

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol. 10, No. 9

(ABOVE) Scanning for signs of Hurricane Katrina survivors, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Canfield keeps a close watch as the sun sets on the flooded city of New Orleans. Sergeant Canfield is a Reserve pararescueman assigned to work with a team of reservists and active-duty Airmen conducting rescue missions across New Orleans. (*RIGHT*) An Air Force pararescueman rescues a child from a flooded house.

LT. COL. BOB THOMPSON AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JACKSON, Miss. (AFPN) — Though it was a city without electricity, rescue crews could see plenty of lights as they flew over New Orleans each night searching for survivors in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Sporadic fires burned wildly, but through their night-vision devices, combat search and rescue crews from the Air Force Reserve focused their attention on the flickering flashlights that dot the blackened land-



scape "like a night sky full of stars."

"When you look down on the city at night you see hundreds, hundreds of thousands of flashlights," said Master Sgt. Greg Bisogno, a pararescueman with Air Force Reserve Command's 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. "Because of our combat capability, we can see them and get to them in the blacked-out city."

Working around the clock, Reservists **continued on page 3**

All 931st invited to family picnic

The annual family day picnic will kick off at noon Sept. 18, at the McConnell Air Force Base Pavilion. The event is free to all members of the 931st ARG and their families and is scheduled to run until 4:30 p.m. The theme this year is "backyard barbecue."

"We are keeping it low key," said Tech. Sgt. Edwin Woolson, 931st Family Readiness technician. "We're keeping the food simple to burgers and dogs and some side dishes, so it puts less pressure on everyone to have to donate money or bring food."

The unit is also trying to reach out to family members in the local area who have someone deployed overseas. "We are also looking for volunteers to sponsor family members who have someone (on temporary duty) from the unit," said Sergeant Woolson. "We want them to feel welcome and comfortable at the picnic."

Call Sergeant Woolson at (316) 759-6037 to volunteer or for more information.

TIME: Noon, Sept. 18 PLACE: McConnell Air Force Base Pavilion (near the outdoor pool)



Vol. 10, No. 8 Commander, 931st Air Refueling Group Col. Karl J. Hurdle

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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

As most of you know, Col. Hurdle is deployed for the next few months and I have been asked to serve as your acting commander until his return. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know many of you better and am proud to be associated fulltime with such a fine group of professionals.

First of all, I'd like to thank each and every one of you who have provided time, effort, money, and other donations for hurricane relief. Please keep myself and your commanders advised

if you or your families are being affected in any way. There are many in the 931st that are anxious to help.

During all of this, please remember to focus on safety and our mission. This will be a distracting time for us personally and as a nation. We have individual deployments, a Guam aircrew deployment, and already less than a year away, assistance visits for our Unit Compliance Inspection, and the 18th's Standardization/Evaluation visit. It will be a busy time and attention to detail is critical.

One of the programs looked at in the UCI will be our fitness assessments. Many of us will be due for our annual assessment in October. Please train smartly and safely, but start training now.

We made it through the 101 Critical Days of Summer without a major incident—congratulations. Let's keep that safety streak running.

Let me close by thanking all of our returning and departing deployers for their support of Air Expeditionary Force taskings and volunteer deployments. Some may, at times, get more visibility/publicity than others, but no individual's service is more valuable than another. Please take the time to join me in thanking them for a job well done, or wishing them well on their trip. Above all, let's take care of each other and our families during these difficult times. I look forward to seeing you at our family picnic this UTA for some fun and relaxation.

Clayton Childs, Colonel 931st ARG Deputy 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.



Next UTA: Sept. 17-18

October 15-16 November 5-6 December 10-11

NEWS Hurricane help emerges command-wide

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – From coast to coast, people assigned to and associated with Air Force Reserve Command are stepping forward to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Pararescue people, aeromedical caregivers, airlift crews, aerial porters and reservists from dozens of other specialties have logged hundreds of missions, shuttled thousands of passengers and patients, and delivered tons of supplies and equipment.

"I'm amazed, no, I'm more than amazed at what our people have been able to do for their fellow Americans," said Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, AFRC vice commander. "We knew all along our people could do this. I'm so proud of them. This is what America is all about."

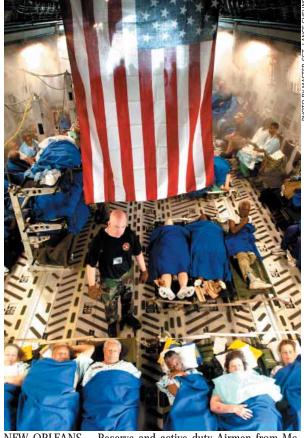
Reservists from Florida, Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin, Washington and dozens of other states called their units to volunteer, and individual mobilization augmentees went to their administrators to sign up to help. And for every reservist participating in the relief effort, a family member, retiree or friend has donated time, money or blood.

