

The 'Stan' Tour
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SPIRIT

Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

New commander for 931st AGS

Col. Dean Despinoy, left, transfers the flag of command through Master Sgt. Greg Bourgois, center, to new 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron commander Capt. Willie Eaton, as part of a ceremony during the March UTA. Eaton, formerly a navigator with the 18th Air Refueling Squadron, thanked his family for their support as he took over his new responsibilities.

Four deploy in NATO op

Four 18th Air Refueling Group members recently volunteered to Central Europe to aid in NATO operations relating to the former Yugoslavia.

Senior Master Sgt. Diane Hiebert, Maj. Sam Schofield, Maj. Randy Brink and 1st Lt. Mark Meyers deployed before commencement of NATO airstrikes

against the Yugoslav Army. The four are working with planning and operations.

The four were recently highlighted by The Wichita Eagle in a two-part series on the 931st and the current operations in the former Yugoslavia.

The four are expected to return in April.

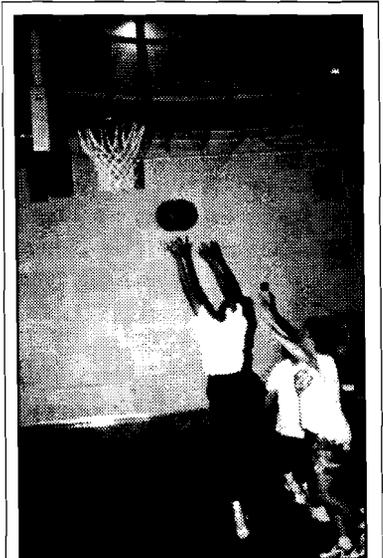
New Air Force paper now available online

WASHINGTON – The Air Force has launched on on-line service for news and information. The U.S. Air Force Online News, the first official newspaper of the Air Force, is electronic, available to everyone with a computer and access to the World Wide Web at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper>. The site launched March 17.

Published every Wednesday, U.S. Air Force Online News will report on current news of interest across the Air Force. Besides giving Air Force people and their families the news and information that affects them most, the online paper will also provide them an opportunity to express their opinions and voice their concerns to Air Force leaders.

"Everyone interested in the United States Air Force needs to read Online News each Wednesday," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan. "It gives people information they need and want to

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Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Roxanne Kincaid shoots in a basket for her team during the 3-on-3 March Madness tournament during the March UTA. Teams competed in men's and women's divisions during the Saturday evening double-elimination event.

Busy times for our unit

By Col. Dean J. Despinoy
931st ARG commander

THE ILLUSIVE ORI

It seems as though we have been chasing the ORI for almost a year through various exercises, Volk Field, and training classes. Well the real world caught up to the ORI and the real world won. The ORI has been canceled. Unfortunately we are not getting full credit for the ORI. It will be rescheduled sometime in the future. Regulations mandate that a reserve unit must have at least 6 months notification, but my prediction is that it will be at least a year. I really appreciate all the hard work many have put into ORI prep. It was not in vain for it did better prepare us for our real world mission.

The decision not to give the 22nd and the 931st full ORI credit, as was done with some other units, was that of the 15 AF commander. We had already been given partial credit for deployment and employment and that credit will stay with us. We have not, however, done anything in the real world to justify credit for the ATSO portion. Therefore, sometime in the future we will have the ORI primarily demonstrating our capability to perform in an ATSO environment. You will receive the dates as soon as I have them.

ROA STATE CONVENTION

Saturday, 17 Apr, the 931st will host the Kansas State Reserve Officer's Convention. It is an unprecedented opportunity to hear and ask questions of some of the highest of the high rollers in the Reserves. Major General McIntosh, Reserve Advisor to the

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Pluess, Commander Army Reserve, and Mr. Wayne Gracie, a political liaison to Congress for the Air Force Reserve, will all speak and take questions. If it is going on in the reserves, these people know about it and all have agreed to talk on any subject.

This event is not just for members of the ROA, all officers are invited. Because of this unique career broadening opportunity I have authorized our junior officers, Majors (with 3 years or less time in grade) and all Captains and Lieutenants to attend in manday status. I highly encourage senior officer attendance but most of us are already as broad as we can get, so I will not be able to have you in pay status. Please sign up today so we can properly prepare for the correct number of attendees. See you there.

