

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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June 2004

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

Vol. 9, No. 5

photo by Tech. Sgt. David Brumley



'Mission Ready'

Group meets ASEV requirements

The 18th Air Refueling Squadron's new operations officer, Lt. Col. Roger Gallet (right), and Maj. Eric Anderson, Operations Support Flight Commander, take a written test with their fellow 931st flyers during the May Unit Training Assembly. The test was part of an Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation inspection.

Tech. Sgt. David Brumley

931st ARG Public Affairs

The 931st is "Mission Ready" said a team of evaluators from Air Mobility Command Headquarters following an Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation inspection that ended in May.

More commonly called an ASEV, the inspection is conducted every two years to assess the Group's flyers and Standardization and Evaluation programs.

"They looked at how we evaluate the crews' reviews and certifications," said Lt. Col. Ken Harris, 931st Stan/Eval Chief. "They also reviewed how our

training programs prepare crews."

The inspections began in March with flight evaluations and flyers were tested on general knowledge during the last week of April. The evaluation ended on Saturday of the May Unit Training Assembly with the crewmembers completing a written test.

The ASEV team divided their assessment into four areas. The final results released during the out briefing showed all areas rated as "Satisfactory."

"Essentially, you're either mission ready or you're not mission ready, and we are mission ready," said Lt. Col. Harris.

Score the Kanza, score free stuff

Group members, including family members and civilian employees, are being asked to participate in a survey of the Group newsletter, the *Kanza Spirit*.

The survey allows the opportunity to answer questions relating to the *Spirit's* content and offer suggestions for improvement.

All survey participants will be eligible to be entered in a random drawing for movie passes good for admission to the McConnell AFB Theater and certificates for a free sandwich at the McConnell AFB Burger King.

Five participants will be selected to receive four movie

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**Commander,
931st Air Refueling
Group**

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Deadlines

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

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 or the Department 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

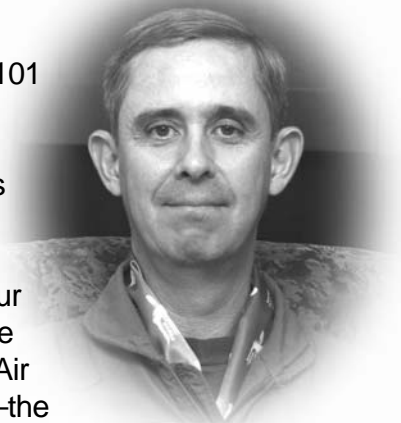
Memorial Day weekend kicked off "101 Critical Days of Summer," our annual summer-safety program. I don't want us to think "101 Critical Days of Summer" is just a throw-away slogan we hear every year at this time. It's a reminder for you and your family to remain alert during your work week, vacations and just around the house. Last year during this period, the Air Force Reserve family lost three people—the worst ever for the command. We all need to get back to basics in the safety arena. Please think about what you do—keep it safe!

Congratulations to the operators on a job well done on the Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visit. I am proud of your terrific performance in the air and on the ground. Aircrew Testing, Stan/Eval Admin, Training Admin, and the Training Review Panel were graded "Excellent." Outstanding performers were: Tech. Sgt. Michael Kissire (Exceptionally Qualified), Lt. Col. Keith Kontz (TRP), Maj. Randy Brink (Training Admin), Maj. Glenn Powers (Training Admin), Capt. Travis Clark (Training Admin), and Senior Master Sgt. John Wallman (Training Admin). The 931st ARG is indeed "Mission Ready!"

Next time you see Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Smith please shake his hand. He won the Sedgwick County Volunteer of Year! Sgt. Smith represents what is best about the Air Force Reserve. We work hard on the job—we give to our community. Thanks Chuck!

The IGX is just over a month away. Let's use the remaining two UTAs to productively train for the challenges presented by this inspection. We have assembled a great team that is sure to impress the IG.

Have a safe and productive UTA!



Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel
931st ARG Commander



*Email story ideas
for the Kanza Spirit to:*
jason.schaap@mccconnell.af.mil
or call
(316) 759-3686

UTASCHEDULE

Next UTA: June 12-13

July 17-18

August 14-15

September 18-19

New commander nominated

Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley has been nominated by the president to the Senate for promotion to lieutenant general and appointment as chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, relinquished command of AFRC during a ceremony May 11. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper presided over General Sherrard's retirement, which took effect June 1.

If General Bradley is not confirmed by June 1, Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., AFRC vice commander, will

continue to lead the command until General Bradley is confirmed.

General Bradley has been the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters in the Pentagon since December 2002.

