

It's Great To Be Back!

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August 1999
Vol. 4, No. 8

SPIRIT

Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

Homecoming complete for 931st ARG

Staff Sgt. David Brumley
931st ARG/Public Affairs

The last members deployed in response to the Kosovo conflict returned home to McConnell Air Force Base during the first two weeks of July.

The 13 members, who were deployed to different locations in Europe for over 6 weeks, began returning over a two-week period beginning July 1.

Three members of the 931st Intelligence unit were deployed for six weeks assisting the 191st Air Refueling Squadron from Salt Lake City, Utah, during the Kosovo conflict.

Major Steve Kett, chief of intelligence directorate; Staff Sgt. William Durand, noncommissioned officer in charge of intelligence operations; and Staff Sgt. Russ Hunt, noncommissioned officer in charge of system intelligence, returned home on July 3 after assisting in Operation Allied Force at Souda bay Naval Support Activity in Crete, Greece.

The trio were responsible for preparing crews about the local threats and special precautions to take while stationed in Greece. "We provided pre-mission briefings, situational analysis, anti-terrorism briefings, force protection and post-mission briefings," said Kett.

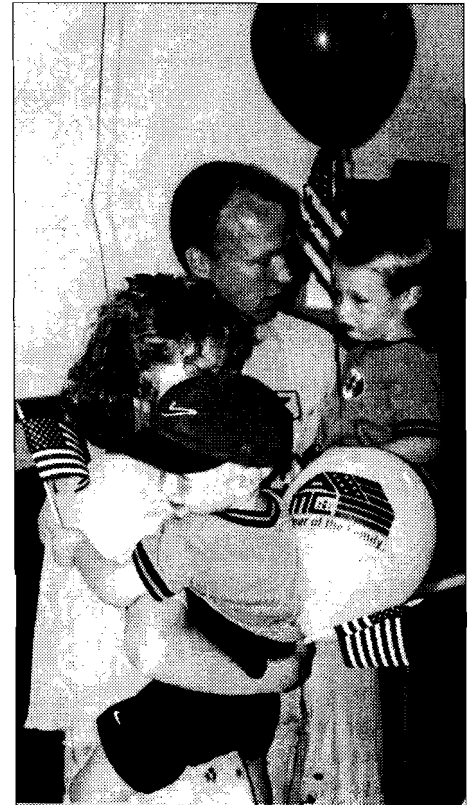
The intelligence briefings were extremely critical in Greece because of the increasing terrorist threats during the operation. "The state department was calling it Europe's unsafest place," said

Kett, "We actually had an archive of recent events that went back to March and April." One precautionary measure was to terminate the contract of a local company who was renting vehicles to the deployed members. "We dumped the vehicle contract, because the (license) plates were leaked to the local press that they began with the letters XNE," said Kett, "The local papers were also calling us the bloody Rambo's, because the Marines were storming ashore."

While stationed with the 191st the three members developed a lasting rapport. "It was a good experience," said Hunt. "The 191st took really good care of us. We had some barbecues, and we flew on several missions," said Kett, "I participated in refueling Tornados and some Mirage aircraft."

Master Sgt. Donna Lorenz, 931st ARG noncommissioned officer in charge of logistics, returned home July 1 after serving voluntarily for 60 days at the Headquarters for United States Air Forces in Europe located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Lorenz was responsible for ensuring that everyone and everything got to its proper location. In some cases this included starting with nothing on the ground and finishing with a full operational base, according to Lorenz. "We surveyed 33 locations for possible beddown of forces use," said Lorenz. "My involvement was to coordinate all efforts so each location could be completed," said Lorenz, "One example was the use of a Harvest Falcon. A Harvest Falcon provides the facilities for



Staff Sgt. David Brumley, Public Affairs

the creation of a full operational base in about 30 to 45 days."

A major success for Lorenz was the creation of checklists for use in of future deployments. "We created a functional checklist of lessons learned for future conflicts," said Lorenz. "The checklist was created so they (future deployers) could have a list of questions ready that weren't asked in the past, because if the question isn't there, then the question can't be

See, *Welcome*, Page 2

It's Great To Be Back!