ISTRES, FRANCE

Current world events will not effect our scheduled deployment to Istres in May. As a matter of fact current events will cause the deployment to be even more busy and worth while than expected. The manning document for the deployment is being finalized by XP. If you are not sure as to your status, please check with you supervisor this UTA.

If you are scheduled to go, please use these next two UTAs to ensure that you have all required deployment actions complete. I have operated from Istres before and you can look forward to working hard, but also enjoying a beautiful part of France with lots to do on your off time.

FAMILY DAY

The Executive Steering Committee has



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Col. Despinoy, right, poses with Staff Sgt. Russ Hunt, 4th Air Force Airman of the Year.

decided to leave Family Day as originally scheduled, on the June UTA. As many of you know, the UTA and Family Day are on the same weekend as the McConnell Open House and Airshow. Most of the crowd will be on the Guard side of the field, which will allow for "normal" activity on our side. We should be able to conduct most of our UTA activities without a problem. A few special procedures will be required, like a special pass for your car to get to our building. Mailings with passes and instruction for you and your family will be sent to your house prior to the June UTA.

Our Gazebo should be finished prior to that date and we are planning a cook out for the families at the Gazebo and bus transportation to the various activities around base for the Airshow. Combining

See Despinoy page 7

Kanza Spirit

Volume 4, No. 4

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Alternate IG: LtCol Ron Johnston,
Bldg 650, Rm 146, 652-3812/743-3812

THE ACTION LINE

IG complaints come in many forms. Quite often the initial complainant comment is something like this, "_____ is a jerk and I want you to have him/her fired!" Unfortunately, being a jerk usually is not cause for dismissal, even if the IG had the power to do so. Following this opening remark, we begin the process to determine

what the real problems are and whether an investigation is warranted. The first thing I have to tell this complainant is that the IG has no authority to "fire" anyone, regardless of the outcome of an IG investigation. This is because the IG is an investigating agency, not an *action* agency. The action line is carefully preserved within the chain-of-command. If an IG complaint results in an investigation, that investigation will be conducted in order to determine the facts in the case. Those facts will then be forwarded to the appropriate commander for action. If you have questions about this or any other IG issue, please call.



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Newcomers

March UTA newcomers, from left; Capt. Christopher Cullen, 18th ARS, Capt. Paul Horton, ARS, Senior airman John Croon, 18th ARS, Senior Airman Paul Peek, 931st CES, Senior Airman Jodi McGill 931st AGS. In the center is Command Chief Monty Fields of 4th Air Force.

Personnel News....

Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are as follows:

- Monday - Friday 0730 - 1600
- Saturday - UTA 0800 - 1600
- Sunday - UTA 1000 - 1600

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 (Ms Sharon Thayer) 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.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DD

FORM 93, RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA?

The DD Form 93 provides information on the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), Secondary Next of Kin (SNOK), and other persons to notify in case of death, injury, or an emergency. This form also serves as the official document required by law for designating beneficiaries for death gratuity pay and unpaid pay and allowances.

HUMAN RESOURCE

See Personnel, page 7

Refer a Friend

There are positions available within the 931st ARG. Help your unit recruit by providing them a name of a friend or have them contact Tech. Sgt. David McCormick at 652-4350, Master Sgt. Terry Gosh at 652-3766, or one of their area recruiters listed below.



- Tinker AFB, OK
 - Master Sgt. Victor Bradford (405) 739-2980
 - Technical Sgt. Rhonda Nolan (405) 734-5331
- Lawton, OK
 - Technical Sgt. Nathan Bickle (405) 357-2784
- Sheppard AFB, TX
 - Master Sgt. Larry Giles (817) 6763382
- Midwest City, OK
 - Master Sgt. Linda Smith (405) 733-9403
 - Staff Sgt. William Thompson

UTA Schedule

April	10-11
May	1-2
June	12-13
July	17-18
Aug.	14-15
Sep.	18-19

A special courier mission for Air War College students offered several 931st members a unique opportunity to explore the former Soviet Union

**By Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman
931st ARG Public Affairs**

By any account, a recent mission involving 931st Air Refueling Group members was no ordinary temporary duty.

Ten 931st members and seven other reserve and active duty personnel recently escorted approximately 35 Air War College students on a tour of several countries in central Asia. Most of the nations were a part of the former Soviet Union.