"Now is not the time to wring one's hands and wonder what to do," General Tanzi said. "People can roll up their sleeves or write a check. We should all do something to ease the suffering during this national emergency."

In addition to giving to national relief agencies, people can volunteer for efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi or stay home to sort and package goods to be delivered to victims. Many families near military bases have opened their homes to displaced Air Force families.

As a volunteer firefighter, a Robins NCO from Headquarters AFRC spent Labor Day delivering food and water to storm victims along the Mississippi coast.

"People want to help, but they need to donate items that can be used right away," said Master Sgt. John Hunt. "Properly packaged food and bottled water are the things that could be used by the people we saw. They also needed diapers and baby formula." (AFRC News Service)



NEW ORLEANS – Reserve and active-duty Airmen from Mc-Chord Air Force Base, Wash., prepare and comfort sick and injured victims of Hurricane Katrina for evacuation aboard a C-17 Globemaster III.

Reservists to the Rescue from page 1-

and active-duty crews flew 8- to 12-hour missions in HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters staged out of Jackson, Miss. As the relief effort continues, the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and activeduty teams have saved thousands of survivors from rooftops and other isolated locations.

"On our second night, we found about 200 people trapped on a bridge," said Sergeant Bisogno. "We'd land and load 10 to 12 people, as many as we could hold, drop them off and then return for more."

Most of the hurricane survivors were flown to collection points on safe ground. In Jefferson Parrish, the helicopter teams dropped off the rescued on some high ground in a highway cloverleaf. There, the people received medical attention, food and water, and transportation out of the city.

"It's unimaginable unless you're here to see it," said the pararescueman. "No amount of words can describe how overwhelming the devastation is."

In the daylight, survivors hoisted aboard got their first look around their city from the helicopter.

"They would see how the bad the devastation was and how it goes on for miles and miles." Sergeant Bisogno said. "They would start crying. Crying because of their city, their homes, family, friends were lost. Crying because of what they went through. Crying to be glad they were alive."

Picking up civilians requires the pararescuemen to take more time, be more reassuring than is normal when recovering downed pilots. Military pilots and aircrew are trained to ride a hoist. Pararescuemen give them the horse collar and they can put it on. They know about helicopter rotor wash, said the sergeant who is a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"With these folks, we talk to them and hook them up," he said. "They're scared and can't hear so we put their hands where we want them to hang on."

To get to the people in their flooded houses is not easy. Sergeant Bisogno chopped his way through several roofs. The pararescue jumpers have tools as primitive as axes and as sophisticated as battery-powered saws-alls and circular saws. Because the bottom floors are full of water, and most homes don't have outside stairwells, the PJs go through the roofs to get inside.

"The people we picked up off the roofs had been up there for 2-4, even 5 days, surrounded by water," said the sergeant. "They had it rough and were very grateful.

They'd say, 'God bless you' and want to touch you and shake your hand."

BARBERSHOP TALE



Robin cuts Chuck's hair the day before their transplant surgery.

story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap



Robin Lawley winces in pain as a young intern probes her hand with a needle just prior to liver transplant surgery. She received a new liver from Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Smith, a friend and customer at the barber shop Robin manages at McConnell AFB.

irmen do it all the time. They open the door, grab a ticket, have a seat and wait their turn. Some read magazines. Others listen to the ol'timer already in his chair, getting his hair cut and talking the dust off his shelf of military memories.

The visit to the base barber shop has been part of Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Smith's routine for more than 22 years. But to Robin Lawley, manager of the barber shop at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., Chuck is more than a regular customer. He's a friend.

That's why Chuck asked, during one stop for a cut last winter, "How did things turn out with your brother?" "He's not a match," she replied, sending a quick shock down Chuck's spine.

He could sense the hopelessness in her answer. Robin's brother, until now, was hope. The most likely donor to end nine years of torment from a genetic liver disorder. Robin needed a new liver and she needed it soon. Chuck knew how sick she was. She was constantly exhausted and one of the medicines she took caused horrendous itching. She told him how blood would drain into her stomach, forcing her to vomit it out.

"Would you consider me?" Chuck asked her as he paid for his haircut. She didn't know how to reply. She considered Chuck her friend but she didn't know him that well. Even if she did, it wasn't like she needed to borrow a good friend's car. She needed a human organ and someone willing to undergo life-threatening surgery.

