

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



Inside

Anniversary
events in May
Page 3
Annual ESGR
employer award
Page 3
Spirit Spotlight
Page 6

February 2005

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol. 10, No. 2

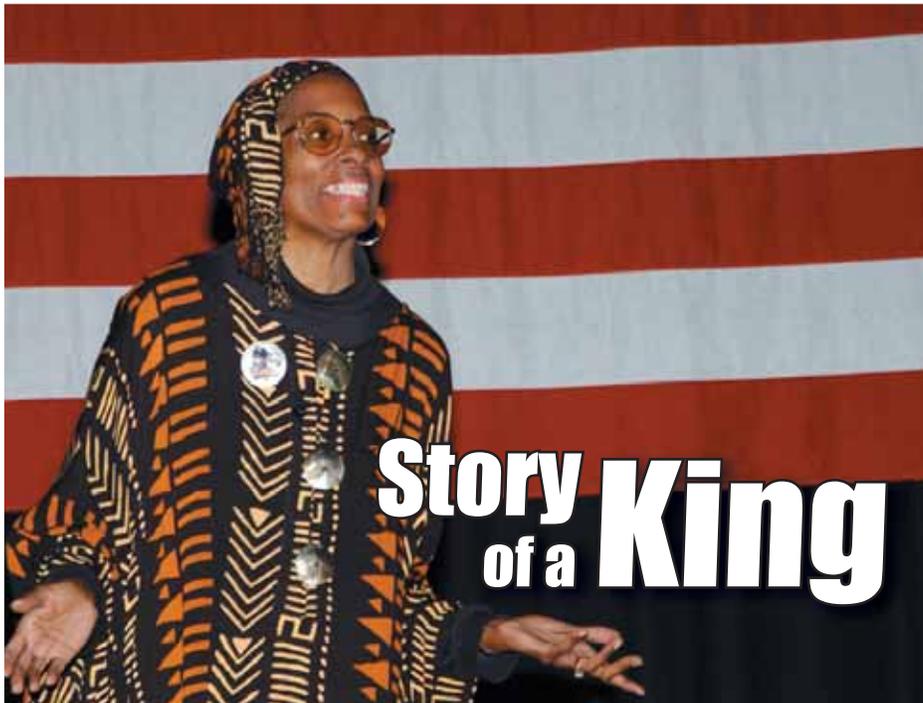


photo by Senior Airman Akeba Lawrence

Story of a King

Story-teller Tasleem Muqstasid acts out an anecdote about Martin Luther King Jr., as told by his daughter Yolanda, during a luncheon honoring Dr. King held last month at McConnell AFB. The event was emceed by the Military Personnel Flight's career enhancement chief, Master Sgt. Debroada Cornelius (pictured below).

MPF Airman takes part in MLK event

TECH SGT. JASON SCHAAP

931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A member of the 931st was at the forefront of an event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at McConnell AFB last month. The Military Personnel Flight's Master Sgt. Debroada Cornelius emceed a luncheon attended by the base's highest-ranking leadership and other distinguished guests, including Wichita Mayor, Carlos Mayans. Sgt. Cornelius,

continued on page 7



Master Sgt.
Debroada Cornelius

Turkey Time

Group set for AEF

TECH SGT. DAVID BRUMLEY

931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Some Group members are gearing up for more than their usual two days a month.

The 931st ARG is scheduled to participate in an Aerospace Expeditionary Force mission to Incirlik, Turkey, soon after the February Unit Training Assembly.

The AEF will require the 931st to rotate more than 60 personnel to fill nearly 40 operations and maintenance positions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Two Air National Guard units will lead the AEF while the 931st ARG is deployed.