"It was a unique opportunity," Maj. Bill Hansel, pilot with the 18 Air Refueling Squadron of the 931st, said. "It's not every day you get to go behind what used to be the Iron Curtain."

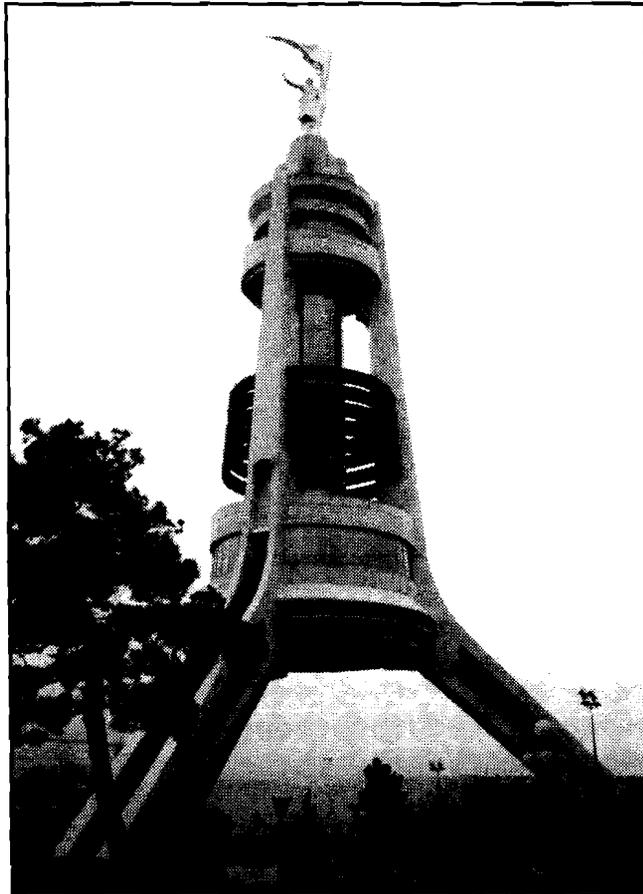
Key stops on the 19-day mission included Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan. Not exactly tourist meccas, or even regular Air Force mission stops.

"We called it the 'Stan Tour,'" Capt. Evan Fisher said, referring to the similar-sounding endings of the countries' names.

The mission required two aircrews, a four-person ground crew, a Raven security team to keep watch over the KC-135 aircraft at the various airfields and even a financial manager

responsible for carrying thousands of dollars in cash for expenditures to spend in parts of the world Visa doesn't boast to being "everywhere you want to be."

Hansel said many of these fledgling countries appeared to be struggling with a free market economy.



Photos: Above, a presidential monument in Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, moving VIP stairs on the flightline in Kyrgyzstan, and a statue of Lenin, architect of the Russian communist revolution in 1917, in Almaty, Kazakhstan.



Next Stop ...

"During the Soviet days, they were isolated," he said. "One province would produce cotton, it would get sent to another province to make clothes and then back where they started to sell them. Now everything has changed ... they have a long way to go. The countries were poorer than I thought they'd be."

Fisher said the American embassies should be commended for finding suitable lodging for the 50-person contingent.

"I'm sure it wasn't always easy," he said of efforts to find accommodations.

While the Air War College students — typically Lieutenant Colonels going through the course to qualify for promotion — received briefings and site tours at each stop, the crews found some free time. Some members even managed a day of skiing. Another stretch of down time led to a

