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Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

931st CES trains at Silver Flag exercise

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman
931st Public Affairs

TYNDALL AFB, Fla. — A training cadre looked across a tattered flight line at a chat-filled haze created by graters, bulldozers and other heavy equipment. About 30 civil engineers waged a desperate battle to patch a bombed out section of runway in time for incoming aircraft to land.

"I don't think they're going to make it," the cadre said, motioning to the civil engineers working feverishly in a stifling morning heat. "They've only got three-and-a-half hours left

... they're still finishing the first crater.

"There's still three more holes to go."

Welcome to Silver Flag '98, an intense training environment for military civil engineers. About 30 members of the 931st Civil Engineering Squadron recently joined another reserve unit and one from the active duty Air Force for combat readiness training.

"Our mission here is to provide what we call Agile Combat Support Training," said Maj. James Byron, the commander of Detachment 1, 823rd

See Flag page 6



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman/Spirit

Dust flies as an unidentified member of the 931st CES attempts to smooth out rocks to fill in a crater on the Silver Flag exercise flight line.

Rodeo ready



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman/Spirit

Staff Sgt. Al Ryder checks an engine on the KC-135 that the 931st ARG will take to the Rodeo at McChord AFB, Wash. in June. See page 6 for a list of rodeo team members.

Input, ideas wanted for table honoring enlisted force, 931st

In honor of the Year of the Enlisted Force and the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Reserve, enlisted members of the 931st ARG are collecting items to display on a special table. The table will be permanently displayed at the Emerald City enlisted club.

The table, which is currently being stored at the 931st CES building, will display historical memorabilia from the past 50 years of the Air Force. General themes to be displayed in the enclosed glass table could include unit history, women in the military, MIAs and POWs and other sig-

nificant Air Force events involving enlisted personnel.

Your ideas and memorabilia are needed to complete this special project. The table is tentatively scheduled for dedication during the September UTA, but memorabilia and your input is needed now to make this project a complete success.

For input, questions or to donate memorabilia, contact one of the following: Master Sgt. Lloyd Thompson or Noah Ordyne (CES), Dianne Hiebert (18th ARS), Randy Brown, Brian Bowman or Chief Billy Meade (ARG).

Help us to help you

By Col. Dean J. Despinoy
931st ARG commander

Volunteering is a big success. Reservists are performing duty today that in the past would have only been performed after a "call up". They volunteer for all types of duty in the United States and in foreign countries. This fact gives the military a great deal of flexibility but it also puts pressure on the unit to properly track all assigned personnel.

I review data weekly during my staff meeting that tells me where all the people in the unit are currently assigned under orders. This information helps me and my staff to maintain situational awareness of world events, force protection, and 931st personnel. Prior to an individual departing CONUS you must receive intelligence as well as medical briefings for the area of your duty. Make sure that you feel completely prepared to go TDY before you step out the door. There is no greater priority for this Group than to make sure you have all the information you need to keep yourself safe

and productive while TDY.

When away don't forget your loved ones back home. Please make sure that they have the emergency phone numbers for the 931st and that they are aware of the period of your TDY. Many things can happen while you are gone, even if only for a short time. Many family members are unaware of the programs available to them when the member is performing duty. Often times they live a considerable distance from the unit and have not had an opportunity to make contacts with other members of the unit. This can quickly lead to a sense of being alone with no help in sight.

Four spouses from the 931st recently attended a Reserve Family Readiness conference. They will be publishing information in the Spirit about what was learned. The single most common complaint by the spouses represented was that they had no idea how to get information from the unit when the member was gone. Programs do exist in the 931st but we clearly need to get the word out. Your spouses will be receiv-



Col. Dean J. Despinoy

ing information from Family Readiness during the Family Day scheduled for July. We do need the help of the member. Make sure that you talk to your spouse prior to departure. Leave names and numbers of people at the unit that they can call. Make sure they have the information provided by the unit's family readiness. Make sure that they understand that no situation is too small or no question not important enough to call. Help us help you by making sure that you are ready to go TDY and that your family is ready as well.