"When we first arrive, the 117th Air Refueling Wing from Birmingham, Ala. will be the lead unit," said Lt. Col Roger Gallet, 18th Air Refueling Squadron Operations Officer. "The 101st Air Refueling Wing



continued on page 4

Vol. 10, No. 2

Commander,
931st Air Refueling
Group

Col. Karl J. Hurdle

Spirit Staff

Maj. Dave Fruck
Chief of Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
Editor

Tech. Sgt. David Brumley
Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. David Severt
Staff Writer

How to reach us

Kanza Spirit
931st Air Refueling Group
53280 Topeka St., Ste. 221
McConnell AFB, KS 67221
Commercial Phone:
(316) 759-3704
DSN: 743-3704
Fax: (316)759-3393
E-mail:
jason.schaap@mcconnell.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 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

First off, I would like to thank all the members of the 931st who assisted our active duty friends get out of town during their Operational Readiness Inspection. Although the ORI concentrated on the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, the 931st did have three people play in the inspection. Two Civil Engineer troops, Tech. Sgt. John Bryan and Senior Airman Megan Durkee, played a part and Staff Sgt. Clinton Schmidt from the JAG's office enjoyed several days in MOPP gear. Thanks for your hard work. We are all proud of you.

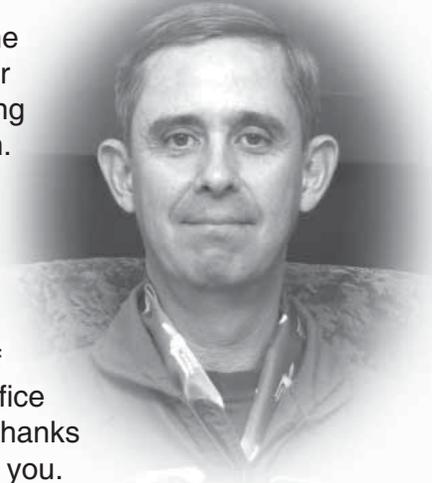
McConnell's Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon was absolutely inspiring. Special thanks to Ms. Carolyn Wallace and Master Sgt. Debroada Cornelius for being part of the team that organized and produced the luncheon. Sgt. Cornelius did a wonderful job as the emcee. It was great hearing her introduce herself as being from the 931st ARG. That struck home how we are truly a vital part of "Team McConnell."

Soon after this Unit Training Assembly, many of our warriors will be deploying to Turkey to support our commitment to the Air Expeditionary Force. My thanks to the volunteer Airmen who are giving up time with their families and time at work. Please tell your families and employers thanks from myself and the 931st.

The loss of life and destruction of the tsunami disaster is hard for any of us to comprehend. Thank you Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Tarr for stepping up and organizing the 931st tsunami relief fund. We all want to do what we can to relieve the suffering the people in the Indian Ocean area are experiencing.

One last note. The tenth anniversary celebration has been moved to the May UTA due to lack of venues available in April.

Have a safe and productive UTA!



Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel
931st ARG Commander

Fraud, Waste & Abuse

To file a fraud, waste or abuse complaint with the Air Force, call (316) 759-3192 or toll free (800) 424-9098.

UTA SCHEDULE

Next UTA: Feb. 12-13

March 12-13

April 16-17

May 21-22

10th anniversary bash set for May UTA

TECH SGT. DAVID BRUMLEY

931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 931st ARG is scheduled to celebrate its 10-year anniversary of being stationed at McConnell Air Force Base with a dinner May 21 at the Cotillion Ballroom in Wichita.

The event will include food, live entertainment, a slide show and a series of story boards depicting major events and unit accomplishments since its activation in 1995. The celebration will be a casual adult event, according to Lt. Col. Matthew Archer, 931st ARG evaluator pilot and head of the 931st ARG anniversary planning committee. All Group members, their spouses and other adult guests are welcome.

While many details are still being worked out, \$10 tickets should be on sale during the February Unit Training Assembly, said Lt. Col. Archer. Group members with financial issues are encouraged to speak with their first sergeant about assistance with purchas-

ing tickets for the celebration.

"We are designing a coin to commemorate the event," said another planning committee member, Senior Master Sgt. Donna Lorenz, 931st ARG noncommissioned officer in charge of Logistics Plans. The coin price is expected to be \$5. It will have a depiction of the Kanza Roach on the front with the statement "People Of The Southwind Unite To Rekindle Their Spirit," and on the back will be an hour glass with the dates 1995 and 2005 across from each other.