Chuck left the shop with no real answer to his question. He realized his offer caught Robin off guard and he didn't want to put her on the spot.

"Do you think Chuck was serious?" she asked her husband, Bryan, later than night. Bryan, a reservist and full-time civilian for the 931st Air Refueling Group, worked with Chuck at the 931st before he joined a different reserve unit. "Let's call him and find out," Bryan said. It was the last phone call Robin wanted to make. But time was not on her side. Her aunt was already dead from the same disease. Robin was taking a Ziploc bag full of drugs a day; nine pills in the morning, five for lunch and four more before bed. Her arms and hands were full of marks left from countless needles.

Her throat was beginning to fill with scar tissue from the scope her doctor regularly sent down into her to stop the blood drainage into her stomach. She couldn't swallow anything for three days after each scoping. Not even water.

"There's nothing more I can do you for you," her doctor finally told her. "I'm sending you to a transplant clinic in Nebraska."

Robin and Bryan met with Chuck and his wife, Susie, who they also knew from McConnell where Susie is an active-duty technical sergeant. Five months later Chuck was in Nebraska for three days of testing to see if he was a possible donor. He was.

"He came home and told me everything involved. He was real confident he wanted to do it," Susie remembered. "I wasn't as confident." Chuck told her about the possible complications of the transplant, including the worst. Some people had died from it. Just the thought of life and death surgery struck at the nerve of Susie's worst fears as a wife. Now her husband wanted to volunteer for it.

They talked it over. Chuck knew Suzie believed in him and shared his strong belief in helping others. And, not only would another match for Robin be difficult to find (the Nebraska doctors told her she'd likely be waiting years), someone willing to volunteer might even be harder to come by. Susie decided to support Chuck's decision.

The Day Before

Surgery was scheduled for a Tuesday later that summer. Robin, Bryan, Chuck and Susie arrived for routine preparation at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb., early in the morning the day before.

Robin slept only a few hours the night before and is tired. She tries to stay in good spirits. She jokes with Chuck about her having to change into a hospital gown for her X-rays but he didn't for his.

They're ahead of schedule by mid-morning and go to the Organ Transplant Clinic to see if they can get into their other appointments early.

"Hurry up and wait," Susie says out loud, citing a military adage familiar to all four, as they sit in the lounge. No luck getting in sooner.

Chuck plays with a handheld video game while the monotonous sounds of automated vending echo from a nearby machine. Robin fiddles with some papers, trying to keep busy, but gives up. The weight of tomorrow isn't the only thing pressing down on her. Her stepfather is also in the hospital. His doctors say he is in the last days of terminal cancer and Robin's mother isn't able to come to Nebraska for the transplant.

"The machine says \$1.25 but it doesn't take quarters," Bryan says, carrying back drinks and snacks and explaining the constant sound of change dropping.

Robin and Chuck are eventually called in to meet with members of their transplant team. They go over everything one last time. Bile leak, bleeding, bacterial infection, fungal infection and death are among the possible complications explained to them.

"You are ready?" the doctor asks. They assure him they are and the doctor finishes asking questions and filling out paperwork. "When was the last time you drank alcohol," he asks. "July 4," Chuck proudly responds. "And he called to tell me about it," Robin chimes in, laughing.

Lunch, more waiting, solving the maze-like layout of the hospital and more routine appointments take up the rest of the day. Later, finished at the hospital, Robin cuts Chuck's hair one last time before their surgery. For the most part, Robin and Chuck are quiet. The question of when Chuck will again sit in her barbershop chair hangs in the air.

Chuck tells Robin he has a gift for her and after his haircut he gives it to her. An onion. "I'm already giving you my liver so I figured I'd give you the complete meal," Chuck jokes with her.

Robin spends the rest of the evening with Bryan and her children. Chuck goes to a minor league baseball game. The temperature is just right, almost a perfect night for baseball. Perfect, except for the traditional game beer Chuck can't have sitting on his lap.

The Day Of

Chuck is carted off to surgery at 7:30 a.m., earlier than expected. Robin waits with her family in the main hospital lounge. Her brother is there and she talks with him

continued on page 7



(LEFT) Robin cuts Chuck's hair the day before their transplant surgery with a hospital bracelet already on her wrist. (CENTER) Bryan Lawley, Robin's husband, and Susie, Chuck's wife, wait with Robin and Chuck for one of many appointments at the hospital the day before surgery. Bryan and Chuck used to be senior noncommissioned officers together at the 931st ARG. (*RIGHT*) Robin's daughter, Kallie, wears a hat she bought to cheer up her mother.

