

# KANZA

## SPIRIT 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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August 2002

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

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## 931st flies into Air Force future

*Group teams with host unit for deployment for first time*

**Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap**

*931st Public Affairs*

The 931st ARG took two steps toward the future of the Air Force last month when two KC-135 Stratotanker crews joined the 22nd Air Refueling Wing for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Six reservists volunteered to leave with their active-duty counterparts for 30 days, marking the first time 931st crew members deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the first time the group has teamed with its host unit since the group stood up as an associate unit at McConnell AFB in 1995.

The deployment epitomizes two key goals for the future Air Force, integration of the Guard and Reserve and the use of volunteers to fill needs rather than relying on involuntary activation.

The teaming of active-duty and reserve forces is not only a milestone in the young history of the 931st ARG, it's a high point in 25 successful years geared toward creating a Future Total Force team.

The move away from mobilizing units toward volunteerism, however, is a new trend for Air Force Reserve Command operations since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, according to Col. Jeffery R. Glass, 931st ARG commander. The hope is that more volunteerism can lead to more of a win-win



photo by Staff Sgt. Andrea Beaupre

*Family members say goodbye to a KC-135 Stratotanker bound for a forward deployed Central Command location. The aircraft was carrying 22nd Air Refueling Wing members and the first 931st ARG crew members to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.*

situation for AFRC, reserve members and their employers.

"It's hard for reservists to tell employers they have to leave for a month," Glass said. "But in this case, hopefully the employers will agree it's better for their employees to be gone a month rather than a year."

Maj. Jeff, one of the first pilots to deploy, said he was glad he would be away from his civilian occupation as a commercial airline pilot for only 30 days, but more importantly, it also meant he wouldn't be

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## KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP

Vol. 7, No. 8

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# Through the Looking Glass

## *New commander talks about leading the 931st*

**Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap**  
*931st Public Affairs*

It didn't take long for Col. Jeffery Glass to meet one of the biggest challenges for a rookie commander.

Soon after assuming command of the 931st ARG in May, he learned his new unit was next in line for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His first big challenge, however, was also his first opportunity to show how he plans to approach business during his stay as group commander. Unlike other units that were activated in support of Enduring Freedom, Glass avoided involuntary mobilization by fulfilling 931st requirements with volunteers.

"I'm always an optimist," the Griffith, Ind., native proclaimed. "I always think things can be better, which is why I pushed for volunteers. I think, in the long run, it will keep morale up."

The deployment also epitomized Glass' vision for the future of the 931st as an associate unit fully integrated with its host active-duty wing. The recently deployed

aircrews were the first 931st members to deploy with their host unit, the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, since the group formed at McConnell AFB in 1995.

"We need to form a closer relationship with the active-duty," Glass said. "Right now I'm looking at everything to do with integration. We can't be a separate entity. If we're not supporting them, why should they support us?"

Glass, whose previous job was chief of tanker operations at 4th AF headquarters, said his vision is a reflection of the direction of the Air Force Reserve.

"I honestly believe associate units are the way of the future," Glass said. "(For example,) I can bring one-third of the qualified crews on the base to the table for about one-sixth of what it costs the active-duty for their crews. As assets get smaller and smaller, associate units will make good sense."

Taking command of an associate unit made good sense for Glass' future because it allows him to learn the ropes of a wing commander-caliber position in a smaller-than-wing setting. A smaller unit makes it easier to learn-on-the-job and fosters an atmosphere where Glass can develop a closer relationship with his new "family."

"These are my guys now, I'm going to support them," he said in reference to all his new 931st "children."

As the group's new "dad," Glass wants his airmen to know he firmly believes in "working hard, playing hard," and having fun like families should.

"It's a lot like my relationship with my little brother growing up—I can pick on my group members, but nobody else better mess with the 931st," the father of two sons said jokingly, yet seriously.

More importantly, added Glass, the group family includes all spouses, children and other loved ones who support a family member serving their country in the 931st.

"I'm a true family man," Glass said. "Family comes



first. Without the support of your family, it's hard for you to do your job well."

Leading by example, "talking-the-talk," "walking-the-walk" and staunch professionalism describe what Glass said his airmen could expect from him as the head of the 931st household. He expects the same in return. Anything contrary is a stone that shouldn't be thrown by those who reside inside Glass' house. The rock that forms the foundation of that house is integrity. Without it, the house will shatter.

"You have to be honest in everything you do," Glass emphasized. "If you put integrity first, everything else will fall into place."

Things have fallen into place so far for the self-proclaimed optimist who sees the glass as "always half full." Nine more volunteers deployed with the 22nd ARW at the end of July and Glass said he expects to fill all deployment requirements for aircrews through the next year with volunteers.

## Afghan donated to 931st, up for grabs



Senior Airman Penny Ricketts, Standardization and Evaluation administrative assistant, donated the above afghan to the group to raise money for this year's Family Appreciation Day Picnic Sept. 14. A drawing will be held the day of the picnic to determine who will receive the afghan. Tickets for the drawing can be obtained from Master Sgt. Cody Smith for the suggested donation of \$3, or two tickets for \$5. For more information, call 316-759-3683.

## SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT



### **Staff Sgt. Tamela Aman** 931st Civil Engineer Squadron

This month's Spotlight selectee is a Madison, Ohio-native, who has been in the Air Force for more than 11 years.

**Job title:** Information Manager

**Civilian job:** Secretary for 33rd Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base, Okla.

**Favorite way to relax:** Reading

**Easiest way to annoy me:** I'm not easily annoyed

**Most influential people in my life:** My husband

**What I'm reading now:** Nora Roberts

**What I'm listening to now:** Anything Country

**If I won \$1 million, I would:** Go on a cruise to Alaska

## Fueling the Fight



photo courtesy of 18th Air Refueling Squadron

*(Above)* 931st ARG crew members who deployed last month in support of Operation Enduring Freedom flew the 2,500th refueling sortie for the 384th Air Expeditionary Group. The crew members were the first to deploy with the 931st ARG's host unit, the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, since the group arrived at McConnell AFB in 1995. *(Right)* A 931st crew member meets Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command, while celebrating the 384th AEG's 2,500th refueling sortie.



photo courtesy of 18th Air Refueling Squadron

### DEPLOYMENT, from page 1

away from his family for a year. His wife agreed 30 days was much easier for her and her children to deal with her husband being gone.

"We're just going to try to keep busy," she said. "The new school year is right around the corner and we have lots of shopping to do."

Maj. Jeff was among the first 15 crew members scheduled for a one-month deployment with the 22nd ARW to a forward deployed

Central Command location. According to Glass, the group shouldn't have any problem finding enough volunteers to rotate the required 15 members per month for a year.

"I'm really proud of all my guys for stepping up for this," Glass said. "This is a huge accomplishment for the 931st and the Air Force Reserve Command."

Of the group's 360 members, 16 others are also activated, including members from the group's Security Forces, Intelligence, Civil Engineering Squadron and Personnel Flight.



# Airborne Laser completes first flight

Air Force Materiel Command News Service

An extensively modified Boeing 747-400F known as the Airborne Laser circled over western Kansas for an hour and 22 minutes during its maiden flight July 21, taking the first steps in becoming the world's first directed-energy combat aircraft.

It was the first time the aircraft had flown since arriving in Wichita Jan. 22, 2000, straight off the Boeing assembly line.

The flight was the first in a test series to prove the aircraft still performs like a Boeing 747 despite significant structural and operational changes made during its two-and-a-half-year stay at the Boeing Maintenance and Modification Center adjacent to McConnell Air Force Base.

"This successful flight is truly a milestone in the history of ABL," said Col. Ellen Pawlikowski, ABL program office director at Kirtland AFB, N.M. "It represents a major step toward our ultimate goal of shooting down a ballistic missile with a beam of ultra-powerful light by the end of 2004."

The ABL is scheduled to take its place as a principal member of the boost-phase segment of the Missile Defense Agency's layered system designed to protect the country and U.S. troops against enemy ballistic missiles, Pawlikowski said. The ABL's task is to destroy just-launched missiles by focusing its high-energy laser beam on the pressurized fuel tank, causing it to rupture and explode, in effect causing the missile to kill itself.

ABL, now under the MDA's management, is being developed by a team composed of the Boeing Co., TRW, and Lockheed Martin Corp., the colonel said. Boeing supplied the aircraft and the sophisticated software system which will be the brains of the weapon system. TRW built the megawatt-class lasers that comprise the system's kill mechanism, while Lockheed Martin built the complicated maze of mirrors and lenses used to guide the lasers to the target and the turret that will house the system's 1.5-meter telescope.

Once testing has been completed, the ABL will be turned over to the Air Force,



*An extensively modified Boeing 747-400F known as the Airborne Laser circled over western Kansas for an hour and 22 minutes during its maiden flight July 21, taking the first steps in becoming the world's first directed-energy combat aircraft (Courtesy photo).*

the first in a visualized fleet ready for use as a first line of defense against missile attack, according to Pawlikowski.

Although the aircraft is generically known as ABL, its official name is YAL-1A, which, in Air Force nomenclature, stands for Prototype Attack Laser, Model 1-A, Pawlikowski said. If testing goes well, it will be followed by a so-far undetermined number of similar aircraft.

Sometime in the next few months, YAL-1A will be flown to the Boeing facility in Everett, Wash., to be sprayed Air Force gray, she said. At that time, the number 00-0001 also will be painted on the tail. The number,

assigned when the aircraft came off the assembly line, signifies it is the first new military aircraft of the millennium.

After it is painted and its airworthiness certified, YAL-1A will be flown to Edwards AFB, Calif., where the other weapon system segments — lasers and optical system — will be incrementally installed and tested, the colonel said.

