

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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McConnell AFB, Kansas

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photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap



An Airman from the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, the 931st's host unit, wears a gas mask during M-16 rifle qualification. Wearing the mask and other new requirements for weapons qualification began for 931st members this month.

Firing with gas mask on now required

TECH SGT. DAVID BRUMLEY

931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Group members will notice some differences the next time they qualify with the M-9 pistol or M-16 rifle. New standards that began this month include firing more ammunition, hitting more targets and wearing the chemical gas mask.

Tech Sgt. Bradley Fields, a member of the 931st's security forces who works regularly at the McConnell AFB rifle range, said members can expect to wear the gas mask while in the prone firing position.

"I believe the intent is to further everybody's understanding of how

to operate the weapon in a combat environment," he said. Active-duty shooters have been required to fire with the mask since May. Sgt. Fields said it's been well received.

"People haven't had too much problem with the gas mask portion of the program," he said. "Once they see it, understand it and learn it, it's actually gone relatively smoothly."

According to Maj. William Dorsey, Group Logistics Plans officer, anyone scheduled to fire the M-16 will receive their gas mask from their unit deployment manager prior to firing.

The mask isn't part of the new re-
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No more pencils,
no more books

Instant
results
with E-exam



STAFF SGT. DAVID SEVART

931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Career Development Courses and professional military education testing is scheduled to become electronic this month, doing away with the old fill-in-the-dot paper tests.

"Tests will all be on disk and be given on computer in a controlled environment," said Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Summers, Chief of Education and Training, 931st Military Personnel Flight. Results of tests, or "E-exams," will

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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

Happy New Year 931st ARG! 2004 presented the Group with many challenges, all of which, were handled superbly in a most professional manner. 2005 will of course provide us with challenges, many not known at this time. What we do know for sure is that we will deploy folks for our tasked Air Expeditionary Force. Originally, we were scheduled to go to Istres, France to fulfill our AEF commitment. Unfortunately, the mission supported in Istres has been discontinued.

We are now tasked to augment the Air National Guard operating out of Turkey. This will be an exciting assignment where we will provide vital support for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Most of our Turkey deployers will be from maintenance and operations. If you are not in that bunch, remember you can always volunteer somewhere else.

A second challenge and one that is not as exciting as Turkey is our funding situation. This year, money for mandays has become extremely tight. I ask your patience as the problem is worked. Be assured that our leadership is working very hard to keep all the wings and groups running and able to accomplish our missions.

A third challenge for 2005 is one that is present all the time; helping our active-duty teammates. They work very hard and many are gone for many days a year. Volunteer when you can to help take some of the pressure off.

One last comment; congratulations to our newly inducted noncommissioned officers and senior noncommissioned officers. You provide the skill and leadership necessary for a strong military organization. The 931st is a better place because of you.

2005 looks to be a fun and rewarding year. Let's work hard, work safe, and have fun. Have a great UTA!



Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel
931st ARG 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 Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap at (316) 759-3686 or jason.schaap@mccconnell.af.mil with your ideas.

UTA SCHEDULE

Next UTA: Jan. 8-9

February 12-13

March 12-13

April 16-17

Survey Says

What 931st ARG members said about the *Kanza Spirit*

TECH SGT. JASON SCHAAP

931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS



On behalf of the Kanza Spirit staff, thank you to all our readers and especially to those who took the time to complete our recent survey. We've printed some of the results but because of space limitations we couldn't include all of them. We tried to pick those that most pertained to 931st members.

Feedback was, for the most part, positive. However, participation was low. Dividing the surveys completed by the total of the of the Group's military and civilian employees results in little more than 11 percent participation. The percentage would decrease further if the Group total included family members who were also eligible to participate.

Nevertheless, the responses gave the Spirit staff a feel for what we are doing right and where we have room to improve. The Spirit is a Commander's tool for communicating with all members of the 931st family. Anyone who has a comment or idea pertaining to it is encouraged to contact the Spirit staff (see contact information below).

All of the comments submitted with the surveys have been reproduced on the next page with responses. A few were expressed by more than one survey participant and/or were recently expressed to the Spirit staff. Please let us know if our responses do not answer anyone's questions.

We know the Spirit is far from perfect. But we also realize, like most in the journalism field, we'll never fulfill every readers' every wish. The amount of information that can go into one issue is limited and must be sifted through and prioritized. Let us know if you think something is missing, can be improved upon, or thrown out altogether.

Again, thank you to all Kanza Spirit readers and feel free to contact us anytime with your suggestions.