Col. Dean Despinoy
931st ARG, Commander

I am sure that all of the folks that have been deployed share my sentiment that it is indeed great to be back. However, this sentiment is also shared by the families and the other members of the unit we left behind. Everyone sacrificed something. For the deployed member, it was being in a different country after leaving behind your life with a big question as to how long you would be gone. For the families, it was being alone coping with life without their partner with a big question as to how long their loved one would be gone. For the members who didn't deploy it was dealing with all the problems here, in some cases feeling left out, with the big question as to how long it would be before I got back so they could finally bring down the CAT.

The cold hard facts are that everyone did their duty, and I could not be more proud of this organization. Irritations due to frayed nerves, long hours, or separation are gone and the unit can start the process of functioning again as the caring "family" that is the 931st. The ramp up to normal operations will be done gradually. The focus has been on military duty and now

Welcome, cont from Page 1

asked." Lorenz's hope is that the checklist will help reduce the amount of repeat site visits that occurred during this deployment.

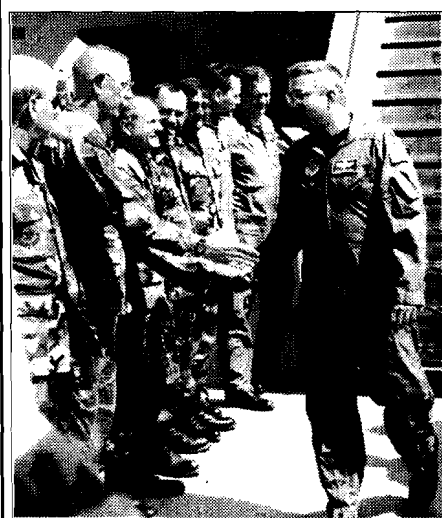
"This was the biggest test of the existing checklists, and why we needed to improve them," said Lorenz. Like her counterparts, Lorenz was proud of the work that she was able to accomplish for the mission. "I didn't drop bombs, and I didn't refuel air craft,

that focus must shift for a period of time to family and civilian careers. We all will closely monitor the ramp up and with your input gauge it in such a way as to give everyone time for recuperation. In some cases it may even require a close look at the definition of "normal operations." In this process of defining our future, I rely on each and every one of you to offer your opinion as you see fit. This program is and shall always be a composite of ARTs, reservists, and civilians working together for a common goal and mission.

Having been one of the, shall we say, long in the tooth types that was involved in the activation during DESERT STORM, I have the opportunity to make a comparison. The issue I wish to highlight is that of unit contact with the deployed members and the families remaining back home. I can't tell you how much it meant to me to be able to call the CAT and have one of our people answer the phone no matter what the time of day or night. The ability to make that contact and not have to talk to a stranger made all the difference. That quick phone patch to home made the CAT the link to our life back here. The information letters to the deployed members and the families were also great. I know I speak for everyone in saying thank you for all the late and long

hours to make that possible.

I look forward to walking around the various duty areas in the next few days to talk to you all. On this UTA I am also having a Commander's Call. I have lots of information to pass on and I hope that you use this time to ask any and all questions you may have for me. I am also excited about this UTA's Family Day. I look forward to meeting and thanking your families personally. See you then.



Staff Sgt. David Brumley, Public Affairs

Col. Dean Despinoy thanks members of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, for their support during Operation Northern Watch

hours to make that possible.

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Col. Dean Despinoy, 931st Air Refueling Group commander was the last member to return home on July 17. Col. Despinoy's return completed the homecoming for all 931st members activated under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-Up (PSRC).

Kanza Spirit

Volume 4, No. 8

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931st Commander
Col. Dean Despinoy

Chief, Public Affairs
Capt. Dave Fruck

NCOIC, Public Affairs
Vacant

Editor
Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. David Brumley

Spirit Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Reisch, Com/Nav, 931st AGS

From: *New York, NY*

Civilian Position: *Avionics Tech, Learjet*

Favorite Food: *Pie*

Favorite Music: *Rock n' Roll and Heavy Metal*

Favorite Movie: *"Alien" series*

Hobbies: *Model building and working on my '65' stang*

Ideal Vacation: *European vacation*

Best Way to Relax: *Watching TV with a beer*

Pet Peeve: *Not having any good pie at the Learjet cafeteria*



Staff Sgt. David Brumley, Public Affairs

What would you do with \$1 Million: *Take flying lessons and take a long vacation*

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.