That process is expected to take almost two years and includes laser firings on the ground and against objects in the air such as balloon-dropped target boards and short-range rockets in preparation for its major test against a ballistic missile.



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# SPIRIT SHORTS

## 931st ARG FY 2003 UTA Schedule

Oct. 5-6, 2002

Nov. 16-17, 2002

Dec. 7-8, 2002

Jan. 11-12, 2003

Feb. 8-9, 2003

March 8-9, 2003

April 12-13, 2003

May 3-4, 2003

June 7-8, 2003

July 19-20, 2003

Aug. 9-10, 2003

Sept. 13-14, 2003

### **GI Bill Stoppage**

Effective June 1, members receiving reserve (chapter 1606) Montgomery GI Bill payments must call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 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 temporary duty, reassignment, or retirement, please keep in mind that on Unit Training Assembly weekends the Military Pay section is only open for business on Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thinking ahead can insure you do not have to come out during the week to finish your out-processing. For further information, contact Tech Sgt. Anick Wallace in Relocations at 316-759-3665.

### **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 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 at 316-759-3458.

### **FAMILY CARE PLANS**

All members who are single parents, dual military couples with family members and members with civilian spouses who have unique family situations are required to have family care plans. All other Air Force Reserve members with families will have family care arrangements that reasonably cover all situations, both short and long term. Unique family situations will be determined by the commander or first sergeant. Also, civilian and contractor personnel in emergency essential positions are strongly encouraged to establish family care plans consistent with AFI 36-2908, *Family Care Plans*, and complete an AF Form 357, *Family Care Certification*. The completed AF Form 357 will be maintained by the commander or first sergeant.

### **NCO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NCOLDP) DATES FOR FY '03**

The group has received class dates from both Tinker Air Force Base and Ft. Worth Joint Reserve Base (Carswell). Interested Staff Sergeants and Technical Sergeants may contact Group Training at 316-759-5423 for further information.

### **MPF hours**

The core hours of operation for the Military Personnel Flight 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.



## Team 'Spirit'



photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap



photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

*(Left) Tech. Sgt. Pat Johnson, Military Personnel Flight career enhancement chief, congratulates Jeff "Spike" Glass, son of Col. Jeffery Glass, group commander, for scoring during the championship game of the McConnell AFB Sports Day Softball Tournament. The 931st team finished second in the tournament after losing the game by one run. (Above) Johnson tries to keep his team competitive with a hack at a high pitch. Softball is one of many sports played during the annual sports day.*

## A 931st Family Affair

*Tech. Sgt. Johnny Stephenson, group deployment manager, and his new wife, Mandy, were married during a ceremony held in the 931st ARG headquarters building in June. The couple wanted to share the ceremony with the 931st, their "adoptive family," because all their real family members were so far away from Wichita. They also wanted to make it easier for their closest friends "to attend without interrupting their important duties." Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Peters, group chaplain, presided over the ceremony, the first ever held at the 931st.*



photo by Staff Sgt. Andrea Beaupre

# WICHITA WEEKEND

## **Wranglers Baseball**

Aug. 16 – 18 - Wichita Wranglers host the Round Rock Express at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. Aug. 16 and 17 at 7 p.m., Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. Fireworks following Saturday's game and Sunday's game is Kid's Day at the ballpark. Tickets are \$4 - \$10 at the stadium ticket office.

## **Western Movie**

Aug. 16 – Free movies under a western sky at the Old Cowtown Museum. The western "Rio Bravo" begins at dusk. Admission to Old Cowtown Museum needed. Adults \$7, kids 12-17 \$5, kids 4-11 \$4, under 4 free.

## **Free Music**

Aug. 16 – 2002 Summer Concert Series at the Farm and Art Market in Old Town. The band "Crazy Heart" will play from 8 – 10 p.m. for free at the Farm and Art Market.

## **Orpheum Concert**

Aug. 17 – Petra in concert, with special guest the Phil Marshall Band. Concert begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Orpheum in downtown Wichita. Tickets at \$12 in advance,

\$15 at the door. Tickets are available at all Select-A-Seat locations.

## **Music of the West**

Aug. 17 and 18 – Enjoy music of the western plains throughout the day at the Old Cowtown Museum.

Admission to Old Cowtown needed. Adults \$7, kids 12-17 \$5, kids 4-11 \$4, under 4 free.

## **Old Settlers Days**

Aug 16 – 18 – Old Settlers Days all weekend in Mulvane. Midway with carnival rides and games throughout the weekend. Other events include an arts and crafts fair, picnic in the park, Friday and Saturday evening dances, and a Saturday morning fun run and four mile race. Details can be found at [www.mulvanekansas.com/old\\_settlers/index.html](http://www.mulvanekansas.com/old_settlers/index.html).

Congratulations and thanks to the following members for re-enlisting

TSgt Odie Bergh

SSgt Cole Rogers

SSgt Erin Hubbard

TSgt Donald Saft

TSgt Hugo Hurtado

MSgt Eric Smith

TSgt Jim Yokom

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