

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



Inside

Air Force launches thank-you campaign

Page 3

CES, MPF bivouac

Page 4

Boom flies

'total force' mission

Page 7

June 2003

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

Vol. 8, No. 5



photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

Happy Homecoming

Master Sgt. Dennis Struve, boom operator, 18th Air Refueling Squadron, lifts his daughter up for a welcome-home hug. Struve and other 931st members returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom at the end of April.

Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st Public Affairs

Loved ones and comrades have been flocking to the McConnell flightline to welcome 931st members returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

More than three dozen of the group's mobilized airmen returned with hopes that more returnees would soon follow.

The homecomings have been what many would expect: big hugs, tears of joy, American pride filling the air. But not typical of past returns, military duty isn't over for these group members. The country still needs their services.

According to Maj. Clint Burpo, 931st Planning and Operations chief, none of the airmen were scheduled to be demobilized when they returned.

"We haven't heard anything from headquarters about demobilization," said Burpo. "They'll likely be put into the mix of rotations in and out of our other deployed location and our occasional Noble Eagle sorties."

Members had been deployed to Central Command for nearly two months. Burpo said he hadn't seen any signs of an immediate slowdown of activities at the group's second deployed location.

"We may be in the business of keeping things going there for some time."

Cut Out Here

FY 2004 UTA SCHEDULE

OCT. 18-19

NOV. 15-16

DEC. 6-7

JAN. 10-11

FEB. 7-8

MARCH 13-14

APRIL 17-18

MAY 15-16

JUNE 12-13

JULY 17-18

AUG. 14-15

SEPT. 18-19

Cut Out Here

Cut Out Here

Cut Out Here

**Commander,
931st Air Refueling
Group**

Col. Jeffery Glass

Spirit Staff

Maj. Dave Fruck
Chief of Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap
Editor

Tech Sgt. David Brumley
Staff Writer/Photographer

How to reach us

Kanza Spirit
931st Air Refueling Group
53280 Topeka Street
Suite 221
McConnell AFB, KS 67221
Commercial Phone:
(316) 759-3616
DSN: 743-3616
Fax: (316) 759-3393
e-mail:
David.Fruck@mccconnell.af.mil

Deadlines

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

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the *Kanza Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government 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

Our deployments continue at two different locations. The rest of our unit will continue to see weekly swap outs for the near future, rotating three to four crews per week. Our total amount of deployed crews has dropped since the beginning, but the mobilization will continue for the 18th Air Refueling Squadron.

The Air Force is unable to draw down the Air Reserve Component as fast as they have in the past. We all have to remember that the Iraqi Freedom operation is only a part of the war on terrorism, which will continue for the foreseeable future. As the recent events in Saudi Arabia confirm, the war against terrorism is far from over.

Our civil engineers, with some support from our military personnel flight, had their annual field exercise during the May unit training assembly. The bad weather stayed away and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable learning experience. Hopefully, in the future we can have a total unit exercise flying airplanes from the temporary living location, with some fun at the end of the exercise.

Memorial Day weekend brings us warm weather and vacation time for most. It also starts the 101 Critical Days of Summer, ending with Labor Day. Last year we enjoyed an accident-free 101 days. Let's try to repeat this year. Just be reasonable in your activities and remember most of us are no longer youngsters. Have a GREAT SUMMER!



Jeffery Glass, Colonel
931st ARG Commander

Got a story?

Send story ideas for the
Kanza Spirit to:
david.fruck@mccconnell.af.mil
or call (316) 759-3704

UTASCHEDULE

Next UTA: June 7-8
July 19-20
August 9-10
September 13-14

Air Force launches campaign to thank parents for support

Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper launched a service-wide campaign May 5 to thank the parents of America's airmen for their support of their children's service.

The Air Force Parent Pin program encourages airmen to register on a secure Air Force web site, www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com, where they can provide the names and addresses of up to two parents (or parental figures).

Shortly thereafter, the airmen's parents receive personalized letters from Secretary Roche and General Jumper containing high-quality lapel pins displaying the letter "P" cradled in the Air Force symbol.