SPIRIT SHORTS

First sergeant opening

Applications are being accepted for a first sergeant position within the 931st ARG through the close of business Oct. 10. Master and senior master sergeants are eligible to apply, as well as technical sergeants who have completed the noncommissioned officer academy and are eligible for promotion. An ability to speak distinctly, a minimum fitness score of 75 and exceptional leadership skills are among the other needed qualifications.

Contact Master Sgt. Debroada Cornelius at (316) 759-3587 for application procedures and more information.

AFA offers civilian awards

The Air Force Association is accepting nominations for several Outstanding Air Force Civilian Employee of the Year awards. Categories include Civilian Wage Employee of the Year, Civilian Program Specialist, Civilian Program Manager and Civilian Senior Program Manager. All nominations should be based on contributions that occurred in 2005.

Contact Angela Pittman at angela. pittman@afrc.af.mil or DSN 497-1322 for nomination guidelines and more information.

Playgroup offered during UTA

Playgroup is an opportunity for spouses and children to make new friends and participate in fun activities. The 931st Family Readiness office is hosting a Playgroup Saturday of the September unit training assembly from 10 a.m. to noon at the former Child Development Center site (building 338) at McConnell AFB. Call (316) 759-6037 for more information.

Free car seat check

McConnell AFB Child Development Center employees trained and certified by the National Safe Kids Campaign are offering free checks to ensure car seats are properly installed and have the proper design for children's height and weight. Call (316) 759-4223 for more information.

Deployment health site launched

Servicemembers, their families and their health-care providers have a new online Defense Department resource for deployment health issues. The online library includes fact sheets, guides and other products on a wide variety of health topics. The new site is located at:

HTTP://DEPLOYMENTHEALTHLIBRARY. FHP.OSD.MIL/HOME.JSP

AWANA

Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, an international, Bible-centered youth ministry, is scheduled to begin its McConnell AFB club Saturday of the September unit training assembly at 3:15 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with the registration, games and different age groups. Leadership and helper training will be provided. Call (316) 759-3562 for more information or send an email to:

cynthia.shaver-02@mcconnell.af.mil

Air Force podcasting news

The Air Force is using Internet and digital technology to podcast its radio news. Podcasts are broadcasts of Internet audio programs, usually in an MP3 format. People can then subscribe to receive the audio file. Many commercial content providers offer free podcast feeds which deliver the audio to subscriber's desktops. Podcasting has a subscription model which uses a feed to deliver an enclosed file.

People without a podcasting background can read detailed listening instructions online at **www.af.mil/podcast**. Once the podcasting software has been installed on their home systems, users can add the Air Force podcast feed located at:

> WWW.AF.MIL/MEDIA/PODCAST/ AFRADIONEWS.XML



Airman 1st Class Timothy Porter is a Raytown, Mo., native who has been in the Air Force for 7 months.

Job Title: Pavement Maintenance and Heavy Equipment Operator

Civilian job: Operator for Mark One Electric

Favorite way to relax: Fishing

What annoys me: Laziness

Most influential person in my life: My father. He's an outstanding serviceman and I have the utmost respect for him.

What I'm listening to: Country

What I'm reading: Bass Master magazine

If I won **\$1 million, I would:** Donate some to charity, buy a bass boat and travel the U.S.



ROUND THE GROUP

Barbershop Tale from page 5 -

about the situation with their mother and stepfather. As bad as the timing and the emotional state of their mother is, the topic keeps Robin's mind a little bit away from her own situation.

She figures she will go in on time, if not sooner, since Chuck went in early. But unknown to her, Chuck's liver is bigger than the doctors expected. They have to recalculate their procedure and Robin's scheduled surgery time comes and goes.

"I'm about starving," she says, having fasted since the night before. "They won't even let me chew gum."

The doctors finally call her in and the long waiting is replaced by a fast ex-



change of doctors and nurses. Bryan sits near the wall of the small, curtained-off room as his exhausted wife is continuously questioned and prodded.

Robin winces and yells out in pain when a young intern tries to find a vein in her hand with an intravenous needle. A nurse tries the other hand. "There's only one nurse in the whole clinic (back home) that can find my vein," Robin tells them.

Her preparation ends and Brian only gets a brief moment alone with Robin before she is wheeled off. He heads upstairs to join Susie in the transplant waiting room where they receive phone calls with updates of the surgery. At 11 a.m., Chuck is half-way done. "Every time the phone rings my heart starts beating," Susie says to her parents, who have driven in from Wyoming for the transplant.

