

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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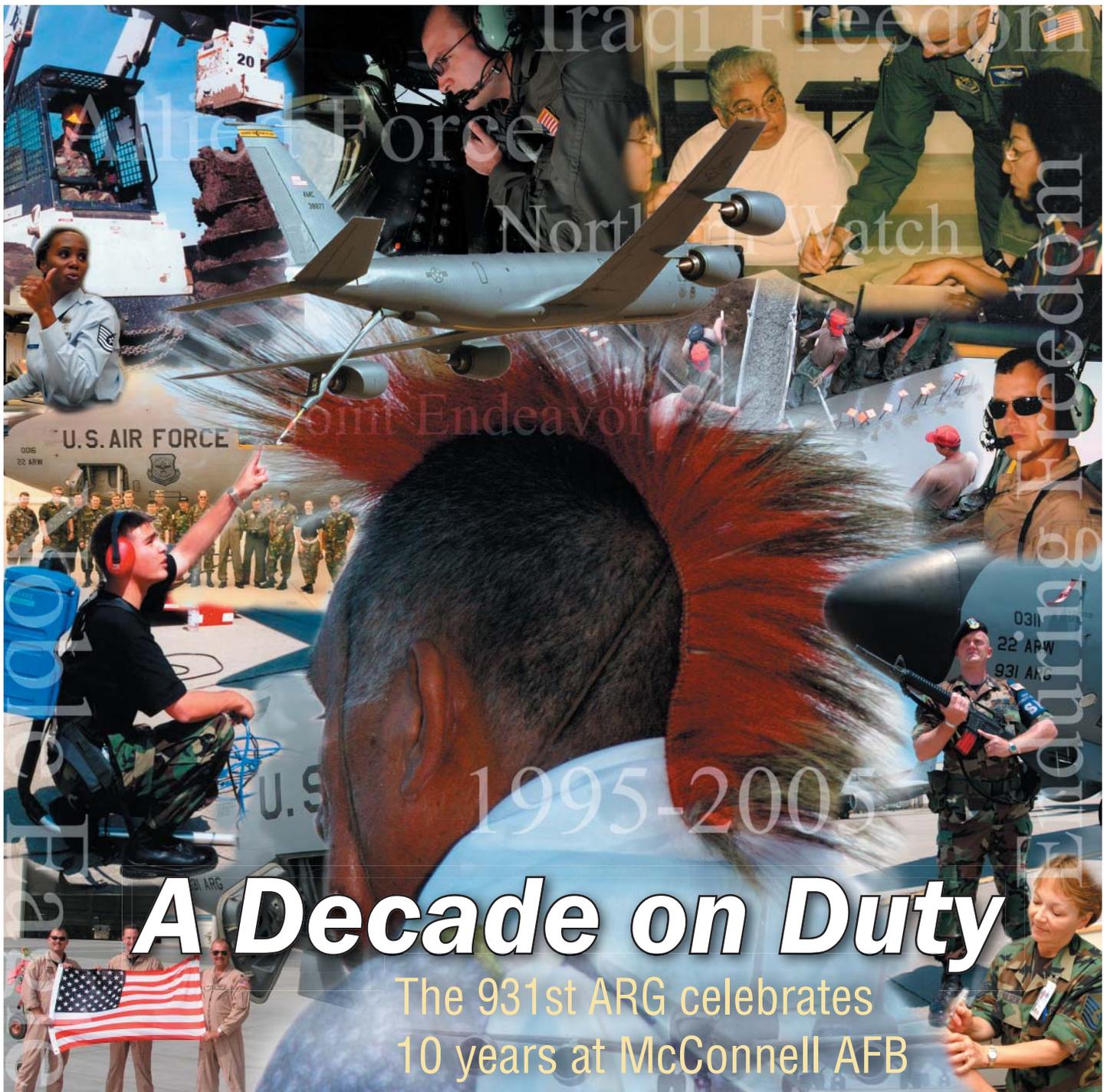
10 years at
McConnell AFB

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May 2005

McConnell AFB, Kansas

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A Decade on Duty

The 931st ARG celebrates
10 years at McConnell AFB

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Group**

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Deadlines

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

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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

This Unit Training Assembly should be very special. Current and former Group members will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the 931st Air Refueling Group at McConnell AFB.

The festivities will begin Friday afternoon with an anniversary golf scramble. If this tournament is anywhere close to the fun we had at the last scramble, then we are in store for a wonderful time.