General Bradley began his Air Force career in September 1967 as a mathematician and program analyst at Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

He completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, in March 1970, and separated from the active force in April 1973 to join the Air Force Reserve at Barksdale AFB, La.



Travel cardholders have online-payment option

Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

Airmen with government travel cards can now make payments to their accounts online.

The "MyEasyPayment" system allows Airmen with government travel cards to pay off residual or unexpected charges not covered by split disbursement payments, said Josephine Davis, the Air Force banking liaison officer.

"Split disbursement of travel card payments is mandatory for military members and civilians, but there are unavoidable situations when the split-disbursed amount does not cover your total charges," Ms. Davis said.

When Airmen return from travel, they file a voucher so they can be reimbursed for their expenses. That payment, or disbursement, is split between the Airmen's personal-checking account and their travel-card account. Airmen are responsible for indicating how much money should be sent to the travel-card account. If there is a miscalculation of the amount owed on the travel card, there can be residual or unexpected charges still owed.

An example of an unexpected or residual charge is when an Airman makes a purchase overseas and the ex-

change rate changes before the merchant processes the charge, Ms. Davis said. Another example is when Airmen lose receipts and forget about charges on their cards.

Despite those types of errors, Ms. Davis said Airmen are still responsible for paying off their accounts.

"Just like with any other credit card, it is our responsibility to know what we owe," Ms. Davis said. "Sometimes you need to call the bank and find out what you need to pay. This system gives you the opportunity to make those payments."

Airmen with questions about being reimbursed for unexpected or residual charges on their accounts should contact their military travel pay office, Ms. Davis said. Travelers may need to file an amended travel voucher if they feel they are owed money.

The payment system is available at **www.myeasypayment.com**. To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay on the card, the card's account number and security code, and their checking account and bank routing numbers.

Ms. Davis said cardholders can check their account balance by calling the toll-free number on the back of the card.

www.myeasypayment.com

A Force to Reckon with

Groups' cops to be deployable

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

931st Public Affairs

The 931st's Security Forces will be one UTC bigger and the Air Force will be one security team stronger when the fiscal year changes in October.

That's when the Group's Force is scheduled to receive a Unit Training Code that will enable all of its members to deploy together.

"Our section will be able to support more contingencies – not just home-station," said Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Smith, Security Forces Chief, who worked on gaining the UTC for four years.

The UTC is scheduled to come to the 931st from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., as part of restructuring initiative. The increase will give the section the required 13-person team it needs to expand its mode of operations.

"This will change our main focus to Air Base Defense training, but does not exclude us from the current training for Aircraft Security and Law Enforcement," said Sgt. Smith. "It will allow us to support the needs of the host, when they send out a team, as well as Reserve missions."

Sgt. Smith's Airmen have been busy doing just that since 2001. All but one of his troops was reported for immediate support following the Sept. 11 attacks. Since then, they've deployed (separately) to California, Texas, and Spain and filled numerous positions in support of security at McConnell AFB.

"I'm so thankful for every one of my troops for their support and continuing dedication to the mission," Sgt. Smith said. "I love these guys."

Airman 1st Class Patrick Strange, Security Forces, holds his unit's guidon during the Group's last commander's call. A Unit Training Code scheduled to be gained in October will make it possible for the 931st Security Forces Airmen to deploy as a team for the first time.

photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

931ST ARG EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY

SEPT. 18, 2004



The Employer Appreciation Day previously postponed because of high-tempo operations has been scheduled for Sept. 18, the Saturday of the September Unit Training Assembly. This is the chance for Airmen of the 931st to let their employers see what they do in their military jobs and how the 931st fits into the mission of the Air Force Reserve.

Scheduled activities include a flight on a KC-135 (subject to mission requirements), a mission briefing, free lunch at the NCO Club and time to visit with Reservists.

Reservists are required to be on duty status, in uniform, pay for their own lunch and provide a tour of their work centers and units. Please complete this form and return it to the Public Affairs Office, suite 221 in the 931st headquarters building. Forms can also be faxed to (316) 759-3393 or requested via an email sent to

david.fruck@mcconnell.af.mil

Return forms by mail to:

Maj. David Fruck, Public Affairs Officer

53280 Topeka St., Ste. 221

McConnell AFB, KS 67221

Please note: Due to the large amount of time elapsed, **Airmen who submitted their employer for the cancelled Employer's Day are required to submit a new form.** Priority will go to employers who have not participated in previous employer events with the 931st. This event is not for family members or friends of employers or Reservists. This form is for 931st ARG PA use only.

