this form is voluntary



Participation greatly appreciated

931st Air Refueling Group Family Days July 14-15

At 9:00 a.m. Saturday take a tour of your spouses' work center and a KC-135 Stratotanker, then at 10:15 a.m. learn the latest information about military benefits and entitlements at a briefing specifically catering to military spouses and the military family. The day ends with a spouse commander's call and an awards ceremony.

The picnic, including lunch, for everyone will begin at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Chips and pop will be provided. Side dishes are encouraged but not mandatory. The base pool will be open and admission is free, so bring your swimsuits. The day ends with signout at 2:30 p.m. to allow families time to attend the airshow.

McCConnell AFB Airshow 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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/)



TriWest Supports Reserve

TriWest Healthcare Alliance has announced the launch of an online resource center designed specifically for members of the National Guard and Reserve. TriWest's Guard and Reserve Resource Center was developed with a virtual library of information for West Region TRICARE beneficiaries serving in the National Guard and Reserve, their families and leadership.

[WWW.TRIWEST.COM](http://www.triwest.com)

Services Agency Scholarships

Air Force Services Agency officials are offering \$25,000 in scholarships for club members and eligible family members.

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

DD 214 Requests via vMPF

Air Force reservists released from qualifying active duty tours of 90 days or more now submit a DD Form 214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty", worksheet online via the virtual Military Personnel Flight. Before submission to their MPF or the Reserve Personnel Contact Center, Airmen are to review their DD Form 214 worksheet to ensure data is captured correctly and attach source documents for record data which may be missing or inaccurate. Worksheets should be completed not earlier than 45 days before the end of the qualifying tour or upon receipt of a travel voucher. The local MPF will finalize and distribute the official vDD Form 214 to all necessary agencies for traditional reservists.

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

REAP the benefits

Have you been on Active Duty for 90 days or more since 2001? If so, you might qualify for the new Montgomery G.I. Bill benefit referred to as REAP. REAP is a new benefit providing educational assistance to members of the Reserve component who are called up to active duty in response to war. You could earn between \$430 and \$860 a month as a full time student for serving. Contact Staff Sgt. Shannan Hughes at 743-6082 to check eligibility.

MAFB Airman's Council

A new Airman's Council has been established for McConnell Air Force Base. The council leadership would like to include Reservists in their meetings and activities. To join or for questions contact Senior Airman Jamie Train at 759-4567.

[WWW.931ARG.AFRC.AF.MIL](http://www.931arg.afrc.af.mil)

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@mcconnell.af.mil

Clergy Lift

The 931st Air Refueling Group will be hosting a Clergy event during the August Unit Training Assembly. If you would like to nominate someone from your place of worship to attend, please contact Chap. (Lt. Col.) Dave Fulton at 759 - 1776.

DFAS Increases MyPay Security Features

A new security feature has been added to protect customers' data on the pay account system. As part of their on-going commitment to strengthen password and account security to protect customer data, Defense Finance and Accounting Service has implemented the "virtual keyboard" to assist in protecting against malicious software such as spyware, trojans and keylogging.

Each time a user arrives at myPay to log on, the virtual keyboard will appear on the screen. The user will type in their LoginID and then the user will "press" the keys on the screen by clicking on them with their mouse to enter their Personal Identification Number instead of typing the actual keys. The virtual keyboard is to be used only for the user's PIN.

To enhance security, the keyboard layout changes or keys are displayed randomly every time the page is refreshed.

[WWW.DFAS.MIL](http://www.dfasc.mil)

WICHITA WEEKEND

MAFB Airshow

July 14 & 15 — The McConnell Air Force Base Airshow will be going on from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels and U.S. Army Golden Knights are scheduled to appear at the free event.

PUBLIC.MCCONNELL.AMC.AF.MIL

Wichita Wild

July 14 — Indoor professional football: Wichita Wild takes on the Topeka Tornadoes 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:

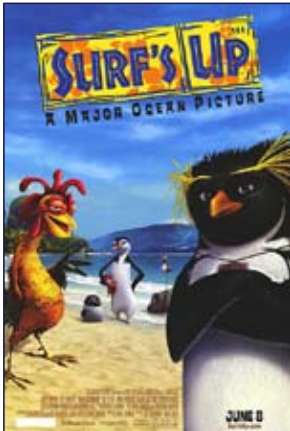
WWW.WICHITAWILDFOOTBALL.COM

Wrangler Baseball

July 14 & 15 — AA Baseball: Come see the Wichita Wranglers take on the Springfield Cardinals in a weekend series at Lawrence Dumont Stadium. Saturday's game begins at 7 p.m. and Sunday's game at 4 p.m.

WWW.WICHITAWRANGLERS.COM

At the Movies



SURF'S UP

FRIDAY, July 13, 7pm

1 hr. 25 min. A documentary crew will take audiences behind the scenes and onto the waves during the most competitive, heartbreaking and dangerous display of surfing known to man, the Penguin World Surfing Championship

MPAA Rating: PG, language, rude humor



WAITRESS

SATURDAY, July 14, 7pm

1 hr. 48 min. Jenna is a pregnant, unhappily married waitress in the deep south. She meets a newcomer to her town and falls into an unlikely relationship as a last attempt at happiness.

MPAA Rating: PG -13, sexual content, 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

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, Comm/Nav Technicians, Hydraulic Technician, Electro-Environmental Technician, Jet Engine Technician, Structures Technician, Liquid Fuels Technician, Environmental Technician, Medical Administrative Technician, Lab Technician, Optometrist Technician, Dental Technician and Medical Technician. If interested please contact Senior Master Sgt. David McCormick at 316-759-3830 or Master Sgt. Stephan Kimbrough 316-759-3766.

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