See Personnel, page 4

UTA Schedule

Aug.	14-15
Sep.	18-19
Oct.	16-17

Chapel Service
 UTA Sundays, 0745-0815
 Bldg. 850, upstairs conference room
 Maj. Charles Peters, Chaplain
Everyone is Welcome!

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

FROM THE IG

Primary IG: LtCol Ralph Rissmiller
Bldg 850, Rm 244 652-3684/743-3684
Alternate IG: LtCol Ron Johnston
Bldg 850, Rm 146 652-3812/743-3812

Where do I go for help?

Have you ever been faced with a problem or needed an answer to a question and did not know where to go for help?

In an ideal world, every problem would be solvable at the lowest level in the chain-of-command. Your immediate supervisor would always have the answer or be able to direct you to the appropriate agency for help. In the real world, however we know that it does not always work that way. In spite of our best intentions, there are times that, for a variety of reasons, we cannot resolve the issue at the individual/supervisor level.

There are other avenues to pursue in such cases, including taking the issue up the chain-of-command or contacting the IG. Whether you are considering filing a formal complaint or just need help resolving an issue, we can be of help.

The first thing we will do is determine whether your issue belongs in the IG system or should be worked through other channels first. AFI 90-301 specifies that before the IG becomes involved in an issue, any other existing avenues of redress or appeal must first be pursued.

If you are not sure where your particular problem rightly belongs, talk to us about it. We will work with you to determine the most appropriate avenue to pursue to get a timely resolution to your issue.

931st ARG on the WWW...
w3.afrc.af.mil/units/931aw

NEWCOMERS



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Top photo: Senior Airman Craig Steier, 931st CES; Senior Airman Christopher Coleman, 931st CES.

Bottom photo: Staff Sgt. Scott Edwards, 931st MSF; Staff Sgt. Michael Dusinger, 931st AGS.

Personnel *continued from page 3*

HUMAN RESOURCE 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. The next meeting will be in September.

MPF IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The MPF is closed each Sunday of the UTA from 0800 - 1000 for In-House training. Classes are held in the TNET room (217), and all administrative personnel (3A0X1 and 3S0X1) are welcome to attend.

GET THOSE WALKING SHOES OUT!!!!

Reminder: Everyone **must** complete their fitness test by the end of October. With the new guidance, we can no longer excuse someone from the test because they are TDY -- unless they are TDY for the entire year. Ask your Fitness Managers for dates

and times.

UTA TESTING

Due to the picnic on Sunday August 15, CDC testing has been moved to Saturday August 14. It will be held at 1300 in the Southwind Conference room (upstairs).

UNIFORM TIP

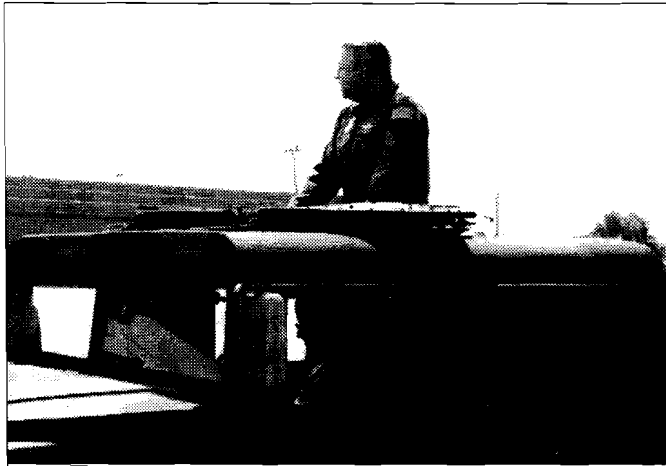
The wear of satin oxidized and highly polished miniature and regular size occupational, duty and aeronautical badges with matching accouterments have been extended to 1 Oct 00.

PROMOTIONS

The following individuals were promoted to rank indicated below effective 1 Jul 99: Travis Potter, Senior Airman, 931st CES; Douglas Tautenhahn, Staff Sgt., 931st AGS; Christopher Hurt, Technical Sgt., 931st AGS; Arthur Shamburger, Technical Sgt., 931st AGS; Bryan King, Master Sgt., 18th ARS; and Dale Schaffer, Master Sgt., 931st AGS.