"We are also creating a website where members can get continual updates on the dinner, provide photos, and reserve tickets or coins," Sgt. Lorenz said.

Event organizers are also looking for old photos and other commemorative items to be loaned for display during the dinner.

The Cotillion is located at 11120 West Kellogg St., where the celebration is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact Sgt. Lorenz at (316) 759-3796 for more information.



ESGR seeking Freedom Award nominees

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is accepting 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award nominations until Feb. 24, 2005.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 to recognize the significant contributions and sacrifices made by America's employers of National Guardsmen and Reservists. ESGR is reinstating the original parameters of the nomination process in which Guardsmen and Reservists may nominate their employers.

"We are encouraging all

National Guardsmen and Reservists to visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil to nominate their employers for this prestigious award that recognizes support above and beyond the USERRA Law for employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve," said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR Executive Director.

Nominations for the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award will be accepted at the ESGR website through midnight February 24, 2005.

The 2005 Recipients will be recognized on October 22, 2005 in Washington, DC.

www.esgr.mil

out of Bangor, Maine, will take over in the beginning of March.” The responsibility to fill maintenance positions fell to Master Sgt. James Kirk and Staff Sgt. Edward Cropper, Maintenance Squadron Unit Deployment Managers. “We filled all the positions with volunteers,” Sgt. Kirk said. “IGX players were given first consideration and the remaining slots were turned over to individual shops to pick who should go.”

Asking for volunteers worked well in filling the mission requirements, according to Sgt. Cropper. “In fact we had more than enough volunteers and had eight to 10 alternates in case of emergencies. And now three of them are definite because of emergencies,” he said.

Filling the operations slots was trickier. “The biggest obstacle was getting volunteers among traditional reservists,” Lt. Col. Gallet said. “We are converting the planes to a new Global Air Traffic Management System. It’s an upgrade of the navigational and avionics equipment. Most of our folks have, or will have, eaten up their annual training days getting trained on the new software and hardware.”

According to Gallet, of the 15 operations slots, there will be three crews consisting of two pilots and



photo by Senior Airman Gary Guese

An Air Force F-16 approaches the refueling boom of a KC-135 Stratotanker from the expeditionary squadron at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, that 931st members supported during Operation Northern Watch. 931st Airmen are deploying to Turkey this month to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

one boom per crew, an operations staff making up two pilots and one boom, one flight manager and two life support people. Most of the members will deploy for only 15 days and will swap out in early March.



Originally, the 931st ARG was scheduled to deploy to Istres, France, but the mission was closed in December. “It closed because the mission over the Balkans didn’t require refueling sup-

port from NATO,” Lt. Col. Gallet said.

All the 931st’s AEF deployers are scheduled to be back home by the end of March.

photo by Master Sgt. Sean Brennan



Staff Sgt. Ken Bergman

A B-2 Spirit prepares to receive fuel from a KC-135 assigned to an air expeditionary force at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. (Left) An Airman deployed from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., unloads the hydrant servicing coupler from a vehicle used to refuel KC-135s at Incirlik AB.



An F-16 pilot receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker from the expeditionary squadron at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, that 931st members supported during Operation Northern Watch. The insignia on the boom stands for the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, the parent unit at McConnell AFB that supplies the aircraft 931st members fly. 931st Airmen are scheduled to deploy to Turkey this month to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

photo by Senior Airman Greg L. Davis

SPIRIT SHORTS

2005 Spouse Scholarships

Applications for the Aerospace Education Foundation's 2005 Spouse Scholarship are being accepted through March 31.