All airmen – active, Guard, and Reserve – are strongly encouraged by their chain of command to register on the web site and have pins sent to up to two recipients.

The pins are a contemporary adaptation of the World War II "E" flags that were used to recognize companies for contributions to the war effort, and they are presented on display cards that explain their lineage. The letters address recipients and airmen by name.

They are intended to communicate to parents the importance of their children's service to the ongoing war on terrorism, to express sincere gratitude for parents' continued support, and to convey a sense of partnership between the Air Force and the parents of America's airmen.

This massive effort comes on heels of the Air Force's highly-successful "E" pin program, which represented the first direct-mail outreach effort from the leaders of *any* of the armed services to employers across America.

Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command airmen voluntarily submitted contact information for more than 60,000 employers, each of whom received an "E" pin and a personalized letter from the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff acknowledging them as partners in the war effort.

Air Force leaders have received hundreds of supportive letters and e-mails from employers and airmen because of this program, and today, tens of thousands of employers are wearing Air Force "E" pins as pledges of support for the military service of their airmen.

Both the pin and "E" pin campaigns are elements of the Air Force's Your Guardians of Freedom program.

As families, employers, and communities across the nation share the burdens of military service, it is critical that commanders at every level reach out to cultivate the relationships that form the foundation of public support.

Through a secure web site, the Your Guardians of Freedom program offers a flexible, user-friendly set of web-based tools that allow commanders and their staffs to quickly and efficiently reach out to key audiences on their bases, in their communities, and beyond.



www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com



ATTACK at the BIVOUAC

Engineers, MPF counter chemicals, combatants

Tech. Sgt. David Brumley
931st Public Affairs

Two 931st units teamed up to for a three-day bivouac near the McConnell Air Force Base confidence course.

The Civil Engineer Squadron and the Military Personnel Flight began a Counter-Chemical Warfare Concept of Operations the Friday evening of the last Unit Training Assembly.

The members slept in the exercise area and then broke the camp Sunday morning.

The bivouac gave MPF and CES a chance to meet their annual training requirements and learn some new chemical avoidance techniques.

On-scene observers, who were comprised mainly of senior noncom-

missioned officers and field grade officers, provided on-scene evaluation. Throughout the exercise, the observers gave feedback and reminders on how to perform during a situation and what should have been done when the scenario was over.

“The old way of dealing with chemical attacks was to decontaminate, now our emphasis is on avoidance,” said Tech Sgt. John Bryan, noncommissioned officer in charge of Readiness and an exercise observer, CES.

Another exercise observer, Master Sgt. Melvin Kurtz, CES superintendent of structures added “We put a major emphasis on self-aid buddy care.”

The training gave many members new to the Air Force the opportunity to provide protection against enemy combatants.

Airman Howard Burns, heating and air conditioning technician was able to learn how to apprehend and control an opposing force member. “It’s pretty fun. It’s better than being in the office,” said Burns.

The new emphasis on avoidance is a requirement that everyone in the Air Force must complete this year. “All units must have this training completed by the end of December,” Bryan.

Along with practicing the ability to avoid nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, the training also included checking for unexploded ordinance and self-aid and buddy care.

In addition the training was filled with life like combat scenarios requiring the trainees to practice utilizing techniques for searching and repelling attacks from unfriendly forces.



(Above)
chem
(Right)
heat
sup
help
prov
Tech
chief
Seni
sup
roun



Low crawling into position. One of the bivouac opposing forces moves in for an attack during the recent bivouac.



(Above) Two trainees don protective chemical gear while guarding weapons. (Left) Master Sgt. Dallas Jones, training and air conditioning supervisor, Civil Engineer Squadron, assists a wounded comrade by loading self-aid buddy car. (Far right) Master Sgt. Mike Walker, relocations supervisor, Military Personnel Flight, and Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz, MPF sergeant, prepare for the next round of battles.