Survey Results

The writing in the Kanza Spirit is easy to understand: *Strongly Disagree 2%, Disagree 2%, Neither Agree/Disagree 16%, Agree 41%, Strongly Agree 39%*

The Kanza seems to be written primarily for NCOs: *Strongly Disagree 20%, Disagree 27%, Neither Agree/Disagree 48%, Agree 5%, Strongly Agree 0%*

The Kanza seems to be written primarily for officers: *Strongly Disagree 20%, Disagree 27%, Neither Agree/Disagree 48%, Agree 5%, Strongly Agree 0%*

The Kanza keeps me fully informed about Air Force personnel policies and decisions: *Strongly Disagree 5%, Disagree 14%, Neither Agree/Disagree 43%, Agree 27%, Strongly Agree 11%*

The Kanza keeps me fully informed about pay and benefits: *Strongly Disagree 7%, Disagree 11%, Neither Agree/Disagree 39%, Agree 27%, Strongly Agree 16%*

Overall, the Kanza is a trustworthy source of information: *Strongly Disagree 2%, Disagree 5%, Neither Agree/Disagree 18%, Agree 43%, Strongly Agree 32%*

In terms of the amount of stories, rate the Kanza at recognizing local people: *Excellent 30%, Very Good 39%, Satisfactory 23%, Below Satisfactory 7%, Poor 2%*

How would you rate the Kanza as a source of information about the topics you think are most important: *Excellent 18%, Very Good 36%, Satisfactory 27%, Below Satisfactory 11%, Poor 7%*

The Kanza keeps me fully informed about events happening on base: *Strongly Disagree 7%, Disagree 11%, Neither Agree/Disagree 16%, Agree 41%, Strongly Agree 25%*

Contact the editor of the *Kanza Spirit*, TSgt Jason Schaap, at (316) 759-3686 or jason.schaap@mccconnell.af.mil

1. Comment: It always seems as though the Kanza focuses on the recognition of the flying part of the unit and not much of the rest of the group.

Response: Of the past 12 issues, the main front page story has featured people from the personnel flight three times, the medical flight twice, the maintenance squadron twice, the operations support flight once, civil engineering once, headquarters twice, the flying squadron twice. The Spirit Spotlight section has featured someone from maintenance three times, personnel twice, security forces once, operations support once, medical twice, civil engineering once and the flying squadron twice.

2. Comment: I would desire the paper to cover articles of human interest. We must have some people in this unit who are unique that have news to share with the rest of our AFRES family worthy of reporting.

Response: We completely agree. A request for Group members to contact the public affairs office with such story ideas has accompanied seven of the last 10 Commander's Messages, yet not one response has been received.

3. Comment: The Kanza Spirit needs a proofreader. It's embarrassing when even the Commander's letter has errors.

Response: The editor has been contacted about such errors once in the last two years. Readers who find errors are strongly encouraged to notify the public affairs office to help prevent them from being repeated. The Commander's column is intentionally written in an informal manner to sound more conversational. Readers should also note that all Department of Defense journalists are instructed to follow the Associated Press Style Guide, not the Tongue and Quill.

4. Comment: The Kanza Spirit does an outstanding job at recognizing units and unit members and their accomplishments. Kudos! Keep up the good work.

Response: Thank you.

5. Comment: PA has done a great job over the years and we appreciate them very much.

Response: Thank you.

6. Comment: Cops Rule!!!

Response: We neither confirm nor deny that claim.

7. Comment: Overall a good newspaper. Would like to see more content on human interest stories...what our people are doing in their civilian lives (i.e. volunteers at local places, their civilian jobs, etc). Great photos...Would be neat to see commanders select someone to write a story on from their squadron each month...it would help others see what the mission of the different units are and what they do

to help make the mission happen.

Response: Any Group member may submit an article for publication in the Kanza as long as they do not contradict or argue against Department of Defense policy. Submitted articles are also subject to the same publication standards as Kanza Spirit writers.

The Kanza staff is especially interested in members who will follow up on verbal commitments to submit articles (also see comment #2 for further response).

8. Comment: People like to see themselves in the paper. More little stories about people. Just a couple short paragraphs would be enough. There is usually just one person per issue. I see a lot about the fliers missions...how about the other squadrons people and mission. Stories about their civilian jobs/employers would help employer support.

Response: See responses to comments #1, #2 and #7.

9. Comment: The Spirit doesn't "touch" me. I've read most of the articles through other media weeks before I see it in the Kanza Spirit. I guess the biggest complaint that I have with the paper is its currency and relevance to me as a SNCO. In addition; I've heard many of the retirees complain that they are not receiving copies of the Spirit. I know that the money has been approved by every commander that has been here since Colonel Malling. What does this say to our retiree's???? Let's get with the program!