AEF awards thirty scholarships each year to spouses of active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members. Scholarships are scheduled to be awarded in early May. AEF is non-profit educational charity promoting aerospace excellence. Call (800) 291-8480 for more information or visit the following Web site:

www.aef.org

Seeking civilians for award

The Air Force is looking for individuals or organizations who are not employed by the Department of Defense for nomination to receive the 2005 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award. The Fisher

award is presented annually for acts of patriotism, generosity and selfless dedication to the members of the Armed Forces. Call Maj. Rebecca Fox no later than Feb. 20 at (316) 759-4736/5931 for more information. Maj. Fox can also be contacted via email at:

rebecca.fox@mccconnell.af.mil

Chili cookers needed for AMXS annual event

The Maintenance Squadron is accepting entries for its seventh annual chili cookoff scheduled for the April Unit Training Assembly. Winners will be determined by votes of chili eaters.

All of the proceeds this year will benefit the Group's 10th anniversary celebration in May. Contact Senior Master Sgt. Greg Bourgeois for a sign up sheet and more information at (316) 393-7992 or the following email address:

gregory.bourgeois@mccconnell.af.mil

AFRC looking for reservist, employer award nominees

April 1 is the deadline to nominate reservists and their employers for Air Force Reserve Command's Citizen Airman Award and Employer of the Year Award.

The awards recognize both an enlisted person and an officer who deployed in support of current operations in 2004. The employer award honors a person who strongly supported the activation and deployment of one or more Citizen Airman.

Nominees submit a one-page narrative of the reservist's contribution, a one-page narrative of how the employer helped his or her reservist and the Air Force Reserve, and a biography of the reservist or employer.

Contact Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh for more information at (703) 697-9103/DSN 227-9103 or troy.mcintosh@pentagon.af.mil

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

Senior Airman Jacob Cross is a Midland, Texas, native who has been in the Air Force for 10 months.

Job Title: Boom Operator

Civilian job: Aviation Maintenance Technician at Cessna

Favorite way to relax: Sit on my recliner and watch TV

What annoys me: Ignore me

Most influential person in my life: My father. He is a hard worker and great father. He's taught me a lot about life, good work ethics and good morals.

What I'm listening to: Country

What I'm reading: Marine Sniper

If I won \$1 million, I would: Buy some land in Texas and retire



18th Air Refueling Squadron

18th ARS NCO leads Group effort to help tsunami victims

STAFF SGT. DAVID SEVART
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Every time a coin plunked into her collection can, tsunami victims in Asia received a little more financial aid. Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Tarr, 18th Air Refueling Squadron orderly room non-commissioned officer in charge, was the Group's coordinator for collecting money to help with the recent crisis.

Sgt. Tarr said she felt compelled to action after seeing stories about the destruction left by the tsunami on the

local news. "I saw a man carrying his dead daughter in his arms," she said. "She looked about the same age as my little girl, so I felt I had to do something."

Sgt. Tarr decided to help raise funds for the victims with a collection can.

Motivated by her enthusiasm, many were quick to pitch in. "It seems

everyone wants to help," she said. Sgt. Tarr said the donations would be turned over to an emergency relief agency currently in the area supporting the victims.



Tech. Sgt.
Suzanne Tarr

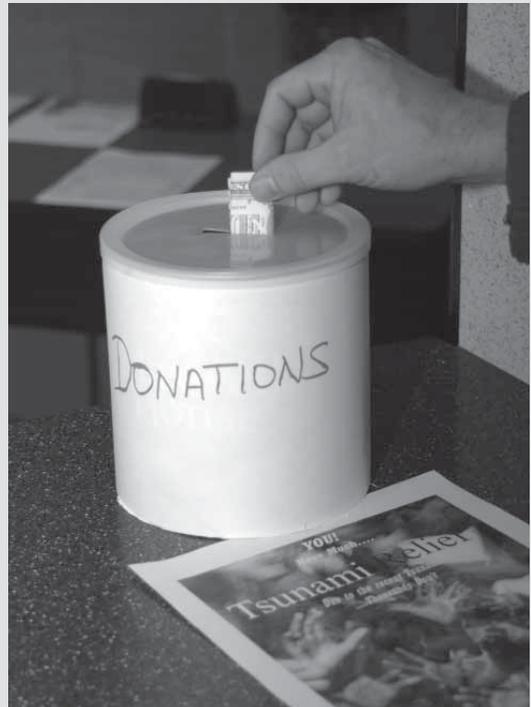


photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Sevart

A 931st Airman member gives money to a collection for helping victims of the recent tsunami in southern Asia. The 18th Air Refueling Squadron's Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Tarr (pictured left) organized the fundraising effort for the Group. She is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 18th ARS orderly room.