Sherrard nominated to head AFRC; McIntosh to Joint Chiefs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard III has been nominated as the next chief of Air Force Reserve, replacing Maj. Gen. Robert A. McIntosh who becomes the first reserve assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Sherrard currently commands 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The chief of Air Force Reserve serves on the Air Staff as principal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff on Reserve matters. The

Pentagon post is a dual-hat assignment as commander of Air Force Reserve Command with headquarters at Robins.

McIntosh remains in Washington, D.C., to be one of two full-time reserve component advisers to the JCS chairman. Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Michael W. Davidson will represent the Guard. The Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act established both positions, which are two-year tours that may be extended for an additional term.

Visit our webpage at www.mcconnell.af.mil/931/931.htm

Kanza Spirit

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931st Commander
Col. Dean Despinoy

Chief, Public Affairs
Capt. Dave Fruck

NCOIC, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Editor
Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. David Brumley

SPiRiT Spotlight

Name: Shaun T. Hoobler
Rank: Staff Sergeant
From: Topeka, KS
Unit: 931st CES
Duty Title: Electrician
Civilian Position: Student pursuing electrical engineering degree at the University of Kansas.
Favorite Food: Steaks from Outback Steakhouse
Favorite Music: Country and Pop
Favorite Movie: Animal House
Hobbies: Mountain biking
Ideal vacation: Mountain biking and canoeing with my family.
Best Way to Relax: Mountain bike ride through wooded hillside
Pet Peeve: Items protruding from BDU pockets
What would you do with \$1 million?: Pay off my house and build a college school fund for my son.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman/Spirit

Staff Sgt. Hoobler

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

1998 GEICO MILITARY SERVICE AWARDS

Nominations for the 1998 Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) Military Service Award are now being accepted. The timeframe for this award is 1

Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98. This award recognizes members from all military branches for contributions to military or private sector communities in any of one of the three following areas:

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention
 Fire Prevention and Fire Safety
 Traffic Safety and Traffic Accident Prevention

Further information regarding nomination format and procedures can be obtained at the MPF Career Enhancement office. Nominations are due to this office not later than 13 Sep 98.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL (HSM)

The HSM has been approved for the following special operations:

JOINT TASK FORCE KENYA and
 OPERATION NOBLE RESPONSE
 (21 Jan 98 – 25 Mar 98)

LAOTIAN DEMINING OPERATION
 (1 Oct 95 – 30 Sep 96)

INDONESIAN FOREST FIRE RELIEF

See Personnel, page 4

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 one their area recruiters listed below:

MCCONNELL AFB, KS
 MSgt Torry Gosh (316) 652-4350
 MSgt Lester Shaw, Jr. (316) 652-3786

TINKER & VANCE AFB, OK
 MSgt AJ Garza (405) 734-5331

ALTUS AFB, OK & LAWTON, OK
 MSgt Larry Giles (405) 357-2784

SHEPPARD AFB, TX
 MSgt Bob Wright (817) 676-3382

MIDWEST CITY, OK
 MSgt Linda Smith
 TSgt Erick Glick
 (405) 733-9403

Fitness walk reminder: Anyone wishing to perform their fitness walk for this training year can do so during any upcoming UTA. See Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis, x3703, for details.

UTA Schedule for

June	6-7
July	18-19
Aug.	22-23
Sept.	12-13

Personnel *cont. from pg. 3*

OPERATION

(17 Oct 97 - 4 Dec 97)

Stop by the MPF, Career Enhancement office for further eligibility criteria.

AMN/NCO of the Quarter

Packages for the AMN/NCO of the Quarter, Apr - Jun 98, are due to the Senior Enlisted Advisor not later than 7 Jun 98. Board will be held on 18 Jul, at 1400 hours in the Group conference room.

PEP TIME

PEP (Promotion Enhancement Program) is just around the corner. Packages are due to the MPF, Career Enhancement officer NLT 19 Jul 98. Guidelines and submission requirements can be found in Career Enhancement.