SPIRIT SHORTS

Anheuser-Busch offers free admission to troops

Service members and their families are eligible for free admission to Sea World, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place beginning the Friday of Memorial Day weekend and concluding Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2003. Contact McConnell AFB's Information, Tickets and Travel at (316) 759-6007.

US Airways offers discount to military

US Airways is offering special fares, some as low as \$79 each way, to active and reserve service members and their immediate family members. Discounted tickets are available through government-contracted commercial travel offices throughout the U.S. Fares are valid for tickets purchased through Dec. 31, 2003. For more information, contact the McConnell AFB Travel Office at (316) 759-5263.

Air Force eases Stop-Loss restrictions

The following fields were lifted from Stop-Loss by the Air Force:

Officer career fields- 11BX, 11EX, 11FX, 11HX, 11KX, 12BX, 12EX, 12FX, 12KX, 12RX, 12TX, 13BX, 13DXA, 13DXB, 32EX, 43EX, 43HX, 43TX, 44EX, 44MX, 45AX, 45BX, 45SX, 46FX, 46MX, 46NXE, 46SX, 48AX, 48GX, 48RX and 51JX.

Enlisted career fields- 1C2XX, 1C4XX, 1S0XX, 1T1XX, 3E000, 3E0X2, 3E4X1, 3E4X2, 3E5X1, 3E7X1, 3E8X1, 3E9X1, 3H0X1, 3N0XX, 4A1XX, 4A2XX, 4B0XX, 4E0XX, 4H0XX and 5J0X1

Employer Day postponed

Employer Appreciation Day has been postponed indefinitely due to the groups current commitment to U.S. military operations. Applications al-

ready received will be honored when a rescheduled date is decided. Application forms are available at the 931st public affairs office. To request a form via fax or e-mail, call (316) 759-3704.

West Gate closed for UTAs

McConnell Air Force Base's west gate entrance will not be open during the July, Aug. and Sept. unit training assemblies. All group members will need to enter the base through the east gate off of Rock Rd.

Promotions

Congratulations to the following promotees:

Master Sgt. Barbara Bulger
18th ARS

Tech Sgt. Nathan Brown
931st AMXS

Tech Sgt. Brent Danley
931st AMXS

Tech Sgt. Kelly Martin
931 AMXS

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

This month's selectee is a Wichita, KS., native who has been in the Air Force 2 years.

Job title: Intelligence Analyst

Civilian job: Student

Favorite way to relax: Being out on the road on my mountain bike

Easiest way to annoy me: You can't

Most influential person in my life: Those who served and died before me.

What I'm reading now: Band of Brothers by Stephen Ambrose

What I'm listening to now: Steve Earl

If I won \$1 million, I would: Give some to the church and set the rest aside



**Senior Airman
Crystal Maxton**
Operations Support Flight

18th boom part of total force flight

Tech. Sgt. Eric M. Grill

405th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFP) — Crewmembers from active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve joined forces in a KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling mission over Iraq on April 19.

The crew consisted of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's Maj. Craig Campbell, active-duty pilot 1st Lt. Jacob Thornburg, and reservist Master Sgt. Troy Lawson. During the six-plus-hour mission, they passed 80,000 pounds of fuel to an E-3 Sentry.

photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie Thurby



Boom operators Master Sgt. Troy Lawson, 18th Air Refueling Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Casey Darst, 22nd Air Refueling Wing, load bags prior to flying a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lawson was part of a KC-135 crew in April that included members from the active-duty Air Force and the Air National Guard.

KANZA SPIRIT

“This type of opportunity doesn’t present itself very often,” said Lawson a boom operator from the 18th Air Refueling Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base, Kans. “This is the purest sign of the total force.”

The aircraft’s pilot said he was not worried about how the crew performed together.

“We’re all trained the same, so I wouldn’t expect anything less,” said Lt. Col. David Thornburg, from the 384th ARS at McConnell AFB.

“The reason this works is because all of the aircraft fall under Air Mobility Command, whether they’re active duty, (guardsmen) or reservists flying them,” said Lt. Col. David Henderson, commander of the 407th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at a forward-deployed location.