Rank & Name

Squadron/Section

Work/Home Phone Numbers

Employer's Name/Title

Company Name

Address

Phone Number

*Completion of this form is completely voluntary.
Your cooperation is appreciated.*

Refer a Friend

The 931st ARG has openings in the following specialties:

Resource Management
Utility Systems

Health Services Management

Electrical Power Production
Personnel

Bioenvironmental

Pavement/Construction
Communication Computer Systems
Aeromedical Services

Help the unit recruit.
Refer someone to recruiter
**Master Sgt.
David McCormick
(316) 759-3766**

SPIRIT SHORTS

Civilian clothing authorized for July/August UTAs

Col. Hurdle, 931st Commander, has authorized Group members to pay \$5 in exchange for wearing proper civilian attire on Sundays of the July and August Unit Training Assemblies. All proceeds will go toward offsetting costs of the Family Day Picnic. Civilian clothing is not authorized for members participating in training that requires a uniform.

Don't allow credit cards, identification to be copied

Air Force members are being urged not to allow individuals or companies to photocopy their credit cards, as well military and other forms of identification.

The Air Force has recently received complaints of such activities taking place at car rental agencies. Photocopies could not only be used for identity theft, but also are considered a threat to security.

Phone card donation program goes public

The selling of prepaid calling cards by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to any person or organization that wishes to purchase cards for deployed servicemembers has been authorized by Defense officials. The "Help Our Troops Call Home" program is designed to assist servicemembers calling home from Southwest Asia.

To donate a prepaid calling card to a servicemember people can log on to the exchange Web site at www.aafes.com and click the 'Help Our Troops Call Home' link. Cards never expire and there are no added charges or connection fees.

Radar detection prohibited

McConnell AFB officials are reminding drivers that the use of radar or laser detection devices is prohibited on Department of Defense installations.

PEP packages due

All Promotion Enhancement Program package are due to the Military Support Flight by the Saturday of the July Unit Training Assembly (July 18). Contact Master Sgt. Debroada Cornelius at (316) 759-3587 for more information.

TSP open through June

The current Thrift Savings Plan open season runs until June 30. This is the time servicemembers can start or change contributions to their account. Up to nine percent of base pay can be contributed each month and up to 100 percent of incentive and special pay, including bonus and combat pay, can be contributed. Total contributions from taxable pay may not exceed the Internal Revenue Service limit of \$13,000 for 2004. Enrollment can be done online at

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Enrollment forms available at www.tsp.gov can also be turned into local pay or personnel offices.

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

This month's selectee is a Derby, Kan., native who has been in the Air Force for more than a year.

Job title: Security Forces

Civilian job: Restaurant Manager

Currently studying: Theology at Newman University

Favorite way to relax: Fishing

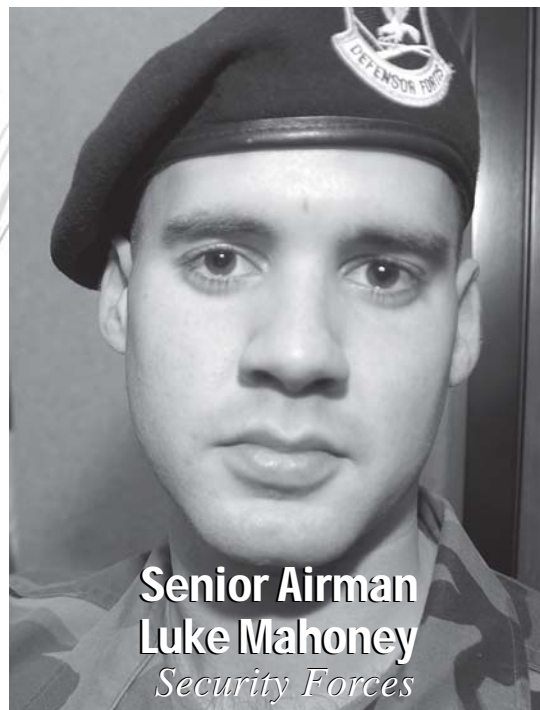
What annoys me: I have nine siblings, I can't be annoyed

Most influential person in my life: My father, he's taught me all the really important lessons in life

What I'm listening to now: Anything that's on

What I'm reading now: CDCs

If I won \$1 million, I would: Save it



**Senior Airman
Luke Mahoney**
Security Forces

Volunteer of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Smith looks through a giant Christmas card displayed last year by the McConnell AFB Drug Education for Youth program. Sgt. Smith is the 931st Security Forces Chief and was selected as the Sedgwick County Volunteer of the Year for his work with DEFY.



Courtesy photo

SURVEY, from page 1

passes and four Burger King certificates. Fifteen participants will be selected to receive two movie passes and two certificates.

The survey will be available through several methods. One convenient method is online at the web address located below.

