

KANZA

SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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October, 2002

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

Vol. 7, No. 10



Inspection Ready

Staff Sgt. Shane Coleman, Civil Engineer Squadron structural apprentice, inventories the contents of a group C-Bag to ensure the bag complies with Air Force Reserve Command standards. Coleman is one of forty CES members who will follow-up this month's Unit Compliance Inspection with a week-long Inspector General Exercise in Gulfport, Miss. (photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap).

CES scheduled to follow-up UCI with IGX

Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st Public Affairs

While most of the group has been preparing for this month's Unit Compliance Inspection, the 931st Civil Engineering Squadron has been gearing up for not one, but two large-scale inspections.

Just weeks after the UCI team leaves Oct. 5, CES is scheduled for a week-long Inspector General Exercise in Gulfport, Miss.

Senior Master Sgt. Tamera Askren, CES program analyst, said the timing for this IGX could have been better, but she and the rest of her CES comrades are looking forward to completing what had become a long-delayed inspection.

"We've tried three times to get to the IGX and it was cancelled," Askren said. "We'll be happy to just pull this one off."

The U.S. campaign in Kosovo caused an IGX to be cancelled for the

squadron two years ago. CES was 45 days away from their last scheduled IGX when the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 last year resulted in yet another cancellation.

The positive side of the delayed inspection, Askren said, is the amount of training and preparation her squadron has completed in the meantime.

"We've been able to totally rebuild our damage control check

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Commander, 931st Air Refueling Group

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Inspections, deployments keep group busy

Col. Jeffery Glass

Group Commander

First, I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this year's family day such a great success, especially thanks to Master Sgt. Robert Lorenz for his superhuman effort. The food and entertainment was outstanding. I still am amazed that the Blue Angels put on a demonstration for the 931st ARG's Family Day.

When everyone gets the Kanza Spirit in October, we will be right in the middle of our Unit Compliance Inspection. Everyone made an outstanding effort to get their pro-



Col. Jeffery Glass, group commander, was one of the local leaders recognized at the United Way "Day of Remembrance" in Wichita Sept. 11 (photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap).

grams in top shape. I am sure the results will prove how "Outstanding" the 931st is to the rest of the Air Force Reserve Command.

Our deployments to the forward operating location are proceeding very smoothly. Volunteerism continues to be high, proving again how amazing the dedication of the Citizen Soldier is. We will continue deployments for the foreseeable future. My thanks to all members that have sacrificed time away from their families and civilian jobs. We are visible proof that volunteerism does work.

Our security forces will continue to be mobilized for another year. So if you see one of our guys in the building thank them for their great sacrifices that they have made in order to keep the base and country safe. Our civil engineers will soon deploy in support of the next Inspector General Exercise. They have been training hard and I'm sure will make the unit proud.

The next item on the unit's agenda is the Initial Response exercise at the end of March. The unit has changed the UTA schedule in March to 29-30 so we can have the people to participate in this critical part of our Operational Readiness Inspection grade. Further information about practice exercises for the IR should be available soon.

Hopefully, after the IR exercise the unit can get a much-needed break.

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: Oct. 5-6
Nov. 16-17
Dec. 7-8

The *Kanza Spirit* is mailed each month to all 931st Air Refueling Group members on file with Personnel Systems. If you are not receiving your copy each month, check with your orderly room or administration section to ensure your address on file is correct.

New deputy familiar face for CC

Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st Public Affairs

They've flown together.
They've fought together; they've even partied together.

Now they've "flocked" together.

To say that Lt. Col. Rich Lepman, the new 931st deputy commander, and Col. Jeffery Glass, group commander, are "birds of a feather" might be an understatement.

Both were part of the command staff at 4th Air Force Command headquarters before joining the 931st. Both have more than 20 years of flying for the Air Force under their belts. And both share the same outlook for leading the 931st.

"Col. Glass and I are of the same mindset," Lepman said. "We have a long history together, both professionally and personally."

Like Glass, Lepman said he believes "leading by example" and putting "family first" form the foundation of how he'll approach his position's responsibilities.

But it's what separates Lepman



Lt. Col Rich Lepman was the group commander's first choice to fill the group's vacant deputy commander position. Lepman and the commander, Col. Jeffery Glass both worked on the command staff at 4th Air Force command headquarters before joining the 931st ARG (photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap).

from Glass and most of the group command staff that he feels is equally important in considering how he leads, Lepman said.

A 12-year captain with United Airlines, Lepman shares the title and concerns with the group's traditional reservists.

As the new guy, Lepman said he has no desire to immediately "go in and stir things up." But one of his future goals is to work with Col.

Glass in "mitigating the impact" traditional reservists' military commitments have on their personal lives.

"I'm very sensitive to operations tempo needs" Lepman said. "The reserves have really become an alternate active-duty rather than a ready reserve; we put many more demands on our people today."

Lepman was close to retiring

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lists," she said. "Short of an alien invasion, I have checklists for everything."

About 40 CES members are scheduled to attend this IGX, where engineers will be tested in a variety of CES responsibilities, including rapid runway repair, using Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) skills and continuing to operate under different force protection levels.

The engineers aren't the only group members who are looking forward to CES filling what Askren CES referred to as "that little green square in the rubic's cube"

at Air Mobility Command headquarters. CES completing the IGX is a large piece of the five-year planning puzzle for Maj. Clint Burpo, group operations plans chief.

"My goal is to get everyone on the same timeline so we're not always worrying about the IG," he said. "It's a little more difficult fitting CES into that timeline because they have so many inspection requirements."

Master Sgt. Donna Lorenz, group logistics plans non-commissioned officer-in-charge, said CES' ability to be ready for the IGX so soon after the UCI resulted in the group having all current inspection requirements 100 percent completed or scheduled.