Response: Most Kanza articles are written by the staff and are not published until print day. We realize some Group members read Air Force-wide news before it appears in the Kanza. However, as the Commander's publication staff, we have the responsibility to ensure all Group members, including family members, receive important information.

There never has been a budget established to send 931st retirees the Kanza. It is sent by the public affairs office to member addresses provided by 931st Military Personnel Flight. Starting this year, the MPF is implementing a process to ensure the addresses of future retirees will be included in their database.

10. Comment: Give everyone (by name) a heads up on Mobility requirements like shots and chem training. Note: This was the information given to everyone at base "X" using the Group "X" "News" Paper.

Response: The amount of information that can go into the Kanza each month has space limitations. However, we are always eager to hear what we can do to improve the Kanza in helping Group members become better informed. We would like to hear from other members (see contact information on opposite page) who think the suggested information would be a great addition. Also, let us know if you think any parts should go and be replaced.

Money-savings IDEAs rewarded with cash incentives

A civilian employee from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., was presented a \$10,000 check for a suggestion he submitted through the Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program.

Kevin Shupe, an aircraft environmental systems specialist, worked with the manufacturer of aircrew oxygen tanks to recertify tanks, saving the Air Force about \$700,000 in fiscal 2004.

The IDEA program rewards successful ideas by awarding the innovator, in some cases, with money. The reward is limited to a percentage of the savings not to exceed \$10,000.

For more information, go to the IDEA Web site at:

<https://ideas.randolph.af.mil/ipdswarn.html>

AAFES introduces Dollar Store

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is set to roll out its new concept for a "dollar store" inside exchanges. The Dollar Day\$ Program will soon be in all exchanges offering high-quality goods that provide great value to customers when priced at only one dollar, according to an AAFES press release.

The program is scheduled to be in exchanges by the end of January. The types of merchandise planned for the Dollar Day\$ Store include: hardware, plastics, candy, snacks, stationary, party goods, kitchen accessories, and health and beauty items. Stock assortment will also be adjusted for specific seasons like Easter, summer, and back-to-school.

The program was tested at 65 select locations and was extremely successful. AAFES received positive responses from both the customers and the stores.

Looking for members' input about 10th anniversary

A celebration of the 931st's 10th anniversary is being planned for the April Unit Training Assembly. The organizing committee is seeking Group members' recommendations for what should be included in the celebration. Call Maj. Rebecca Fox at (316) 759-4736 or send email to sam.schofield@flightsafety.com for more information.

DoD site showcases support

Department of Defense officials have launched "America Supports You," a new program to showcase America's support for the men and women of the armed forces and the myriad of ways people are expressing that support.

People are encouraged to visit the below web site and share details about their project or activity:

www.americasupportsyou.mil

SPRISPOLIGHT

Tech. Sgt. Vicki Wilson is a Pensacola, Fla., native, who has been in the Air Force for 20 years.

Job Title: Family Readiness Technician

Civilian job: Computer Assisted Ordering Specialist at the McConnell AFB Commissary

Favorite way to relax: Lounging around, watching TV

What annoys me: Ignore me

Most influential person in my life: My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, because without him I would be nothing and I would have nothing

What I'm listening to: Alicia Keys

What I'm reading: "Trace" by Patricia Cornwell

If I won \$1 million, I would: Pay off our bills and invest in our future



Military Support Flight

Welcome Newcomers

Capt Rufus Forrest
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Capt Leah Schmidt
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Senior Airman
Kimberly Wilkerson
Aero Medicine Flight

Promotions

Airman 1st Class Jacob Cross
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Airman Basic Jenny Prater
Aero Medicine Flight