The fun continues on Saturday, beginning with a 931st and 507th Air Refueling Wing commander's call at noon. After the meeting, all folks joining the celebration Saturday evening will be released to prepare. The big celebration begins at 4 p.m. with a social hour followed by dinner at 5 p.m. Hog Wild will be catering the event with their wonderful barbeque. After dinner, we will begin the celebration program. Our guest speaker is the 931st's first commander, Col. (retired) Vik Malling. Following the program, the band "Blue Eyed Soul" will perform for our listening and dancing pleasure. All and all, it should be a fantastic time.

Now, let me address a few other topics. As you all know, money is very tight this year. I am happy to report that UTAs through the rest of the fiscal year will be funded. Other areas will remain tight.

By the time this issue of the *Kanza Spirit* lands in your mailbox, the Base Realignment and Closure recommendation list may have been released. Regardless how it affects the 931st family, we all need to remember BRAC is a step in a better direction for the Department of Defense. It will help us save money and better serve the American people. Anyone with BRAC questions, especially those concerning talking to the media, should contact the Group public affairs office at (316) 759-3704.

Finally, Memorial Day marks the beginning of the "101 Critical Days of Summer." Let's use common sense and think safety this summer! Have a great 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: May 21-22

June 11-12

July 16-17

August 20-21

Activated reservists get new health care plan

WASHINGTON – Health care for reservists got a booster shot April 25. That's when a premium-based health care plan started for those activated for a contingency anytime since 9/11.

Department of Defense officials announced TRICARE Reserve Select at a Pentagon news conference in March.

"We are committed to providing the proper combination of compensation and benefits that will allow us to attract and retain the world's best fighting force," said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

TRS offers a bridge for reservists entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by a civilian employer or other health insurance plan. It's similar to TRICARE Standard and comparable to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan for federal employees.

Monthly premiums for a reservist are \$75. A reservist and family pays \$233. Premiums are scheduled to be adjusted annually.

Air Force reservists must serve on active duty for 90 consecutive days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in support of a contingency. And, they must enter an agreement with Air Force Reserve Command to serve in the Selected Reserve for one or more years before leaving active duty. If they got off active duty, they have until Oct. 28 to apply.



A KC-135 Stratotanker crew from the 18th Air Refueling Squadron, the 931st ARG's flying squadron, departs their aircraft after flying a mission over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003. A new premium-based health care plan is now available to reservists activated for a contingency since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Reservists earn one year of care for every 90 days of continuous active-duty service and every year of service commitment. For example, reservists with 360 days of qualifying active duty can get four years of coverage if they sign up for four years in the Selected Reserve.

Coverage ends when the service agreement ends. It stops sooner if the reservist separates from the Selected Reserve, voluntarily withdraws from the

program or fails to pay premiums.

The Tricare Web site – www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect – will have more details. To get updates by e-mail, reservists and their families can subscribe to www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/.

For reservists enrolled in the Transitional Assistance Management Program, coverage will start the day after TAMP ends.

Personnel Flight first stop for TRICARE Reserve Select

TECH. SGT. JASON SCHAAP
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Purchasing TRICARE Reserve Select, the new health care plan available to activated reservists, is a "three-step process," according to the plan Web site (see address below). The first step is to enter into an agreement for continued service in the Selected Reserve using DD Form 2895.

"Group members can download the form from the internet and bring it in or we can provide one for them to fill out," Master Sgt. Robert Lorenz, Military Personnel Flight, said. "Once the member's section signs the form, we'll enter him or her into the database as

eligible to purchase TRS."

Once eligibility is recorded, members are required to complete an enrollment form and submit it with a one-month premium payment to the TRICARE regional contractor assigned to their home address.

"This plan is a good benefit for our reservists," Sgt. Lorenz, the 931st's Human Resource Advisor, said. "I've already talked to one of our troops, a senior master sergeant, who is enrolling."

Group members can contact Sgt. Lorenz for more question about TRS at (316) 759-3625 or the MPF's customer service at (316) 759-3458. The MPF office is open on Unit Training Assemblies and from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect

PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. JASON SCHAAP



Raising Green on the Greens

The 931st ARG 10th Anniversary Celebration Committee sponsored a golf tournament the Friday before the April Unit Training Assembly.

The tournament helped raise funds for the anniversary celebration. Another tournament to raise funds is scheduled for the Friday before the May UTA. All McConnell AFB family members are welcome to participate. Those interested in playing should contact Senior Master Sgt. Diane Hiebert at (316) 759-3747 or email her at:

diane.hiebert@mcconnell.af.mil

(Right) Security Forces' Gary White holds his ball while waiting for his turn at the tee. (Above) A closest-to-the-pin contest was among the events added to make the tournament more enjoyable. Brandon Baier, a 931st student hire, was the eventual winner.



Tony Thompson gets congratulations from teammate Jeff Stopford after Thompson managed to skip his ball across the water hazard at the 17th hole during a golf tournament held at McConnell AFB last unit training assembly. (Below) Tournament coordinator, Diane Hiebert, instructs golfers on the rules before they set out for a shotgun start.



