

KANZA

SPIRIT 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

July 2002

Air show and family day set for September

By Maj. David Fruck
931st Public Affairs

The McConnell Air Force Base open house and air show, featuring the Navy's Blue Angels, will be held Sept. 14 and 15. This year's theme is American Thunder 2002, and will feature several military and civilian air and ground demonstrations, as well as activities for the entire family.

In addition, the 931st Air Refueling Group will be holding its annual family day on Sept. 15. Details are still being finalized, but plans call for a lunchtime cookout at the picnic area next to the base swimming pool. Other activities will be planned, allowing families time to visit the air show and watch the Blue Angels perform. The Kanza Spirit will provide more family day information in upcoming issues.

While all the flying acts and static displays for the air show are not set at this time, the Navy's aerial demonstration team, the Blue Angels, will be the headline attraction. In addition to the Blue Angels, other aircraft will also include the F-117, F-86, P-47, B-17, C-1A, T-34 and P-51. Many more military and civilian aircraft are expected to be confirmed soon.

Gates will open at 9 a.m. both days and close at 4 p.m. Every effort is being taken to ensure a safe environment for all visitors. ID card holders will be allowed to park on-base, but all civilian spectators will be parked off-base on Cessna Field, the Boeing Training Center, or other satellite sites through-



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Recruit Brandy Hornback

out Wichita. The parking sites in Wichita will be announced as soon as details are confirmed.

Security will be the top priority for air show coordinators. All spectators will enter the air show by passing through metal detectors and security checkpoints. There will also be restrictions on some items spectators can bring to the air show. Items such as coolers and large backpacks will be prohibited. The air show website has a list of restricted items.

In conjunction with the air show, several other events are planned as well.

On Sept. 13, there will be a special event for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and a few other local charities. That afternoon the Blue Angels will perform a practice show espe-

cially for the charities. There will also be a reception for all air show performers with local bands and entertainment.

Before the gates open on Sept. 14 there will be a 5K run/2 mile walk on the runway at 8 a.m. This event will be a unique opportunity for local runners to run down the McConnell runway past static display aircraft.

Air show officials are also trying to organize a high school band competition on Sept. 14 as well. Several local bands will be invited to perform their marching routines and be judged by a panel.

To get the latest on American Thunder 2002, go to the McConnell web site at www.mcconnell.af.mil and click on the McConnell Airshow 2002 link.

Many challenges ahead for the 931st

Our group faces one of the most difficult challenges in our history. Due to the war on terrorism, we have been tasked to deploy many of our members in support of our nation's noble endeavor. Our deployment will involve all of our operations personnel and many of our maintainers. To make the tasking even tougher we will do the entire deployment through volunteerism.

To deploy effectively we need the support of the entire group. Whether you are processing orders, teaching chemical defense or tracking medical or flying requirements, we could not do our deployment without your help. It is truly a 931st ARG deployment.

We also count on support from our active duty team members to complete the difficult task ahead. Our upcoming deploy-

ment will show the world what a true citizen warrior is all about.

The taskings are not limited to Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. The 931st Civil Engineer troops will deploy a large portion of their squadron in support of the first IGX in the upcoming fiscal year. Their deployment will makeup a large portion of the group's overall grade. Please give them a pat on the back and help with any support they might need.

In addition to the IGX we also have a Unit Compliance Inspection this October. The UCI will look into the nuts and bolts of our overall operation. Pull out the new UCI guide and check to make sure we are all in good shape.

With all of the upcoming inspections and deployments, stress becomes a huge factor. It is up to all of us to make sure no



Col. Jeffery Glass

one is overcome by stress. Please watch out for your friends and comrades. Families play a big part in all of this and our family services people along with my wife and me are here to help. Please let your families know where to find help. GOOD LUCK to all.

SECAF reflects on past year, looks to future

By James G. Roche

Secretary of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — To the men and women of the U.S. Air Force:

One year ago this month, I was sworn in as your 20th secretary of the Air Force and became, on that day, a proud member of a magnificent team of active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian airmen. During this time, I've had the deep honor and pleasure to serve alongside Gens. Mike Ryan and John Jumper, and our chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Jim Finch. It is impossible to imagine three more dedicated and professional Air Force leaders.

As I reflect on the year gone by, my first thoughts are with the airmen of our force who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our nation



and the freedoms we hold dear. Remember them and their families. Their supreme sacrifice, along with the countless heroes who have gone before them, is why we live free in this great nation.