Welcome Newcomers

SSgt Sandy Headrick
18th Air Refueling Squadron

SrA Travis Bryant
Aero Medicine Flight

A1C Angela Hardy
Military Support Flight

A1C Eva Mujica
Aero Medicine Flight

A1C Ngan Tran
Aero Medicine Flight

Story of a King from page 1

who was last year's 931st noncommissioned officer of the year, said she was honored McConnell's African-American Heritage Committee asked her to be part of the luncheon because it gave her the opportunity "to do (her) part."

"I believe in the values of Martin Luther King," she said. "I believe in unity. I want to encourage others to get involved."

The career enhancement chief said she remembers Dr. King shaping her own world as a young girl in Macon, Ga. "My family use to participate in Martin Luther King parades before it was ever a holiday," she said. Growing up in the Deep South was an experience that raised many questions for a young

African-American. Some answers, Sgt. Cornelius said, were found with Dr. King. "He said it was ok to have friends of other races," she remembered. "He wanted to unite, not divide."

For those who missed the MLK luncheon, a banquet is scheduled for Feb. 17 to honor Black History Month (call (316) 759-3587 for more information). Sgt. Cornelius said she will take part in that event as well. "It would be great to see more traditional reservists at these events," she said. "I've seen some of the 931st's full-timers attend, but these events are for everybody. Our traditional family members aren't invited only to events scheduled during Unit Training Assemblies."

WICHITA WEEKEND

Thunder Hockey

Feb. 11 & 12 — The Wichita Thunder host the Austin Ice Bats Friday and the Topeka Tarantulas Saturday. Games start 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum. Call the McConnell AFB ITT office at **(316)-759-6344** or Select-A-Seat at **(800) 362-3247** for ticket information.

Texas Hold'em

Feb. 12 — The poker craze continues on base at the Robert Dole Center through Apr. 2. Games start 5 p.m. Club members play free, \$3 for nonmembers. Call **(316) 759-6002** for more information.

Jazz Festival Concert

Feb. 12 — The 12th Annual Jazz Festival at Friends University concludes with a concert at 7:30 p.m. Festival times are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call **(316) 295-5877** for more information.

Delbert McClinton

Feb. 12 — Delbert McClinton brings his roadhouse rock and juke-joint blues to the Cotillion Ballroom at 8:30 p.m. Tickets available at all Select-A-Seat locations, by calling **(800) 362-3247**, or online at: www.selectaseat.com

Don Giovanni

Feb. 12 & 13 — The Wichita Grand Opera presents Mozart's Don Giovanni at the Century II Concert Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets available at all Select-A-Seat locations, by calling **(800) 362-3247**, or online at: www.selectaseat.com

Shocker Baseball

Feb. 11 — Catch Wichita's State's season opener against Northwestern State 3 p.m. at Eck Stadium. Tickets available at the WSU Ticket Office or by calling **(316) 978-3267**.

At the Movies



WHITE NOISE

FRIDAY, FEB. 11 7pm
1 hr. 41 min. An architect shattered by the sudden death of his wife becomes convinced his wife is contacting him through Electronic Voice Phenomenon and unwittingly opens a door to another world.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violence, disturbing images and language



FAT ALBERT

SATURDAY, FEB. 12 7pm
1 hr. 40 min. Bill Cosby's "Fat Albert" comes to life on the big screen with a story based on Cosby's stand-up comedy monologues about his childhood in a Philadelphia neighborhood. osedly left in codes by America's founding fathers.

MPAA Rating: PG for momentary 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

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

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