FORE the Fun Of It

At the Group tourney with a golfing rookie

MRS. MARY BORST
931ST ARG BUDGET OFFICER

I took the basic golf course about five years ago just to learn the game and to get some exercise. I am not real good at the game and don't keep score on how many hits it takes to get in the hole because it normally takes about 8ish. Why waste paper and wear down those little putt-putt pencils they give you?

So when I heard that there was a golf tournament to raise money for our 10th anniversary celebration I went to Diane Hiebert, who put the tournament together, and asked if I could play and donate money since I am not very good. I explained that I had never played in a tournament before and for some reason Diane did not look surprised (she golfed with me one pretty afternoon before). She gave me a nice grin and said she could put me on a team. She looked at her computer screen and told me that Col. Hurdle's team needed a member.

The night before the tournament, my husband assisted me in making a cheat sheet to make sure I stood in the right place to

hit the ball since he normally advises me. He also suggested I use my yellow, girl golf balls since I have to watch my own ball when I hit it.

The day of the tournament our team was on its third reorganization. Now it consisted of myself, Col. Hurdle, Capt. Atkins from Tinker AFB,



Mary Borst (pictured above and below) and the 931st ARG's commander, Col. Karl J. Hurdle, figure out the controls of a golf cart before setting out for the start of a golf tournament held last unit training assembly. Mrs. Borst participated to help raise money for the Group's 10th anniversary celebration despite not being a seasoned golfer.

and Brandon Baier, a student hire, was going to catch up with us somewhere. I got to the sign-in table and was excited. We got attendance prizes: a golf ball, some golf tees and this little brush to clean the dirt off your golf clubs and shoes. I also bought two tickets for muligans for cheating a little bit and some raffle tickets to win this Masters Golf Tournament stuff that Russ (my husband) would like to have for his birthday.

I was so proud of my new yellow, girl golf balls. I was showing the balls to Lt. Col. Gilmour and Chief Mead. Both just smiled then nodded. I put my golf clubs in Col. Hurdle's cart. He was driving since I've never driven a cart before.

Right before the tournament, Diane explained to all the golfers that we were having a jackrabbit start. Or was it a shotgun start? Either way, we all went to different holes to start. Col. Hurdle, an excellent driver, floored it and I was nearly tossed from the cart, but I hung on. I soon realized that this was how everyone drives the carts.

'He hit it pretty good. The ball was on the grass that's mowed, not in the weeds.'

Our team started on hole 18. Col. Hurdle hit first to get the event underway and we were off to the races. He hit it pretty good. The ball was on the grass that's mowed, not in the weeds. I hit next. My ball went about 20 feet, but it was pretty straight. Then Capt. Atkins hit the ball and it went forever. It was almost halfway to the pin. Then Col.

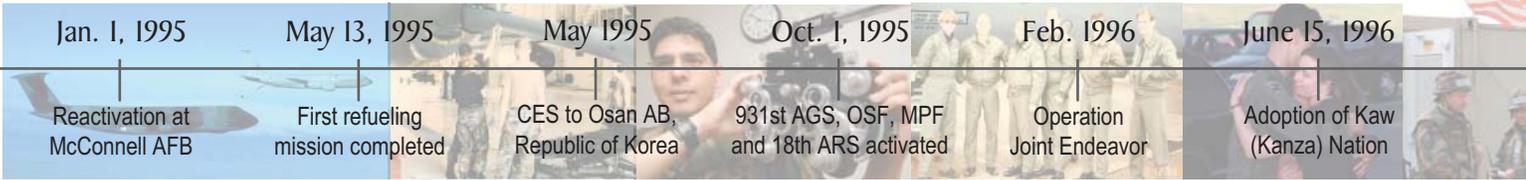
Hurdle hit again since we had to pretend to have another player because Brandon was late. So I asked Capt Atkins, "Do you play golf?" He said, "A little bit."

The fun part of the tournament was that everyone

got their golf ball and put it in a line with the ball that was closest to the hole. Now this is the way to play; drive around, cheat and golf.

At the next hole, Capt. Atkins hit it forever again. Our team only took three hits to get the ball in the hole—just like on TV. So after the second hole, Col. Hurdle and I are pretty convinced that this Capt. Atkins is not just a golfer, he is a REAL golfer. You could tell—after each hole he sat with the score card and calculated which

continued on page 11



A decade after being reactivated, the 931st celebrates Ten Years of Mission Accomplishment

TECH. SGT DAVID BRUMLEY
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 931st Air Refueling Group stood up at McConnell AFB Jan. 1, 1995. Five months later, the Group's first mission, the refueling of the "Spirit of Kansas," a B-2 bomber, was complete. Since then, the 931st has accounted for five percent of the total Air Force refueling mission.