All surveys are kept as anonymous as possible. However, group members who complete the online survey **must include their name in the comments box** at the end of the survey to be entered into the drawing for free certificates. The comments box is reported to the PA office separate from the rest of the survey.

Participants should put **only their name** in the comments section (with the option to include com-

ments in a second online survey) if they want their survey to be completely anonymous.

Surveys will also be available in the publications display outside the Public Affairs office, suite 221 in the 931st headquarters building. They also can be obtained via an email request sent to jason.schaap@mcconnell.af.mil

Surveys may be returned to the PA office by hand, via email, or **faxed to (316) 759-3393**.

All surveys will be immediately separated and stored separately from a record of participants to protect anonymity. Surveys returned by fax should include a separate cover sheet with the participant's name.

Results of the random drawing will be announced at the Family Day Picnic scheduled for the September Unit Training Assembly.

www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/survey_index.htm

Newcomers

Senior Master Sgt. Barbara Schwerman
Aero Medicine Flight

Staff Sgt. Clay Dotson
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Senior Airman Cory Neufeld
Civil Engineer Squadron

Promotions

Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Janzen
Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Dallas Jones
Civil Engineer Squadron

Master Sgt. Shaun Hoobler
Civil Engineer Squadron

Master Sgt. David Moore
Civil Engineer Squadron

Master Sgt. William Souder
Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Steven Sirois
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Senior Airman Nabil Abdulkader
Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Luke Mahoney
Security Forces

Senior Airman Marvell Summerow
Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Marina Coronado
Operations Support Flight

WICHITA WEEKEND

A Perfect Circle

June 11 – Featuring former members of Smashing Pumpkins, Tool and Marilyn Manson, the show starts 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum. Visit www.selectaseat.com or call (316) 755-7328 for tickets.

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

June 11-12 – See the show that's awed generations at the Century II Concert Hall. Shows start 8 p.m. Visit www.musictheatreofwichita.org or call (316) 265-3107 for tickets.

Mike Finnigan and the Phantom Blues Band

June 12 – A night of blues, rock and jazz at the Orpheum. Show starts at 8 p.m. Call (316) 755-7328 or visit www.selectaseat.com for tickets.

Wichita Stealth

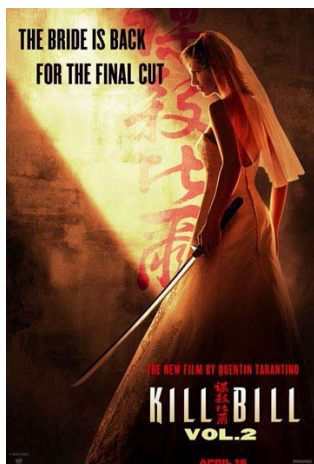
June 12 – Wichita's own Arena Football team takes on the Yard Dawgz from Oklahoma City at the Kansas Coliseum. Game scheduled to start 7 p.m. Call (316) 755-7328 or visit www.selectaseat.com for tickets.

Texas Hold'em Second Tourney

June 12 – The second installment of this popular card tournament is being held through June 26. A 12-week tournament, weekly meetings are held Saturday nights in Emerald City on McConnell AFB.

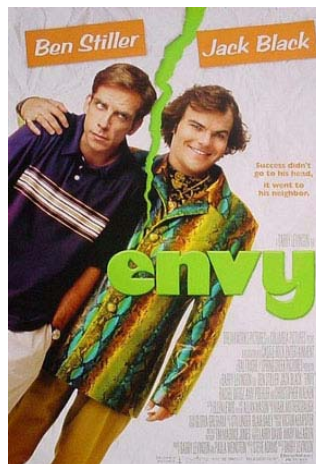
Registration begins 6 p.m., games begin 7 p.m. First and second place weekly finishers earn a seat in the final, July 3 tournament. Free for Club McConnell members, \$3 for non-members. Call (316) 759-6002 for more information.

At The Movies



KILL BILL VOL. 2
FRIDAY, JUNE 11 7pm
2 hr. 14 min. Uma Thurman is an assassin continuing her voyage of vengeance up the chain of command of her former boss in the second chapter of Quentin Tarantino's action-packed tale.

MPAA Rating: R for violence, language and brief drug use



ENVY
SATURDAY, JUNE 12 7pm
1 hr. 39 min. Ben Stiller and Jack Black are best buddies, neighbors and coworkers. But when Black gets rich by selling an invention, Stiller feels left out in the cold and envy begins to divide their friendship.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for language and sexual/crude humor

*Movies are shown at the **McConnell Air Force Base Theater** and are subject to change.
Admission is **\$3** for adults, **\$1.50** for children 11 and under.*

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