Each of you should be extremely proud of your achievements and service this past year, from combat operations and homeland defense in the war against international terrorism to your admirable and noble daily endeavors that guarantee the readiness, health, security and morale of our fighting force. In my travels around our Air Force, I've been impressed and humbled by your ingenuity, commitment and willingness to serve. Thank you for everything you've done to

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SPIRIT 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP

Vol. 7, No. 7

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Deadlines

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is the 20th of each month.

Legal info

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

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

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 931st Public Affairs Office.

All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Air Force completes mobilization review

DENVER (AFP) — Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the Air Force Reserve began its largest mobilization to date of its individual mobilization augmentee force.

More than 2,000 IMAs were called into action within 45 days of the attacks, a number that eventually grew to more than 3,100 as the enormity of the task at hand set in.

That was no easy task, said Maj. Gen. Ralph Clem, mobilization assistant to the chief of Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon. Considering this amounted to about 25 percent of IMA end strength, he acknowledged there were issues that needed to be resolved.

“This was a historically unprecedented mobilization of our IMAs,” Clem said. “We’ve never come close to this number.”

“In an amazingly brief period of time hundreds, if not thousands, of IMAs were on duty involved in America’s fight against terrorism, with many of them forward-deployed early on,” he said. “We did a great job of getting a large number of exceptionally skilled people to the fight almost immediately...but to be expected, there were problems.”

Forty-five people from Air Force Reserve Command gathered at the Air Reserve Personnel Center June 4 to 6 for a mobilization mission review to explore ways of enhancing the mobilization success stories and identifying solutions in needed areas. The team of senior and midlevel officers, noncommissioned offic-

ers and key civilian employees focused their attention on areas associated with medical screening; policy, guidance and role responsibilities; and pay and entitlements.

“We didn’t have the luxury of a six-month buildup like Desert Shield,” Clem said. “Now that we are over the hump, it’s time to identify the problem areas, but more importantly, identify solutions.”

Clem lauded the group for carefully examining detailed problem areas and making recommendations for short-, medium- and long-term fixes.

“By that, I mean problems Air Force Reserve Command has the ability to resolve will be dealt with quickly; Air Force-wide issues, to include those involving the Military Personnel Data System, require additional time to address,” he said. “Issues requiring changes to law require legislative action.”

Clem pointed out that the key to the group was its makeup. An ideal mix of folks was important because these people interact with IMAs in different ways.

“It’s important to have the perspective across the spectrum from all different echelons,” Clem said. “Their perception of what went well and not so well is different based on where they are in the system,” Clem said.

Clem said that Air Force and Department of Defense issues will be addressed through the appropriate channels for guidance and assistance, and assures the mobilization review findings will be acted upon.

Spirit Spotlight Staff Sergeant Michael Whitten

931st Aircraft Generation Squadron

This month’s Spotlight selectee is a Independence, KS, native who has been in the Air Force for over 7 years.

Job title: Crew Chief

Civilian job: Student at John Brown University working on B.S. in Organizational Management and Leadership

Favorite way to relax: Spending time hiking or just driving around with my wife

Easiest way to annoy me: Be overly concerned with trivial problems.



Most influential people in my life: No single person, anyone making an effort to improve their life thru education.

What I’m reading now: Various Tom Clancy novels

What I’m listening to now: Brad Paisley/ Country

If I won \$1 million, I would: Invest it in a CD and buy real estate.

Around the world with ATWIND, Air Force

By Staff Sgt Scott Leas
Air Mobility Command PA

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS)— Air Mobility Command and Air Force Space Command Services recently began the boarding call for their summer promotion, Around The World In Ninety Days. ATWIND kicked off June 1 and continues throughout the summer.

According to Col. Terry N. Mayer, Director, AMC Services, ATWIND has been enormously successful the past three years. “We are very pleased to be able to provide more than 11,350 prizes for ATWIND 2002. It has become the premiere summer promotion, and we will award three brand new cars along with thousands of other great prizes—there is nothing that compares with this winning opportunity for our military community.”

ATWIND is a virtual ad-

venture around the world. The player’s “mission” is to travel from one landmark destination to another. Players earn travel miles every time they participate in an ATWIND event through Aug. 31.

“The goal of ATWIND is to increase awareness and participation in programs, services and activities throughout the command,” said Sam Parker, marketing director with AMC Services. He said ATWIND’s master events list includes recreational activities, sports and fitness, social functions, youth programs, educational opportunities, family support programs, chapel programs, base events and services.