Group members have traveled all over the world and been a major force in defending the United States. In the air and on the ground, the 931st team has proven it's a small unit that offers a big value to the Air Force and the American people.

Nov. 1995-Osan Air Base

The first deployment by the 931st's Civil Engineer Squadron planted the roots for long term success. As the new unit began to get its legs planted, the Group's engineers were already being asked to support the Air Force overseas. In November of 1995, about 60 CES members deployed to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, in support of the 51st Fighter Wing.

"We had two two-week rotations with approximately 30 people per rotation," said Senior Master Sgt. Tamera Askren, 931st CES operations superintendent. "The project was to complete phase three of a multi-phase project to remodel the passenger Air Terminal at Osan AB, Korea," she said. CES removed an old boiler, built a concrete block wall, rewired the lighting in the terminal, upgraded two latrines and repaired plumbing throughout the facility.

March 1997-Pisa

Early missions established the unit's ability to deploy as the first associate KC-135 Strato-tanker unit. The 931st provided support for Operation Decisive Endeavor, an ongoing mission at the time that provided air refueling for joint NATO fighters who were enforcing the no-fly zone over Bosnia. According to Col. (retired) Vik Malling, the 931st ARG commander at the time, there were definite questions whether or not the unit could support such a full-fledged mission. While deployed in Pisa, the unit had



Maj. Dolores Bubier, former 18th ARS navigator, conducts pre-flight inspections before flying in support of Operation Allied Force in 1999. (Left) Reactivation and the 931st's first commander, Col. Vik Malling, was front-page news in the local newspaper, the Wichita Eagle, in 1995.

The Wichita Eagle

New reserve unit powers up at McConnell

Col. Vik Malling is a veteran of 7,500 hours in a pilot's seat, most of it in a KC-135 tanker similar to the one behind him. Malling came to McConnell from Michigan to take command of the 931st Air Refueling Group.

Ken Mantyla/The Wichita Eagle

Here comes the **931ST** away as New Hampshire and Washington state, are the beginnings of what will eventually be a new, 544-member reserve unit at McConnell Air Force Base.

The 931st Air Refueling Group is the Air Force's first "associate" reserve unit for KC-135 tankers — that is, the first to share the same planes assigned to active-duty personnel.

McConnell has 48 of the tankers — flying "gas stations" that use tail booms to refuel other planes in flight.

The addition of a new reserve group makes McConnell that much more valuable to the Air Force, giving the base an extra hedge against



a 100 percent effective rate with no maintenance delays or cancellations.

June 1999- Allied Force/Northern Watch

The 931st was the first Reserve unit to be activated and deployed for Operations Allied Force and Northern Watch. One of the most significant events in the unit’s history was the support the 931st provided in 1999 over Kosovo and enforcement of the no-fly zone over Iraq. While the unit was deployed in support of this mission, more than 2,300 flying hours were logged and more than 23 million pounds of fuel were off loaded. One first that took place during the deployment was the use of the new Pacer CRAG configured aircraft. The Pacer CRAG upgrade allows pilots to fly the KC-135 without a navigator. According to Col. (retired) Terry Edwards, former 931st ARG deputy commander, the 931st was the first to fly a three person crew (pilot, co-pilot, and boom operator) in a combat mission.

Training and Inspections

Two visits to Alpena, Mich., for Inspector General Exercises let the 931st members shine. The first in May of 2000 integrated the unit with more than 500 personnel in a simu-

lated deployment to an operating base in Saudi Arabia. The exercise simulated the rigors of a wartime environment including deployment, employment, mission support, and ability of refueling forces to survive and operate while refueling combat aircraft. The exercise was comprised of personnel from 24 AMC and AMC-gained Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units.

In July 2004, another 80 members

deployed, this time the simulation was an operating base in the Republic of Korea.

In 2003, two 931st units teamed up for a three-day bivouac near the McConnell Air Force Base confidence course. The 931st Military Personnel Flight and CES joined in a Counter-Chemical Warfare Concept of Operations. The bivouac gave the MPF and CES a chance to meet their annual training requirements and learn some new chemical avoidance



Crew members from the 18th Air Refueling Squadron gather for a briefing before deploying in support of Operation Allied Force, a NATO mission designed to degrade and damage the military and security structure that Yugoslav President Milosevic had used to depopulate and destroy the Albanian majority in Kosovo. Allied Force, which the 931st supported June through July 1999, was just one of the many operations the Group has supported in its 10 years at McConnell AFB.