Bryan is told at 1 p.m. that Robin was just cut open. Susie is told at 1:30

p.m. Chuck's liver is out. An hour later, "Robin's old liver is out and the new one is going in." Soon after, Susie gets the news. Chuck is finished and in recovery. She would soon be able to see him.

It's not until 5 p.m. that a doctor gives Brian the same good news. "I can breathe now," Bryan says.

The transplant is a success but it's not until after 9 p.m. when other family and friends can see Robin and Chuck. Both are relatively well and their families are visibly overjoyed at the outcome of the day. Chuck is even able to crack jokes with the nurses.

Outside his room, Susie's parents talk with the hospital chaplain. He tells them its extremely rare donors and recipients ever meet each other, let alone are friends. The chaplain is amazed at Chuck's courage and generosity. "If you knew Chuck, you wouldn't be so amazed," Susie's mom replies. "That's just who he is."



Robin Lawley visits Chuck Smith two days after they underwent successful surgery to transplant 66 percent of Chuck's liver into Robin. Robin is the wife of Master Sgt. Bryan Lawley, 931st Aircraft Maintenance Suadron. Chuck is a senior master sergeant formerly assigned to the 931st ARG Security Forces and is a civilian employee assigned to the 22nd Security Forces Squadron at McConnell AFB.

Promotions

Lt. Col. Joseph Brugnolotti 18th Air Refueling Squadron

Lt. Col. William Dorsey 931st ARG HQ Staff

Lt. Col. Glenn Powers 18th Air Refueling Squadront

Lt. Col. Samuel Schofield 931st ARG HQ Staff

Capt. Jason Barton 18th Air Refueling Squadron 1st Lt. Keith Anderson 931st ARG HQ Staff

Tech. Sgt. Phillip King Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Miriam Lollis Civil Engineer Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Norris 18th Air Refueling Squadron

Senior Airman Lacy Wilson Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

KANZA SPIRIT

www.afrc.af.mil/931arg/

WICHITA WEEKEND

Walnut Valley Festival

Sept. 16-17 — Said by many to be the "best bluegrass event in the world," the annual week-long festival in Winfield, Kan., starts 9 a.m. and continues late into the night. Features the National Guitar Flat Pick Championship, National Bluegrass Banjo Championship and other competitions. Visit www.wvfest.com for a list of performers, contests and more information or call (620) 221-3250.

Indian Center Pow Wow

Sept. 16-18 — The Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita, Kan. is scheduled to hold its 37th Annual Pow Wow. Events start at 2 p.m. and continue into the evening with a dinner break from 5-6:30 p.m. Call (316) 262-5221 for more information.

Kansas State Fair

Sept. 16-18 — A comic hypnotist, pig races, 4-H events and chainsaw art are among the annual events at this year's fair in Hutchinson, with the below headline acts. Gates open 8 a.m. and close midnight. Visit www.kansasstatefair.com for more information and to order discount advance gate admission or call (800) 362-3247.

Sept. 16 — FOREIGNER in concert at the fair grandstand. Show scheduled to start 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at Select-A-Seat locations (see below contact info).

Sept. 18 — TRACE ADKINS with DI-ERKS BENTLEY in concert at the fair grandstand. Show scheduled to start 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at Select-A-Seat locations, by calling (800) 362-3247, or online at:

www.selectaseat.com

At the Movies

Texas Hold'em

Sept. 17 — The next 12-week tournament begins 5 p.m. at Club McConnell inside the Robert J. Dole Community Center. First and second place winners are guaranteed a seat at the final tournament. Entry is free for club members, \$3 for nonmembers. Call (316) 759-4432/6002 for more information.

Volksmarch

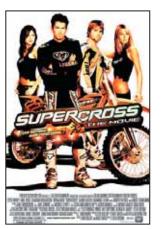
Sept. 17 — Outdoor Recreation at Mc-Connell AFB is scheduled to host a 5K Volksmarch, an interactive walk focused on family participation, from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants who complete the walk receive a free pin. Lunch (hot dog, chips and soda) will be available for \$3. Call (316) 759-4432 for more information.



THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16 7pm 1 hr. 25 min. Bo, Luke, Daisy Uncle Jesse, Boss Hog and the General Lee hit the big screen in a remake of the classic TV tale of the Duke family adventures.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for sexual content, crude/drug humor, language, action violence



SUPERCROSS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17 7pm 1 hr. 32 min. Two brothers overcome obstacles to find success in the competitive world of Supercross racing but are forced to overcome their differences when one brother gets a corporate sponsor and the other suffers a career-ending injury.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for language and sexuality

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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