People can see firsthand how the ATWIND game is played by registering the free introductory game piece # 9999-0033-333 at the ATWIND Web site (www.atwind.com) or calling ATWIND’s toll-free number, 1-

888-597-9960. Once registered, participants then log their ATWIND travel miles on the Web or by using the toll-free number.

“The list of ATWIND opportunities is quite impressive,” said Mayer. “We have included some new twists this year, adding an on-line Military Trivia Quiz and offering additional prize-winning opportunities worth thousands of dollars. I encourage everyone to log on and get into the fun.”

This year, prizes range from promotional T-shirts to vacation packages, cash and a choice of one of three Ford Motor Company vehicles. ATWINNER random prizes will also be awarded during the game piece registration process. All prize drawings are conducted at random.

Both AMC and AFSPC will have dedicated command prizes. Once registered, players may

participate in their command program. Both commands will feature a base-to-base competition, and each command has \$100,000 in quality-of-life funds to award to bases achieving or exceeding their “ATWIND Mission.”

“Last year’s program boasted some pretty staggering figures,” said Parker. “The program had 78,750 registered participants, 364,190 Web site visits, 59,682 calls to the ATWIND toll-free number and 975,585 game pieces played. There were 11,300 prizes awarded during last year’s program.”

Prizes included a choice of Ford Escape, Ford Ranger or Ford Focus, plus vacation trips, cash and more. Hien Parker from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.; Phillip Bascom, Fairchild AFB, Wash.; and Lyndsay Correa from Buckley AFB, Col. were last year’s ATWIND grand prize winners.

First sergeant job becoming special duty

By Master Sgt Rick Burnham
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The job of first sergeant in the Air Force will become a special duty assignment Oct. 1, according to the first sergeant career field manager at the Pentagon.

As a result, said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Gilbert, new first sergeants will no longer be required to cross-train into the job, and most can return to their old Air Force specialty after a three-year tour.

The change comes as a result of a 15-month review by the office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force. The current first sergeant program fails to meet Air Force needs, Gilbert said.

“We have 1,200 active-duty first sergeant positions, and we are currently short 120 people in meeting our program needs,” he said. “This translates into about 20,000 Air Force troops, commanders and family members not being properly served.”

A major goal of the change is to attract more senior enlisted

leaders, some of whom may not have wanted to permanently leave their functional specialty, Gilbert said. Unlike the current cross-training program, the special duty program is designed to return members to their original career field after serving as first sergeants.

The new program will broaden the experiences of more non-commissioned officers and better prepare them to serve as senior enlisted leaders in their functional areas and beyond, Gilbert explained.

“This program will help us deliberately develop some of the top enlisted leaders we will need in the future,” he said.

Tour lengths will also change. The first tour will be three years. About two years into the tour, the member can apply for another three-year tour, and, depending on Air Force needs, may be selected for a second tour.

First sergeants will continue to test for promotion against others with the special duty skill, Gilbert said.

What's happening during the UTA!

On your Mark!

Members of the 931st ARG setting their watches as they get ready to begin their 3 mile walk. The 3 mile walk is an annual event that each member must pass within a certain time depending on their age.

Spirit Photos/Staff Sgt. Andrea Beaupre



931st ARG Chapel Services

Lt. Col. Charles Peters, 931 Air Refueling Group Chaplain conducts two chapel services for reservists on drill weekends. The Sunday services begin at 7:45 in the Southwind conference room, Bldg 850 and 8:30 in classroom 1 at the Civil Engineering Squadron, building 642. All are welcome to attend.

Although Chaplain Peters is of the Free Methodist faith background, he is available to reservists of all denominations. He can be reached via email at charles.peters@mcconnell.af.mil or by phone at 759-3714.

Peekabo!

Who is Mack hiding from?

Senior Master Sgt. Mack Housman 931st MSF chief of personnel systems, dons a gas mask during a recent readiness exercise.



Spirit Shorts

Military Personnel Flight hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are: Mondays through Fridays—7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; UTA Saturdays—8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and UTA Sundays—10 a.m.-4 p.m.

ART Orientation

Newly hired enlisted ARTS should attend this course within their 1st year of being hired. It is now an in residence course, held at Robins AFB, Ga. The next class is Sep. 4-5. Contact your unit training manager or Group Training to request a slot.

GI Bill Stoppage

Effective June 1, members receiving reserve (chapter 1606) GI Bill payments must call the VA (1-877-823-2378) each month to certify the number of credit hours they are taking. Members who fail to call will not receive their

monthly check.