McConnell home to CES for almost two decades

TECH. SGT DAVID BRUMLEY
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 931st Civil Engineer Squadron was already on the job before it became part of the 931st Air Refueling Group.

Starting as the geographically separated 920th Civil Engineering Squadron at McConnell AFB in October 1986, its parent wing was the 442nd Tactical Wing at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Mo.

Life wasn’t always easy early on for the members of the 920th. Their support wings’ home was located almost 200 miles northeast from where they

performed unit training assemblies. “We’d only see our support folks once a year,” said Senior Master Sgt. Eric Osen, 931st CES utilities superintendent. Adding new members could be especially challenging, said Senior Master Sgt. Allan Janzen, 931st CES electrical superintendent.

“It could take us over seven months sometimes to in-process someone because of how little we would see (the 442nd),” said Janzen.

After its initial stand-up in 1986, the 920th became the 921st CES in 1987. It remained the 921st for the next seven years until it became the 931st CES on Oct. 1, 1994. Finally, on Jan. 1, 1995, it became part of the 931st ARG.



techniques. 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 lifelike combat scenarios requiring the trainees to practice utilizing techniques for searching and repelling attacks from unfriendly forces.

2001-War on Terror begins

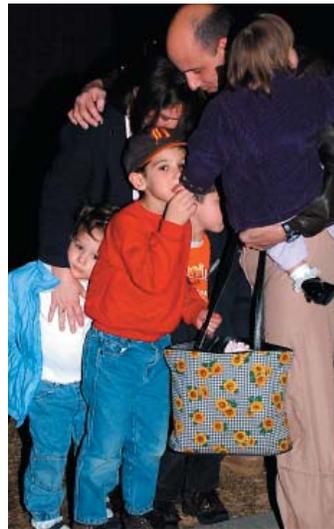
When the call came for the war on terrorism, the 931st was already familiar with much of the terrain. After the attack in Sept. 2001, the Air Force Reserve was needed more than ever to support Operation Enduring Freedom. When the conflict started, crews from the 931st were in the sky refueling aircraft for America's air bridge overseas.

Iraq war-2003

The 931st was right there from the beginning of Iraqi Freedom, refueling bombers out of Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., as they went on their 36 hour bombing tours dropping up to 40,000 pounds of payload. As early as April 12, 2003, deployed members of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron had logged more than 1,865 hours and flew more than 370 sorties.

"Tanker support proved to be invaluable during this conflict. At both of our deployed locations, our men and women accomplished great things," former 931st commander Col. Jeffery Glass said.

It was for the Group's many accomplishments that the 931st was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award four times in its 10 year history. "The outstanding folks of the 931st earned (the award) with a lot of hard work and dedication," the former 4th Air Force Commander, Maj. Gen. (retired) Wallace Whaley said. "It is organizations like the 931st that set the standard for others to emulate."



(Above) A B-1 Bomber flying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is refueled by KC-135 Stratotanker flown by an 18th Air Refueling Squadron crew. The photo was taken by Senior Master Sgt. John Wallman, a boom operator belonging to the 18th ARS, the flying squadron of the 931st Air Refueling Group. (Left) Lt. Col. Luis Cortes, 18th ARS pilot, says goodbye to his family at McConnell Air Force Base before deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most of the 18th's crew members were deployed at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Just a few of the Airmen pictured above are still part of the 931st's Security Forces. Many of the force's current members are scheduled to deploy this summer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

'Gang of Three' remembers Group's beginning

TECH. SGT DAVID BRUMLEY
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When Senior Master Sgt.'s Tamera Askren and Diane Hiebert first read the letter, they were shocked. Their unit, the 921st Civil Engineer Squadron, was being deactivated. "I had just been hired on (full time)," Sgt. Hiebert said.

The year was 1994 and according to Sgt. Askren, the Air Force was doing a lot of downsizing of civil engineer squadrons at the time. They were afraid they had just been put on the same chopping block. "It wasn't until we read further on that we saw that they were activating the 931st Civil Engineer Squadron," Sgt. Askren said.

They still weren't aware of the impending stand up of the 931st Air Refueling Group a few months later. "I remember when I first found out. A couple recruiters came into our office and asked if they could borrow a conference room. I said, 'Sure. Why?'" Sgt. Hiebert said. "It was after that they told us about the new unit and we began getting things in order to get the unit up and running."

After the official standup of the 931st ARG on Jan. 1, 1995, the new unit had to cram itself into the same building CES had been using for its missions. "We had folks put their stuff in milk crates on Friday before the weekend so the CE members could perform their unit training assembly. On Monday they'd take their stuff out and put it back in their offices," Sgt. Askren said. "Col. Malling (the 931st's first commander) had to share an office with our squadron commander."