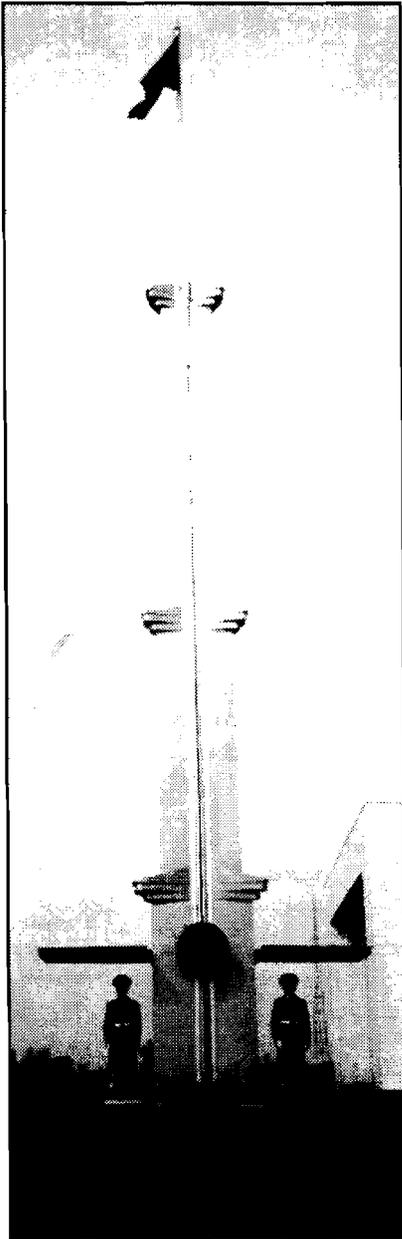
Kyrgyzstan?

exploration of what Hansel called "an underground lake," located deep within the confines of a cave.

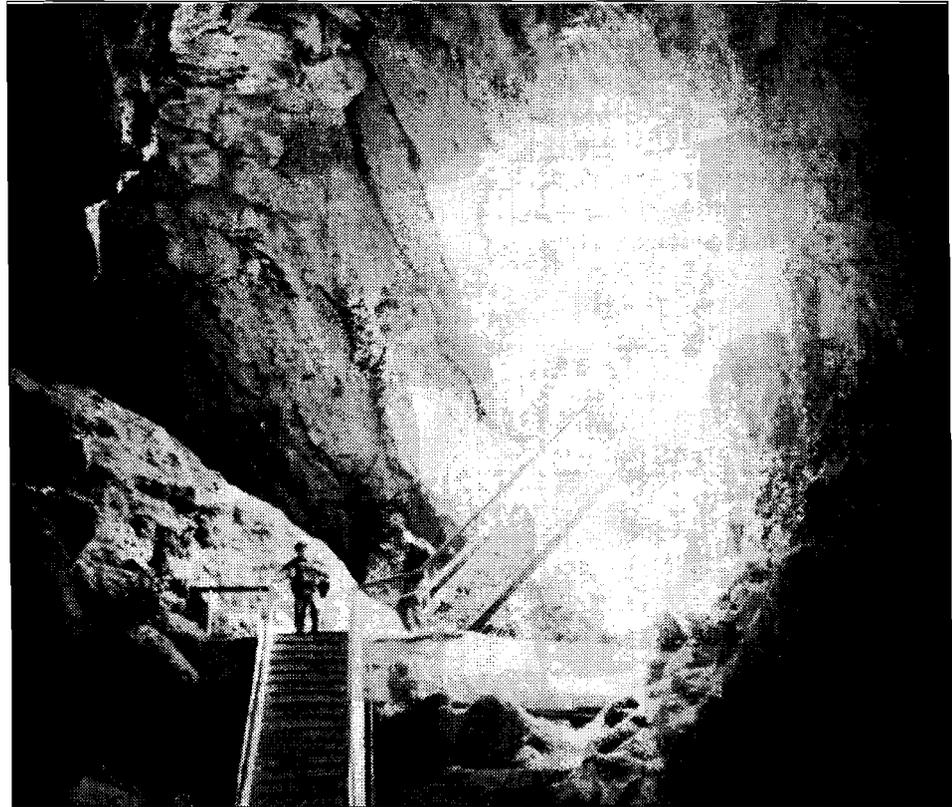
The mission took months of planning to work through scheduling changes and red tape, particularly diplomatic clearance for the crew.

"(18th ARS members Maj.) Jon Woods and (Capt.) Glenn Powers deserve a lot of credit for the mission going as smoothly as it did," Fisher said. "They did a lot of work in planning this thing. Without them, it wouldn't have come off at all."

931st members on the mission were Hansel, Fisher, Maj. Gregg Harney, Maj. Ken Guevara, Maj. Jon Sabatino, Capt. Joe Oline, Master Sgt. Gary Cook, Tech. Sgt. John Wallman, Staff Sgt. Al Ryder and Tech. Sgt. Marty Curry.