Outprocessing hours

If you, or any unit member you know, needs to out process for TDY, reassignment, or retirement, please keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay section (Sam or Dee) is only open for business on Saturdays from 0730 to 1300 hours. Thinking ahead can insure you do not have to come out during the week to finish your out-processing. For further information contact TSgt Anick Wallace in Relocations at X-3665.

DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data and SGLI:

Reservists are requested to check their Emergency Data Card (DD Form 93) and their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) form at least once a year. The DD Form 93 is used to

notify your next of kin, in a timely manner, if anything happens to you. The SGLI form is a legal document used to pay your beneficiaries in the event of your death. For more information, call Customer Service, X-3458

Free college education

Members of the Armed Forces (Reserves included) are now eligible to obtain a degree in information or engineering technology fields from Grantham College free of charge. The college will cover the difference in tuition assistance and pay for books and software required. For more information contact their website at <http://www.grantham.edu/fed.htm> or call 1-800-955-2527.

Long Term Care Insurance

Did you know that "Selected Reserve" members are entitled to

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program? Open season to enroll for the coverage begins July 1 2002 through December 31, 2002. The insurance program was signed into Public Law on September 19, 2000. Long-term care is ongoing assistance typically provided by home health aides and other health care providers to people who need ongoing or lifelong care. The goal of long-term care is to help with day-to-day living. Long-term care can be provided at home, assisted living centers, adult day care centers, and hospices. Most plans will allow members the amount of coverage preferred as well as how and where the benefits are provided. For more information about the program visit the web site at www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/. The telephone number to enroll for the insurance is 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337).

931st members win "Make A Difference Awards"



Mike Gill (left) and Cody Smith were recently awarded federal employee "Make A Difference" awards by the Wichita Federal Executive Association. Gill, a master sgt. in the 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron, won the award for his work as an electronics technician for the National Weather Service. Earlier this spring, he and a co-worker were working in Russell, Kan., when a small plane flipped over during an attempted take-off. The two men were able to rescue the pilot. Smith, also a master sgt., is an air reserve technician in the group safety office. He was recognized for his innovative safety programs and his work with numerous community organizations. Since Oct. 2000, Smith has helped raise over \$200,000 for local charities.

Reflection

Continued from Page 2

make our Air Force the best the world has ever known.

Of utmost importance to me is our continued focus on warfighting, and honing the edge that enables us to remain expeditionary and responsive to the needs of our nation. The American people trust and admire what you do. They know that America's Air Force provides a full spectrum of air and space capabilities that deliver unprecedented firepower, mobility, awareness and deterrence to our joint forces. And, once again, they've witnessed first hand your truly remarkable performance during operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Through your incredible efforts in this campaign, from deploying troops and building bases to coordinating fires and engaging targets, you've again demonstrated the unrivaled skill of airmen. Consider what we've done for just a moment.

In the first eight months of our war on terrorism, we flew more than 35,000 sorties, employing 78 percent of the total munitions used and damaging or destroying nearly three-quarters of the coalition targets. Our tanker force flew more than 10,000 refueling missions, supporting aircraft from all services.

Our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, manned and unmanned, have flown more than 2,000 missions and, when combined with our indispensable space systems, delivered unprecedented battlefield awareness as well as a vision of the exciting future in this evolving mission area. Our heavy-lifters (cargo aircraft) delivered more than 2.5 million humanitarian daily rations to the

people of Afghanistan. Our combat support units have occupied, established, or rebuilt bases throughout Southwest and Central Asia.

And we accomplished all this despite the challenge of waging a combined campaign in a landlocked nation.

Through your efforts, you confirmed to our nation and the world the unmatched value, flexibility and promise of air and space power.

While we've achieved many of our objectives, there remains much work to be done. The fight continues, with many of you going into harm's way daily. Our ongoing missions and your unrelenting sacrifices testify to your commitment to eradicate this threat to our nation and freedom-loving people everywhere. Most important, we need to prepare and resolve ourselves to see this through to the finish, regardless of where the fight takes us.

Many of you are deployed around the world at remote and inhospitable settings, spending extended time away from your families. Many more are scheduled to deploy in the months ahead. Some of you no longer are benefiting from the air and space expeditionary force schedule and are facing more frequent deployments. We've asked many of you to put in long hours well beyond your normal schedules and we've stretched our force to cover expanded missions in new locations. Many of our people are affected by Stop-Loss.

We're working to mitigate the numbers affected as soon as possible, but until we do, our folks' lives will remain on hold until we complete this campaign. And we have thousands of Air National Guardsmen, Air Force Reservists, and Individual Mobilization Augmentees who are serving for extended periods at

great personal cost to their civilian jobs and their family lives. I recognize your sacrifice and commend you for your service.