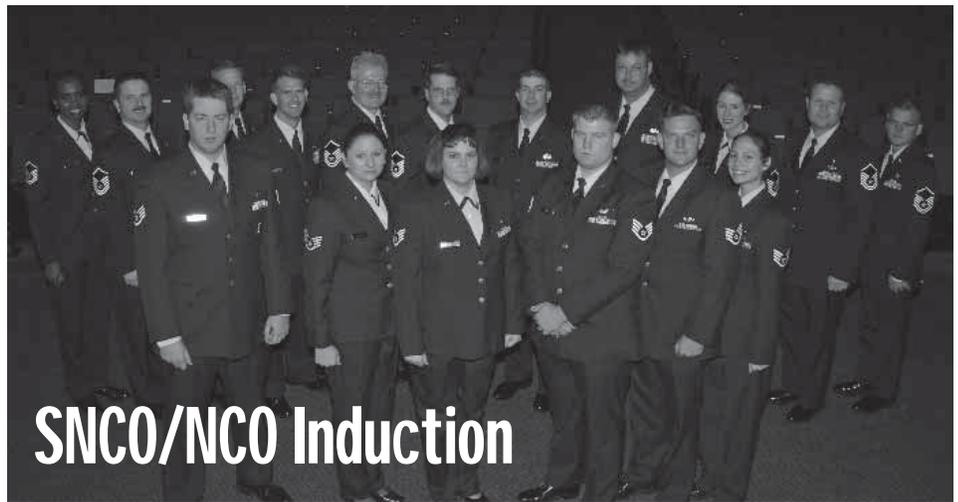
Excellent Performers

Airmen who scored 90 or better on the fitness test:

18th ARS
Lt Col Keith Kontz
Maj Marco Moor
Maj Christine Mugrage
Capt Mike Kleespie
1st Lt Austin Aggson
MSgt Joe Halenka

AMXS
MSgt Ralph Babcock
SrA Jeremiah Babcock
A1C Tyler Enfield

OSF
Capt Eric Long



The Group's newest master and staff sergeants were honored at an induction ceremony during the December Unit Training Assembly. Those honored included (back row, left to right) Master Sgt.'s Debroada Cornelius, Thomas Costello, Daren Demel, Shaun Hoobler, Jeffery Kilian, Robert Lorenz, David Moore, Jerry Moore, Dana Wagner, Jon Wattenburger, and William Souder. The staff sergeants recognized were (front row, left to right) Ryan Cooper, Shannan Hughes, Angela Monreal, Christopher Norris, James Purcey and Edina Reyes.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Severt



(Left) Lt. Col. Cheryl Hooper runs through a script with Maj. Rebecca Fox, Group executive officer, prior to an assumption of command ceremony that recognized Lt. Col. Hooper as the new commander of the Aerospace Medical Flight. The ceremony was held during the December Unit Training Assembly.

Instant results with E-exams from page 1

be available immediately, eliminating the wait for results to be mailed and allowing Airmen to upgrade their training quickly. The wait to take tests should become a thing of the past as well. "Many times someone is ready to test, but can't because the exam hasn't arrived," Sgt. Summers said.

And unlike the paper testing system that required constant inventory and maintenance, E-exam updating will be instantaneous through a secure web site, keeping the tests current and more accurate.

E-exams are also more difficult to compromise. They random-

ly choose different questions from a database. "Even if two people take the same test, they will have different questions, so answers can't be shared," Sgt. Summers said.

Military education isn't the only forum members are going to be using electronic testing. College Level Examination Program tests are scheduled to be given using the electronic format as well, Sgt. Summers noted. "This is the way members can expect testing to be done; it's finally coming into the electronic age," she said. Contact Sgt. Summers for more E-exam information at (316) 759-5423.

Thunder Hockey

Jan. 7 & 8 — The Wichita Thunder host the Tulsa Oilers, 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum Friday. The Bossier Shreveport Mudbugs come to town for a 7:30 p.m. Saturday game. Tickets available at the McConnell AFB ITT office (316-759-6344) or all Select-A-Seat locations, by calling (800) 362-3247, or online at:

www.selectaseat.com

Johnny Lang

Jan. 7 — Johnny Lang exploded on to the blues scene when he was only 16 and has since toured with artists like the Rolling Stones, Aerosmith and B.B. King. Show features special guest Brandi Carlile and starts 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Tickets available at all Select-A-Seat locations, by calling (800) 362-3247, or online at:

www.selectaseat.com

Happy Birthday Elvis

Jan. 8 — Celebrate the King's birthday at the Orpheum Theater with his movie "Jailhouse Rock" and live (and unplugged) Elvis music performed by acclaimed local musicians adding their own twist to his songs. Party starts 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$8 at the door. Call (316) 263-0884 for more information or log on to:

www.wichitaorpheum.com

At the Movies



SEED OF CHUCKY

FRIDAY, JAN. 7 7pm
1 hr. 27 min. Following the events of 'Bride of Chucky,' killer dolls Chucky and Tiffany are now faced with the challenge of raising their child, Glen, becoming a family of killer dolls.

MPAA Rating: R for strong horror violence/gore, sexual content and language



NATIONAL TREASURE

SATURDAY, JAN. 8 7pm
2 hr. 25 min. Nicolas Cage is an archaeologist on a quest to find a massive cache of gold hidden during the Revolutionary War using clues supposedly left in codes by America's founding fathers.

MPAA Rating: PG for action violence and some scary images

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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