Clockwise from top left, two guards stand watch at a flag monument in Kyrgyzstan, Maj. Ken Guevara and another



unidentified member enter a cave in Turkmenistan, the parked KC-135, on loan from the 434th Air Refueling Wing from Grissom, at Kyrgyzstan, and Master Sgt. Gary Cook (second right) and Tech. Sgt. John Wallman (far right), with three other crew members relax in Kyrgyzstan.



Photos by Maj. Bill Hansel

931st Intel members win awards

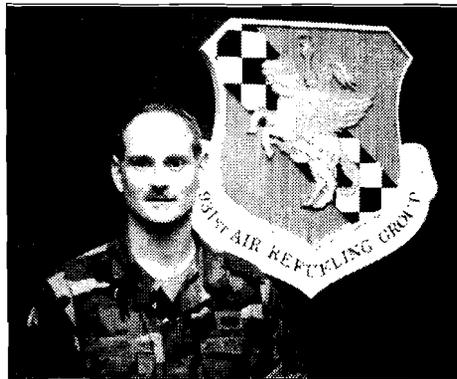
By Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman
931st ARG Public Affairs

Two members of the Intelligence office of the 931st Air Refueling Group recently took honors in Intelligence from Air Mobility Command.

Capt. William H. "Link" Newton, assistant chief of intelligence for the 931st, was named AMC's Outstanding Reserve Company Grade Officer of the Year in the Air Reserve Component Intelligence category. Staff Sgt. Russ Hunt was named the AMC Outstanding Reserve Non-commissioned Officer of the Year in the Air Reserve Component Intelligence category.

The pair were judged in three major categories: Outstanding Leadership, Exemplary Improvements to Intelligence Warfighting Capabilities, and Outstanding Performance in Accomplishing an Exceptionally Demanding Task or Program.

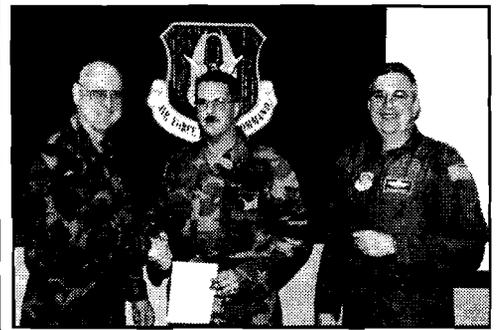
Last year, two other more senior Intel



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman/Spirit

Staff Sgt. Russ Hunt members won the awards.

"I believe the awards show that, not only do our more senior level people perform the mission at a high level, but our junior personnel are doing the same," Maj. Steve Kett, chief of Intelligence for the 931st, said. "It was extremely competitive ... for instance the company grade officer competition were all O-1s, twos and threes in the Reserve, Guard, IMA, etc."



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

4th Air Force Command Chief Monty Fields visited the 931st ARG during the March UTA. Here Fields, left, congratulates Tech. Sgt. Bob Lorenz as the unit level winner of NCO of the Year. 931st commander Col. Dean Despinoy is at right.

Kett wins civilian award

Terri Kett, the executive officer for the 931st Air Refueling Group, was selected as the 1998 AFRC Communications and Information Professionalism Award winner as a senior civilian.



The competition recognizes

top achievers in the Air Force Reserve in communications and information management. Officers and NCOs are selected on the reserve side. Junior and senior civilians are also selected.

Paper cont. from pg. 1

know about their Air Force."

The Online News staff promises to focus on important news with immediate impact.

"We know we can't cover everything,"

Force structure changes affect AFRC in 9 states

WASHINGTON – Air Force Reserve Command will expand its space role, realign its special operations units, diversity its training missions, and reduce the C-141 positions as part of force structure changes announced by the Air Force in March.

Changes in the Air Force's force structure are the result of mission changes, adjustments for efficiency, congressional directives and implementation of the expeditionary aerospace force concept. These changes impact Reserve units in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina, Texas and Washington.

In Southern California, the Reserve will activate the 9th Space Operations Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Manpower authorizations for the new squadron call for seven full-time Active Guard and Reserve

said Col. Ron Rand, director of Air Force public affairs, "but we'll work at telling people openly and honestly about the key events and decisions that shape Air Force policies and programs."

military positions and 30 reserve drill authorizations.

Two hundred sixty miles to the north, Travis AFB's 615th Air Mobility Operations Group will transfer 29 active-duty slots to the Reserve and Air National Guard for tanker airlift control elements. TALCEs establish airfield operations, usually at bare base locations overseas. On the East Coast at McGuire AFB, N.J., the 621st AMOG will transfer 31 military positions to the Guard and Reserve.