The daunting task of leading the start of a new unit from scratch was put squarely on the shoulders of Col. Vik Malling.

"We called ourselves the Gang of Three—Diane, Tammy and I," he said. A small display of several spinning plates on tooth picks helped Col. Malling remember the task before the trio.

"Diane and Tammy gave it to me and it symbolized the fact that we had to watch everything and keep each plate spinning," he said. "When it all started I was the only one. Diane and Tammy just picked up the ball and helped out to get things running. Those two gals saved the day."

Starting the unit was also tough because the 931st was the first associate KC-135 unit. "I had always been in tankers, but they were unit equipped. I didn't know how the associate unit worked. I didn't really know how I was going to do this." Col. Malling said.

He got a blueprint for the unit by visiting a C-141 associate unit at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. "This was my first command of a group. My goals were to hire the best people, make it ethnically diverse and have a team building concept," he said.

Everyone had to chip in and take on extra duties too. "Everyone had to have a provisional duty. We even had to make Miss Suzy our provisional LAN manager. because the position was only a GS-9 they had a hard time finding someone to fill the job," said Sgt. Hiebert. Miss Suzy was Sgt. Askren's pet tarantula. "Miss Suzy had a little trouble molting one time and so she died," Sgt. Hiebert said. "When folks

would ask Tammy what happened to Miss Suzy she would tell them that she couldn't get promoted to GS-11."

As the new unit started to come together, many of the former 921st CES members began to see some real benefits. "Before (the 931st) our support was at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Mo., and we only saw them once in a while on a staff assistance visit," said Senior Master Sgt. Eric Osen, 931st CES utilities superintendent.

One task that became much easier for CES members was deploying to other bases. "We used to have to fly commercial. Now our own group picks us up," said Tech. Sgt. Shelby Gobel, 931st CES liquid fuels supervisor. "They give us front door service," Sgt. Osen added.

Having a support unit at McConnell AFB has also helped families and employers see what their loved ones do for the Air Force.

"The boss lift has also been great," Sgt. Gobel. "I've been able to bring four different bosses out here to see what we do. Before they thought we just played cards. Now they have a real insight into what we do. Family day has also been great for the families to see what we do too."

One of the lasting legacies that Col. Malling brought to the 931st was the adoption of the Kaw Nation. The Group took the tribe's original name, the Kanza, as its call sign.

"I kind of empathized with the Native Americans. When I was staying in the lodging at McConnell I was reading a little article about the Kanza tribe who were known as the people of the Southwind. I had been looking for an identifier for the unit and that was the igniter. It just kind of fit."



Senior Master Sgt.
Diane Hiebert



Senior Master Sgt.
Tamera Askren



The 931st's first commander, Col. Vik Malling leads a move-in team in the Group's earliest days at McConnell AFB. The 931st celebrates 10 years at McConnell this month.

Contact lens wear discouraged on deployments

The Air Force is discouraging Airmen from wearing contact lenses while in deployed environments. Studies have shown 90 percent of eye injuries in previous deployments were preventable just by wearing glasses. More information is available in an online story at:

www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyid=123010231

New campaign medals for Iraq, Afghanistan

Two new campaign medals recognize servicemembers for their contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal are authorized for servicemembers who directly supported Operation Enduring Freedom between Oct. 24, 2001, and a date to be determined and Operation Iraqi Freedom between March 19, 2003, and a future date.

To qualify for the awards, servicemembers must have served in the appropriate region for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. Contact the Military Personnel Flight at (316) 759-3458 for more information.

Confidentially offered to sexual assault victims

A new Department of Defense policy allows sexual-assault victims to confidentially report crimes against them. The policy allows victims of sexual assault to seek care under restricted reporting procedures, without triggering an investigation or having their name, or the name of their assailant reported up through their chain of command.

Under the new policy, victims will be able to talk with the sexual assault response coordinator, a victim advocate or certain medics. In the past, only chaplains could provide confidentiality. While the names of victims will be withheld from commanders, the fact a sexual assault has occurred will be provided to commanders to assist them to assess the climate and increase prevention efforts.

Yellow bracelets prohibited

The popular Lance Armstrong bracelet cannot be worn in uniform. According to recent guidance, they support a noble cause, but their yellow color does not meet conservative criteria outlined in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

Yellowstone rentals available

The Mountain Home Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation office in Idaho is offering rentals minutes from Yellowstone National Park through their Yellowstone Country Trailer Program.

Well-equipped trailers that include microwaves and refrigerators are available for \$72 and \$60 per night. Call (208) 828-6333 or DSN 728-6333 for reservations and/or more information. Reservations for July are currently being accepted. Reservations for August and September will be accepted beginning June 1.