FAMILY DAY 2002





PHOTOS BY
STAFF SGT.
JASON SCHAAP

Mil-to-Mil married members subject to SGLI deductions

Group members who have spouses in the military and have not updated their spouse in DEERS are subject to automatic Family Servicemen's Group Life Insurance deductions from their paychecks.

Monthly premiums ranging from \$9 to \$55 will be charged to members who do not have an SGLI declination form on file with the Military Personnel Flight.

For more information, visit the MPF or call the customer service office at Carlos at (316) 759-3458.

Group T-shirts for sale

Group T-shirts are available for \$10 each until Nov. 17. The shirts are black, 100% cotton with the Kanza Roach on the front.

To order or pay for your T-shirt,

see your orderly room or Tech Sgt. Bob Lorenz in the Group Career Advisors office.

Security Forces Augmentees needed

The 22nd Security Forces Squadron is looking for *enlisted* volunteers to perform extended augmentee duties. Members will be offered mandays and trained in many aspects of the SF career field.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Smith at (316) 759-5989.

Honor Guard looking for new members

The 931st Honor Guard team is looking for group members interested in becoming part of their team. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Smith at (316) 759-5989.

Congratulations and Thanks to the following members for re-enlisting or extending

*CMSgt Don Askren
TSgt Warren Bearup
SSgt Greg Carron
SrA Ed Cropper
SSgt Darin Elliott
TSgt Rick Fischer
TSgt Sue Forsberg
MSgt Tanya Halenka
TSgt Tom Helmers
SSgt Juana Hernandez
SMSgt Diane Hiebert
SSgt Erin Hubbard
SrA Mark Johnson
TSgt Robert Lorenz
SSgt Kelly Martin
SSgt Albert Riojas
SSgt Cole Rogers
MSgt Darrel Smith
TSgt Dan Statezni
SSgt Chris Stearns*

SPRIT SPOTLIGHT



**Tech. Sgt.
Vincent P. Walburn**
*931st Aircraft
Generation Squadron*

This month's Spotlight selectee is a Kansas City, Mo.-native, who has been in the Air Force for 19 years.

Job title: Jet Engine Mechanic

Civilian job: Aircraft Mechanic for Cessna Aircraft Co.

Favorite way to relax: Working on cars

Easiest way to annoy me: Talk on a cell phone while driving

Most influential person in my life: My father

What I'm reading now: Tom Clancy's Patriot Games

What I'm listening to now: Classic Rock

If I won \$1 million, I would: Buy a house in a nice place and invest the rest



9/11 Remembered

(Above) Col. Jeffery Glass, group commander (standing left), and Col. Michelle Johnson, 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander, were recognized at the United Way “Day of Remembrance” ceremony held in downtown Wichita Sept. 11. The commanders were among a group of Wichita leaders present who help protect and serve the local community. (Right) A member of the McConnell Air Force Base Honor guard salutes during the ceremony. The honor guard performed a 21-gun salute and helped present the colors. (photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap).



DEPUTY, from page 3

from those demands a year ago, until the terrorist attacks occurred on Sept. 11, bringing Lepman from leaning toward retirement to giving “maximum availability” to the Reserve.

The Air Force jumped on his offer and put Lepman on orders for so long he had to get a waiver for the maximum amount of mandays allowed. Soon after, Gen. James Czekanski, 4th AF commander, told Lepman he

was Col. Glass’s first pick for deputy and Lepman replied, “I’m ready to go yesterday.”

“The whole time I’ve been in I’ve loved the Air Force life,” Lepman said. “I love the people, the mission, the camaraderie, the challenge. I just don’t think you can find it in the civilian sector.”

Lepman said he’s considering moving to Wichita since he could continue his civilian job here. Currently, he lives in Tustin, Calif., with his wife Debbie. He has two sons, 16-year-old Andrew and 14-year-old Peter.

Cotillion Concerts

Oct. 4 – Gene Watson in concert with special guest Spurs. Show begins at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are \$17.50 at Select-A-Seat locations. Admission is \$20 at the door. Cotillion Ballroom is at 11120 W. Kellogg.

Oct. 5 – Conjunto Rio Grande in concert with special guests Banda Wane Wane and Los Dyferentez de la Region. Show begins at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25 and avail-

able at Galindos, Maylo's Western Wear, La Spressa and Mundo Musical. Admission is \$30 at the door. Cotillion Ballroom is at 11120 W. Kellogg.

Old Cowtown Fair

Oct. 4-6 – Old Cowtown Museum's Fall County Fair all weekend. Music, dancing and crafts throughout the event. Magic and medicine by Professor Farquar. Performances by the Dixie Lee Dance

Troupe and Varieties. Adults, \$7; children (12-17) \$5; children (4-11) \$4; under 4 free. Hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. More details at www.old-cowtown.org.

Woofstock '02

Oct. 5 – Annual benefit for the Kansas Humane Society, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Central Riverside Park. Minimum \$25 pledge for the event. More details at www.kshumane.org.

At The Movies



XXX

FRIDAY OCT 4th 7pm
2 hrs. 04 min. Vin Diesel stars as extreme sports athlete Xander "XXX" Cage, recruited by NSA Agent Gibbons (Samuel L. Jackson) to become a different kind of undercover agent..

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violence, non-stop action sequences, sensuality, drug content and language.



SIGNS

SATURDAY OCT 5th 7pm
1 hr. 47 min. Mel Gibson stars as Graham Hess, the family patriarch, who is tested in his journey to find the truth behind crop circles. Joaquin Phoenix is Merrill Hess, brother to Graham and a former minor league baseball star.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for some frightening moments.

Movies are shown at the McConnell Air Force Base theater and are subject to change.

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