In the Florida Panhandle, Reserve and active-duty special operations squadrons will relocate to align the same mission at one location.

The 5th SOS will remain part of the Reserve's 919th Special Operations Wing when it moves from Duke Field to Eglin AFB. Squadron aircrews will continue to fly MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft but in

an associate unit capacity on active-duty aircraft. The squadron's supporting aircraft maintenance activities will also move to Eglin and reorganize into a detachment. This action will result in the transfer of 61 military and 199 drill positions to Eglin.

At nearby Hurlburt Field, the active force's 8th SOS will move four MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft, and 278 military and two civilian positions to Duke Field. This move assigns all Comat Talon I aircraft in the Air Force inventory under the Reserve's 919th SOW. It also means the 8th SOS becomes an active-associate unit, flying and helping maintain the Reserve-owned aircraft. The 919th SOW's 711th SOS at Duke Field will lose one MC-130E aircraft with an associated reduction of 29 drill positions.

See Changes, page 7

Changes *cont. from pg. 6*

"The Reserve experimented with a 'reserve-type' associate unit back in the 1970s with the EC-121 mission out of Homestead (AFB, Fla.)," said Col. Mark Stogsdill, 919th SOW commander. "We know that circumstances are right to try it

again. For a consolidation and efficiency standpoint, it makes good sense."

The force structure announcement included additional manpower authorizations required to implement the expeditionary

aerospace force concept, anticipated to become operational by Jan. 1, 2000.

The Air Force has identified 10 aerospace expeditionary force lead wings in the active force to spearhead deployment of a predetermined package of aircraft, equipment and people

to support theater commanders. Five Air Mobility Command wings will handle humanitarian relief operations. Each of these AMC wings is matched with two AEF wings. The Air Force has also named two rapid response air expeditionary wings for the force. (AFRC News Service)

Orders to be taken for new coin

A new Group coin will be available after the May UTA. The 1½" brass-bronze coins will feature a hand painted group emblem encircled with "First KC-135 Associate Unit in the Air Force Reserve, 31 January 1995,

McConnell AFB Kansas" on one side. The Kanza logo and "People of the Southwind" will appear on the other side. The coins are being manufactured in Korea so the quality is expected to be much better than the last coins that were available (from the 1997 Dining-Out).

See Maj Terri Kett, Group Executive Officer, to reserve yours today!



Despinoy *cont. from pg. 2*

the Family Day, McConnell Open House, and the Air Show should provide lots of fun and activities for the entire family. Mark it on your calendar now.

Personnel *from pg. 3*

DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC)

The HRDC meets every Friday before the UTA at 1545 in the Southwind Conference Room. Anyone wishing to have an issue addressed to the council may forward it to the council through their unit representative. Commanders and First Sergeants are always welcome to attend.

ENLISTED PME OPPORTUNITIES

Airman Leadership School (in-residence): We have 2 remaining class dates for FY'99. They are Class 99-F on 1 Jun - 2 Jul 99, and 99-G on 27 Jul - 27 Aug 99. Interested SRA should contact Group Training for an application.

GROUP TRAINING BULLETIN BOARD

Group Training now has a section on the Bulletin board under McConnell's public folders. Topics include Enlisted PME, Officer PME, Formal School, Computer Training and much more! Please take a minute to check out all of the information

now available to you. We are still in the "growing stages"; if there is a topic not listed you feel would be valuable, please let us know!

WHY ARE YOU LEAVING THE RESERVES?

A command-wide questionnaire has been implemented to give Commanders and HQ AFRC a true picture of why individuals are leaving their respective unit or the active reserves. Effective immediately, the Relocation Section of the MSF will be unable to process any type reassignment action without a copy of the questionnaire. The following will be the reasons used.

- My military skills were not being utilized
- Lack of skills training (hands-on training)
- Conflicts within unit
- Promotion stagnation
- Lack of recognition or awards
- Excessive outside demands to allow continued participation in the Reserve
- Quality of life in the AF Reserve wasn't what I expected

- Misled about AFSC responsibilities/duties
- Excessive mission demands
- Excessive ancillary training
- Career dissatisfaction
- Lack of civilian employer support
- Conflict with civilian school
- Conflict with civilian employment
- Conflict with family

The Unit Career Advisor or the full-time ART will ensure this questionnaire is accomplished, then in-turn provides the unit commander the survey and request letter or form for endorsement prior to continued action.

RETRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a change? If you are looking for or thinking of a career change, stop by the Personnel Employment section of the Military Personnel Flight. The following positions are looking for motivated personnel to fill them:

3E452; 3E052; 3E051; 1S071;
1NOX1; 2A655; 3POX1.

Medical office says ...

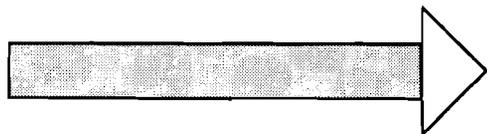
"A swallowed penny can be as corrosive as the chemicals in a car battery, say researchers at Duke University. Pennies minted after 1982 are 95 percent zinc, which reacts with hydrochloric acid in the stomach to form hydrogen gas and zinc chloride, eroding the stomach lining. The result can be an ulcer. If your youngster swallows a penny, wait a day to see if it's excreted. If the child vomits or has stomach pains, don't wait. Head for an emergency room."

--This article was taken from Discover magazine March 1999; submitted by TSgt Paul W. Hudson
One of your smiling Medical Technician

Chapel Service

UTA Sundays, 0745-0815

Bldg. 850, upstairs conference room
Maj. Charles Peters, Chaplain



WICHITA WEEKEND

IN TOWN

Friday, April 9

Wichita Shocker baseball -- Illinois State at Wichita State, Eck Stadium (2 blocks west of 21st and Oliver), 7 p.m.

Wichita Wranglers baseball -- El Paso Diablos at Wichita, Lawrence-Dumont Stadium (300 S. Sycamore), 7:15 p.m. *Kansas City Royals night with Slugerrr.*

Saturday, April 10

Wichita Wranglers baseball -- El Paso at Wichita, 7:15 p.m., Lawrence-Dumont Stadium, *Opening weekend and stadium birthday fireworks follows game.*

Music concert -- 'N Sync with Divine and Tatyani Ali, Kansas Coliseum (7 mi. north of Wichita on I-135), 7:30 p.m.

Art Aid 6 -- Big Hair Broadway at the Cotillion. Art auction, 7 - 9:30 p.m., fashion show at 9:30 p.m., followed by dancing to the Camaros at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Sponsored by KSN Channel 3, The Oasis 105.3 FM and Planet Hair.

Music concert -- "Buddy Holly ... Not Fade Away," Cabaret Oldtown, 412 1/2 E. Douglas, 265-4400 info.

H A P P E N I N G

ON BASE

UTA Movies

All Movies \$1.50; All times 7 p.m.; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 9 -- PAYBACK -- (Mel Gibson, Gregg Henry); Porter and Val stole some cash that was already hot. When it came time to split the goods, Val made three mistakes. He took Porter's money, his wife, and he tried to take Porter's life. When you kill Porter, make sure he's dead. **Rated R** (*strong violence, language, drug and sexual conduct*); 102 minutes.

Saturday, April 10 -- OCTOBER SKY -- (Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Cooper); Homer Hickam Jr., lived in West Virginia during the 1950s. The launch of the Soviet Union's satellite Sputnik meant everything to Homer. His passion was not to work in the harsh coal mine, but to win the national science fair. **Rated PG** (*language, brief teen sensuality, alcohol use, thematic elements*) 108 minutes.

Sunday, April 11 -- THE THIN RED LINE -- (Sean Penn, Adrien Brody); During the battle on Guadalcanal Island in 1942-43, an Army rifle company tries to overtake a Japanese stronghold. **Rated R** (*realistic war violence and language*) 170 minutes.

LIVE THEATRE

Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre

"The Taffetas" Feb. 4 -- Mar. 28

Call 681-1566 for dinner and showtimes.

	MAFB	Gate
Thurs. & Sun.	\$21.45	\$24.30
Fri. & Sat.	\$24.45	\$27.48

The Ticket and Tour office at McConnell Air Force Base has discount tickets on dozens of events in the Wichita Community and surrounding area, including movies, theatre, sports trips and other tours.

For information on what is available, contact the office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The numbers are (316) 652-6007 and 652-6038.

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