101 Critical Days of Summer

Memorial Day Weekend signals the start of summer, traditionally a time of fun and sun. During the 101 Critical Days of Summer, people sometimes try to do too much because of the extra sunlight. Most mishaps involve one or more of the following factors: alcohol, fatigue, darkness, bad weather, poor judgment, inappropriate risk-taking.

Let's use common sense, plan ahead and be prepared, said Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Air Force Reserve Command commander. He urges everyone to enjoy the months of summer but to do so responsibly.

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Huston is a Tulsa, Okla., native who has been in the Air Force for 10 months

Job Title: Logistics Planner

Civilian job: Psychiatric Technician/Unit Communicator

Favorite way to relax: Movies, walking my Lab named "Maggie," spending time with friends

What annoys me: Return my call too late or not at all

Most influential person in my life: My mom, she is incredibly supportive and encouraging

What I'm listening to: Edwin McCain currently, but I'm not particular as to what I listen to

What I'm reading: CDCs, various topics on psychiatric medicines, psychiatric disorders, herbs/vitamins instead of medication

If I won \$1 million, I would: Still work and live the same but travel more and visit new places as well as my favorite spots



931st ARG Headquarters

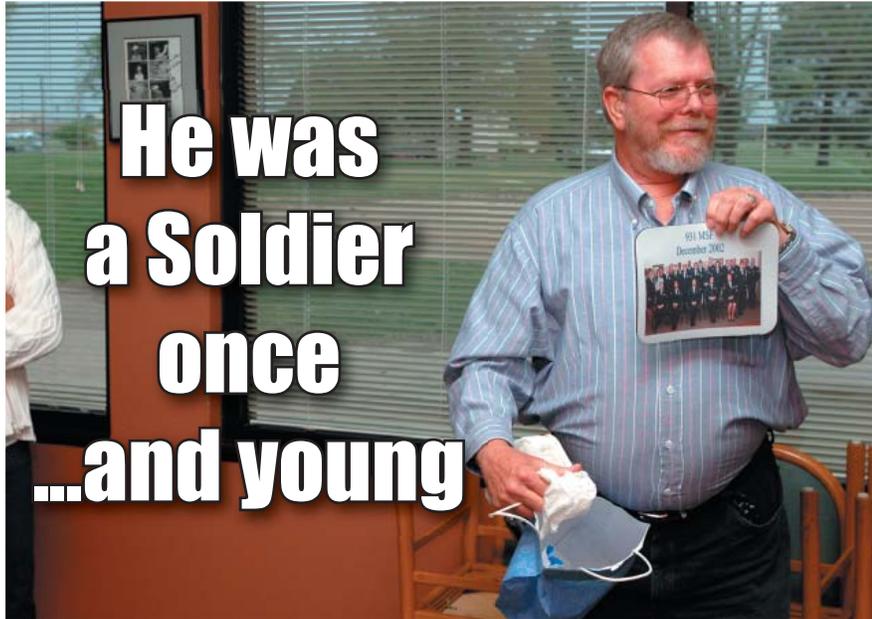


PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JASON SCHAAP

**He was
a Soldier
once
...and young**

Mr. Jerry Smith holds up a gift, a mouse pad with a photo of his co-workers, he received during his retirement breakfast at the McConnell AFB golf course. Mr. Smith retired as the 931st ARG's Local Area Network Administrator, a civilian position he held after retiring from the Air Force. Before he was an Airman, Mr. Smith was a Soldier and was among the men depicted in the book "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young" and the movie "We Were Soldiers."

Fore the Fun of it from page 5

team member did the best hit on the hole.

As the day progressed, our team did pretty good. We did the bribe thing to get a hole in one. That is, you pay Joe Halenka some money and if you get on the green in one hit then it is considered a hole in one. Well you can bet your bippy we took him up on it since we had Capt. Atkins on our team.

This was the life: Capt. Atkins hitting long hits first, and Col. Hurdle sinking some really long putts. I sort of filled in sometimes. Capt Atkins told me that I did not even have to use my cheat sheet and sometimes I did not have to hit at all. Imagine that.

Brandon caught up with us when we got to the hole where you bet money to double your money, so he got to join us and help the team out. He can hit the ball far and he can putt too. Our team was so good that we had to wait on the team in front of us. We would talk, watch snakes in the water and look at each other's clubs. What a team. We were kicking butt until we got to those holes with water, trees and bridges. Then we had to just take the par. But we were doing good for me. I was saving my mul-

ligan hits for later.

We got to the last three holes. We got on the green in one hit and everyone missed the hole. The first time I hit I just missed. Then I used one of my mulligan tickets and it went in. We got an eagle and even Col. Hurdle jumped. It was really cool. I helped out the team.