Last 931st ARG deployed members welcomed home



All photos by
Staff Sgt. David Brumley

Study recommends greater use of reserve forces

WASHINGTON - Creating more associate units and evaluating the transfer of more active-duty bombers and fighters are among the suggestions made by the Reserve Component Employment 2005 Study announced July 22.

RCE-05, a one-year, Department of Defense-wide collaborative effort, formulated recommendations to Secretary of Defense William Cohen for new and better ways to employ reserve forces and foster Total Force integration.

"The RCE-05 study is an important step in an ongoing and rigorous process of identifying new and better ways of using the reserve components," said Charles L. Cragin, acting assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "Both the study itself and its follow-on recommendations will significantly enhance Secretary Cohen's efforts to build a fully integrated Total Force that is able to respond to a wide range of missions well into the next century."

The reserve components consist of the Marine Corps Reserve, Naval Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, and Air National Guard. AFRC and ANG constitute the Air Force's air reserve components.

Within the Air Force, the study examined whether it would be useful to establish a certain number of associate program squadrons comprised of reservists to fill shortages in O/A-10, F-16, and F-15C squadrons so that those units would be fully staffed in wartime. Under the associate program structure, reservists and their active-duty counterparts serve together maintaining and flying the same aircraft.

The study recommends evaluating the feasibility of transferring one squadron of B-52 aircraft and one squadron of B-1B aircraft from the active force to the air reserve components as a means of cutting costs and reducing the current active-duty pilot shortage. This follow-on study would examine, at a minimum, the operational impacts, and basing and conversion costs associated with the transfer of the aircraft and their missions.

The Reserve currently has a B-52 squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and the Guard has a B-1B wing at Robins AFB, Ga.

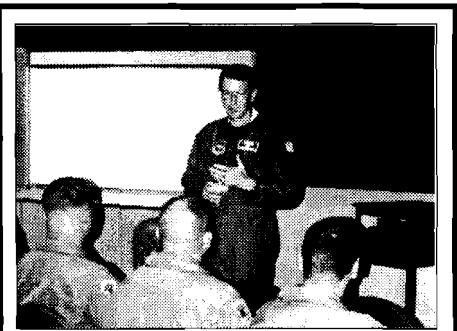
The study also considered whether converting one active-duty fighter wing equivalent to the reserve components would enhance the U.S. ability to respond effectively during a major theater war. Since such a conversion might worsen the active force's operational tempo and would incur substantial near-term costs, the study recommended a study to examine the costs and benefits of this conversion in more detail.

In examining the role of the Reserve components in the future, the RCE-05 study focused on three areas: homeland defense, smaller-scale contingencies and major theater wars. In each area, the study reviewed several different initiatives, and for each one either recommended a near- or mid-term action, or determined that the particular initiative did not merit implementation in the foreseeable future.

To further explore how the reserve components could contribute to the homeland defense mission and to capitalize on existing skills within the Reserves; the study examined the costs and benefits of developing of a joint virtual information operations organization. The mission of the 400-person unit would be information operations and information assurance.

Another initiative looked at lifting the 180-day limit requirement. Title 10, United States Code, Section 115(d)(6), states that volunteer reservists who have been on active duty for more than 180 days must be counted against the active military end-strength levels, which are set by law. The military services must sometimes disrupt mission performance to avoid violating the congressional end-strength authorizations. Lifting this restriction would permit greater and more effective use of reservists, particularly in cases where they are providing tempo relief for active-duty people.

The study supports the proposal in the DOD Fiscal Year 2000 Omnibus to modify



Any questions?

General Charles T. "Tony" Robertson Jr., commander, Air Mobility Command, talks to members of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron during his visit to McConnell Air Force Base on July 13.

Gen. Robertson received a mission briefing and held a question and answer session with reservists who were activated in support of Operation Allied Forces.

this legislation. The modification would allow reservists to serve for 181 days or more as long as the total number of reservists on active duty does not exceed .2 percent of the authorized active-duty end strength.

The study also reviewed commander-in-chief rotational timeline restrictions for contingency operations. U.S. Central Command requires individual reservists to serve at least 120 days and allows reserve units to perform a minimum of 90 days but prefers that units pull 120 to 179-day rotations. U.S. European Command requires individuals to serve in 90-day rotations, while reserve units must put in a minimum of 29 days. The study examined whether shortening the required number of rotation day would facilitate increased reserve participation in smaller-scale contingency operations such as the Stabilization Force in Bosnia.