“There are standardized checklists (with) very little differences between all the units.”

Campbell, an aircraft commander from the 128th Air Refueling Wing, said although the crew did not know each other, the flight was not awkward.

“It’s similar to my job at American Airlines (where he flies Fokker F-100s out of Chicago),” he said, “we show up at the plane, and we meet the crew there. Here our standardized (Air Force) training allows us to do this job, seamlessly.”

Henderson said this total-force flight is unusual because, in his experience, most units as big as the one here are split into two squadrons — active-duty airmen in one and Reserve and Guard airmen in the other.

“Here we have a good mix,” he said. “While reservists and guardsmen are generally more experienced fliers, active-duty aircrews have typically logged more combat hours. We’re able to mix up that combined experience and pass that along to our younger airmen.”

Because Thornburg is active duty, he said being deployed is just part of the job. For Campbell and Lawson, being deployed from home can be costly; but they say being here is worth it.

“Each day away you’re away from your job, that company is finding a way to do that job without you,” Lawson said. “There’s a degree of concern, but I also believe in what I’m doing, and that makes it worth it.”



Master Sgt.
Troy Lawson

WICHITA WEEKEND

Kids' Zoobilee

June 7 – From 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Sedgwick County Zoo, laughter and smiles fill the air for an evening of tasty treats, games, tons of fun and a parade to end the evening.

Call (316) 942-2212 ext. 273 for ticket information.

Kid's Night at Speedway

June 7 – Kids get a chance to ride in a race car at 81 Speedway, 7700 N. Broadway.

Gates open at 5 p.m. and races begin at 7 p.m. Free admission for children 11 and under. Call (316) 755-1781 for details.

Wichita - the musical

June 6 – The Wichita Bar Association presents a hilarious take-off of the recent smash hit musical, "Chicago." A rare event, this evening of song, dance and irreverent humor only happens twice a decade. Features seventy of the most distinguished attorneys in the state. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25 and are available at Select-A-Seat locations and Dillons stores.

Base Bowling Center

Fridays – Super Cell (Cosmic) bowling from 7 – 11 p.m. Pizza, Pins & Pop special from 5–9 p.m.

WSU presents

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

June 6-7 – Two-day event sponsored by Wichita State University's Summer Theatre. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. at the university's Welsbacher Theatre.

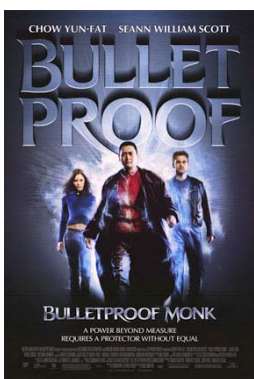
For ticket information, call the College of Fine Arts box office at (316) 978-3233.

Wranglers Baseball

June 6 – The Wichita Wranglers host the Midland RockHounds at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium at 7 p.m.

Multicultural Night and fireworks after the game.

At The Movies

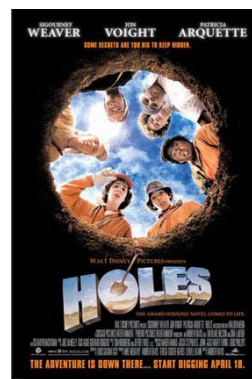


BULLETPROOF MONK

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 7pm

1 hrs. 43 min. Chow Yun-Fat is a mysterious monk who travels the world to protect an ancient scroll. He teams up with an unlikely scrollkeeper to save the scroll and the world from a sexy Russian mob princess.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violence, language and some sexual content



HOLES

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 7pm

1 hr. 51 min. A teenager, sent to a detention camp for a crime he didn't commit, and his campmates are forced to dig holes in the long-dry rock of a washed-up lake as a "character-building" experience.

MPAA Rating: PG for violence, mild language and some thematic elements

Movies are shown at the **McConnell Air Force Base Theater** and are subject to change. Admission is **\$2.25** for adults, **\$1.50** for children 12 and under.

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

PRESORTED STD
Postage and Fees Paid
McConnell AFB, KS
PERMIT #85