Our nation needs its Air Force as never before, and your Air Force needs each and every one of you, your talents and your service as never before. Yet, regardless of these challenges, you continue to train, maintain and fight with a level of professionalism unmatched by any force ever assembled.

As I look to the journey ahead, I'm excited at the opportunities we have to serve our nation as we face the challenges posed by our evolving security environment. I look forward to continuing that journey with you.

I remain focused on developing new strategies for air and space power in this new millennium; delivering innovative and effective capabilities to the warfighters; improving Air Force retention, professional education and leadership development; eliminating the inefficiencies in how we do our business; and transforming our acquisition processes to ensure innovation and competitive vibrancy within our defense industrial base.

Most important, I want to ensure we care for our people and their families through these challenging times. Communication, engaged leadership at all levels, and a genuine concern for the value of our people and their daily sacrifices are vital to building and sustaining a motivated and capable force.

On that day one year ago, I committed myself to serve in a manner befitting of the great men and women of our Air Force and to serve just as each of you do every day all around the globe — with integrity, selflessness and in the earnest pursuit of excellence. Your entire leadership

team — General Jumper; my talented undersecretary, Peter Teets; our vice chief of staff, Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong; and myself — is firmly committed to these values.

Your service and sacrifices the past year have been truly magnificent and have earned the justifiable admiration of our nation and the respect of the world.

Special Olympics holds successful dinner, dance

By Andrea Beaupre

931st Public Affairs

The Special Olympics dinner and dance held on Saturday, 1 June was a great success due to the efforts of those who volunteered. Over 165 McConnell personnel assisted with the dinner and dance following the Special Olympics games that took place at South High School. This is the seventh year in a row that McConnell has hosted the event.

Reservists from various units assisted with everything from preparing and serving food and drinks, greeting the buses that brought teams of athletes to the hangar, and cleaning up and restoring hangar 1176 to its normal state. Prior to the event volunteers set up and decorated 138 tables and over 1200 chairs. They also set up a sound stage and jets for display.

Approximately 1800 people including athletes, coaches and family members attended the dinner and dance. Up from about 1750 last year. Thanks to all who helped make the event so successful. Good job volunteers!

Wichita Weekend

Smoke'n Mountain

June 6 to July 28 - Smoke On The Mountain, Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre, 207 East Douglas. It's a Saturday night in June, 1938 at the Mt. Pleasant Baptist church. When the gospel singing "Sanders Family" takes the stage, good old gospel music fills the air. Tickets \$21.95 and up. Call 681-1566 for details and tickets.

Music Theatre

July 10-14 - "The King And I," Music Theatre of Wichita, Century II Concert Hall, 225 W. Douglas. Story of one woman's impact on a nation. Showtimes are July 12, 8 p.m., July 13, 2 and 8 p.m., and July 14, 2 and 7 p.m. Call 265-3107 for ticket information.

Christmas in July

July 12-14 - Brown Expo Hall, Century II, 225 W. Douglas.

Crafts show with a Christmas theme. Hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3, free for those under 11.

Photography Weekend

July 13 and 14 - Old Cowtown Museum, 1871 Sim Park Dr. Learn photography in the past and present. Activities include photo contests, lectures and displays of Old Cowtown Museum photography. Call 264-6398 or 264-0241 for details. Old Cowtown admission charged.

Garden Tours

July 13 and 14 - Garden Council Tour, Sedgwick County Extension Service, 7001 W. 21st St. N. Tour beautiful gardens for \$1 per garden or buy a season pass at the Sedgwick County Extension office. Tour hours are: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, noon to

5 p.m. Call 722-7721 for details.

Run or Walk

July 14 - YWCA/Grene Vision Group Sole Sisters Race To End Domestic Violence, Wichita Boat House. Men's run begins 7:30

a.m.; women's run begins at 8 a.m. All walkers line up behind women runners at 8 a.m. Call 263-7501 for more information. A benefit for the YWCA Women's Crisis Center/Safehouse.

931st Baseball Night



Saturday, Aug. 17 will be 931st night at the ballpark. All unit members and their families are invited to Lawrence-Dumont Stadium as the Wichita Wranglers host the Round Rock Express in a class AA baseball game at 7 p.m.

Tickets will be \$5 for the game, with a food ticket available for \$7. The menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, baked beans and soft drinks. Contact your squadron representative during the July UTA to sign up.

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