The very next hole, Brandon hit the ball and it landed on the green. He got closest to the pin for a prize and we got a birdie. Our team finished in fourth. What an experience. Capt. Atkins, the math teacher and statistician for the team determined that we used his hits the most and I was the least with six hits.

I did learn a few things:

- 1 - Col. Hurdle advised me not to play with yellow golf balls in dandelion season.
- 2 - It is ok to cheat as long as it is for a good cause and you pay money to do it.
- 3 - Hold on to your hat when taking off in the cart.
- 4 - Have a great time with some great people.

One other thing. The eagle putt on 16 won "Longest Putt," so Russ got the towel from the Masters.

Welcome Newcomers

Maj Michael Laughton
18th Air Refueling Squadron

TSgt Anneliese Barrier
Aerospace Medicine Flight

TSgt Gregory Meyer
Civil Engineer Squadron

Promotions

Maj Glenn Clark
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Maj Suzanne Jones
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Maj Michael Kleespie
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Maj Eric Long
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Maj Eric Remsen
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Maj Leah Schmidt
18th Air Refueling Squadron

Capt Doug Crow
Military Equal Opportunity

MSgt Shelby Gobel
Civil Engineer Squadron

TSgt Keisha Hale
Civil Engineer Squadron

TSgt Sandy Headrick
18th Air Refueling Squadron

TSgt Beau Michealson
Civil Engineer Squadron

TSgt Albert Rojas
Civil Engineer Squadron

TSgt Miranda Whiting
18th Air Refueling Squadron

TSgt Sandy Headrick
18th Air Refueling Squadron

SSgt Tanya Lange
Military Support Flight

SSgt Michelle Richards
Military Support Flight

SrA Tyler Enfield
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SrA Colby Shepherd
Civil Engineer Squadron

SrA Jamal K. Warren
Military Support Flight

Amn John Springston
Civil Engineer Squadron

WICHITA WEEKEND

All-American Rejects

May 20 — The Stillwater, Okla.-native band All-American Rejects bring their pop-punk sounds to the Cotillion Ballroom. Show scheduled to start at 8 p.m. Call Select-A-Seat at **(800) 362-3247** for ticket and event information, or go online: www.selectaseat.com

Sound of Music

May 20 & 21 — The Rodgers & Hammerstein's family classic comes to Crown Uptown Professional Dinner Theatre, the only year-round professional theatre in Wichita. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Dinner begins 6 p.m. and shows begin 7:30 p.m. Call **(316) 681-1566** for tickets and reservations or for more information visit the theatre Web site at: www.crownuptown.com

Museum Ball

May 21 — The 7th Annual Museum Ball is scheduled to be held at the Kansas African American Museum from 7 p.m. to midnight. The ball is an annual celebration of artistic expression. It's a semi-formal event for a culturally diverse community.

Call **(316) 262-7651** for more information.

George Carlin

May 21 — Listen to the rants of one of comedy's longest-lasting ranters, George Carlin, at the Century II Convention Center. Show scheduled to start at 8 p.m.

Call Select-A-Seat at **(800) 362-3247** for ticket and event information, or go online to:

www.selectaseat.com

Aviator Football

May 20 — Watch the 931st ARG's own Freddie Kincaid and his Wichita Aviators-teammates take on the Kansas Coyotes from Topeka. Game scheduled to start 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum. Call Select-A-Seat at **(800) 362-3247** for ticket and event information, or go online to:

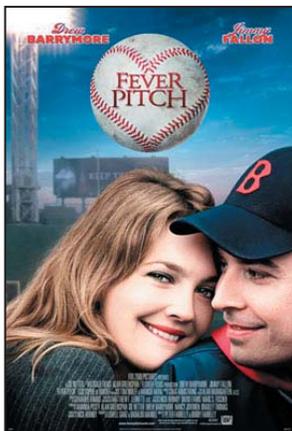
www.selectaseat.com

Original Art Auction

May 21 — 'Unleashed—An Art Auction for Pets' Sake' is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Beech Activity Center Gallery. More than 300 custom framed original works of art will be up for auction "at a fraction of their appraised values."

Proceeds to benefit homeless and neglected pets. Call **(316) 524-1590** for more information.

At the Movies



FEVER PITCH

FRIDAY, MAY 20 7pm
1 hr. 41 min. A relationship between a teacher and a successful businesswoman seems perfect until the baseball season starts and she has to compete with his true first love: the Boston Red Sox.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, and some sensuality



SAHARA

SATURDAY, MAY 21 7pm
2 hrs. Before an explorer can raise a lost barge of a pharaoh from the Nile River, he has to investigate poisons that are shrinking the world's oxygen supply and a plague that turns natives into bloodthirsty, rampaging cannibals.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for action violence

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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