The study included participants from the active, reserve and National Guard components of the services and representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the unified commands. (AFRC News Service from a DOD news release)



931st Air Refueling Group Employer Appreciation Day, October 16

Employer Nomination Form

Reservists, we need your help. Here's your chance to let your boss see what you do in your military jobs and for them to understand the mission of the 931st ARG and the Air Force Reserve. Your boss will be invited to visit the group on Saturday, October 16, 1999. They'll get a mission briefing, find out about the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, visit your work center, have lunch and fly aboard a KC-135.

Reservists are required to be on duty status, in uniform, pay for their own lunch and provide a tour of their work centers and units.

Please complete the form below if you would like your civilian supervisor to participate. Priority will go to employers who haven't participated in previous employer events with the 931st. This form is for 931 ARG/PA use only.

Fill out and mail this form to 931 ARG/PA, 53280 Topeka Street, Suite 221, McConnell AFB, Kan., 67221-3723, or drop it off in the PA office on the second floor of the headquarters building by the end of the September UTA. You can also fax the form to (316) 652-3393.

Don't pass up this opportunity to play host to your employers and give them a taste of what the Air Force Reserve is all about.

YOUR NAME _____

RANK _____ SQUADRON _____

PHONE NUMBER() _____

YOUR EMPLOYER'S NAME _____

TITLE _____

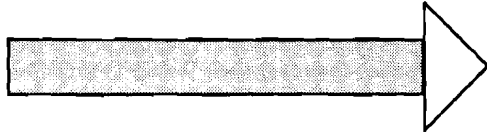
COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER() _____

Completion of this form is completely voluntary. Your cooperation is appreciated.



WICHITA WEEKEND

IN TOWN

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ON BASE

Friday, August 13

National Baseball Congress Tournament -- NBC Logo Ball Giveaway Night. Lawrence Dumont Stadium. Game times to be determined. Call 267-3372 for details

Saturday, August 14

Sinbad Comedy Concert -- 8 p.m. at Century II Convention Hall, 225 W Douglas. Tickets are \$21.75 to \$32.50 at Central Ticket Agency and all Select-A-Seat outlets.

Old Cowtown's Casino Night -- Old Cowtown's annual fundraiser. 1871 W. Sim Park Drive. Call 264-0671 for more information.

Old Town Scoops Festival -- Noon to 5 p.m., Farm and Art Market, 835 E. 1st Street. All the ice cream you can eat. Call 838-9474 for more information.

Sunday, August 15

Cody's Big Sky Concert -- Cody's Big Sky, 818 E. Douglas. Featuring Room Full of Walters, OPhil and 1/2 Mad Poets. \$3 for 21 and over, \$5 for under 21.

NBC Tournament -- TBD Call 267-3372.

WICHITA Movies

All Movies \$2.00; All times 7 p.m.; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 13 -- STAR WARS EPISODE 1 -- (Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor); In Episode 1, Darth Vader is a nine year old boy named Anakin Skywalker who pursues his dreams and confronts his deepest fears in the midst of a galaxy in political turmoil. **Rated PG** (*sci-fi action violence*), 131 minutes.

Saturday, August 14 -- THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER -- (John Travolta, Madeleine Stowe); Warrant Officer Paul Brenner is a CIO investigator with the power to arrest any military person. He's been called in to investigate the murder of Captain Elisabeth Campbell, the daughter of a famous general. What he uncovers is a sordid secret that makes murder suspects of some of the Army's finest. **Rated R** (*graphic images relating to sexual violence including rape scene, some perverse sexuality, nudity and language*), 115 minutes.

Sunday, August 15 -- SUMMER OF SAM -- (John Leguizamo, Adrien Brody); New York City's infamous summer of 1977 was one of the hottest summers on record and produced the city's finest serial killer, whom the tabloids quickly dubber "Son of Sam." With the media playing an integral role in creating mass fear and paranoia, the whole city becomes a hotbed of trepidation and panic, captivating not on New York byt the entire world. **Rated R** (*strong graphic violence, sexuality, pervasive strong language and drug use*), 142 minutes.

LIVE THEATRE

Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre

"A Grand Night For Singing" through August 15th

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.

931st Air Refueling Group
Public Affairs Office
McConnell AFB, Kan. 67221