Outprocessing Hours

If you, or any unit member you know, needs to outprocess for TDY, reassignment, or retirement, please keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay section (Mrs Cecelia Hagen) is only open for business on Saturdays from 0730 to 1300 hours. Thinking ahead can insure that you do not have to come out during the week to finish your outprocessing. For further information contact TSgt Thelma Herrera in Relocations at X-3637.

DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data Card (AFI 36-3002)

The primary purpose of the DD Form 93 is to list the next of kin to be notified in the event of a casualty situation. It is imperative the form be reviewed and / or updated immediately anytime information changes (i.e. new child, divorced, married,

name change, etc.) See your orderly room or Customer Service for assistance.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC)

The HRDC meets every Friday before the UTA at 1530 in the Southwind Conference Room. Anyone wishing to have an issue addressed to the council may forward it to their unit representative. Commanders and First Sergeants are always welcome to attend.

Fiscal 99 UTA Schedule

is listed below:

OCTOBER	17 & 18
JANUARY	9 & 10
APRIL	10 & 11
JULY	17 & 18
NOVEMBER	14 & 15 18
FEBRUARY	6 & 7
MAY	1 & 2
AUGUST	14 & 15
DECEMBER	5 & 6
MARCH	13 & 14
JUNE	12 & 13
SEPTEMBER	18 & 19

Community College of the Air Force: The following members received their Associate in Applied Science Degree from the Community College of the Air Force during graduation ceremonies on 11 May 98. CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done!! MSgt Alejandro Clemena; MSgt Alise W. Talley; MSgt Lea A. Shivley; SSgt Barbara L. Davis; TSgt Richard Clark; Ssgt Katherine Steiner.

CLEP & DANTE'S EXAMS: Did you know that Base Training has the ability to give these exams on the UTAs? We test on

Sunday at 1300 along with the ECI exams. Members wishing to take either a CLEP or DANTE'S exam must schedule the UTA prior to assure that the exam will be on hand. The base library has videos that may be checked out to help prepare members for the exam. Stop by Base Training for a complete list of available exams and study guides.

HRDC RESOURCE LIBRARY: The HRDC is please to announce the availability of our new resource lending library! We have videos, audio cassettes and reference books on a WIDE variety of topics. Stress Management, Interpersonal Communication Skills, Success through Positive Thinking, and Exceptional Customer Service are just a few of the subjects available. Base Training has a complete listing of resources and lending procedures. Please stop by and take a look, then take advantage of these wonderful self improvement tools.

GROUP WEIGH-IN: Group wide weigh-in will be on 6 June 1998. All individuals will be weighed and measured not later than 1000 hours on Saturday of the UTA.

FAMILY CARE PLANS: AFI 36-2907 states that all Air Force members will ensure their family members are provided for during their absence. Single parents, dual military couples with family members and members with civilian spouses who have unique family situations (as determined by the commander) MUST complete an AF Form 357, Family Care Certification. This program is a vital part of our READINESS process. Contact for First Sergeant or Family Care Plans Monitor for further information.

Intel briefs

Intelligence Oversight UCI Preparation

During the UCI each member may be asked about his or her knowledge of intelligence oversight (I.O.). Remember, Intelligence oversight points out that federal law prohibits the collection of information of possible intelligence value against U.S. persons. A U.S. person is defined as U.S. citizens, legal residents and businesses within the U.S. If you believe there is an IO violation you should report your suspicions to your supervisor or one the IO monitors listed below:

Intelligence Oversight Monitors

Primary: Maj. Steve Kett; Alternates: 1st Lt. Link Newton; Mas-

ter Sgt. Glenda Norris.

Remember — it is illegal to obtain and collect information on a U.S. citizen.

UCI Preparation: Antiterrorism/Force Protection

Antiterrorism/Force Protection addresses the security of DoD personnel to include civilians and family members traveling OCONUS. Commanders are ultimately responsible for the protection of their personnel. The local OSI provides the level one training. Additionally, the following 6 members of the 931st are level one trainer

See Intel, page 6



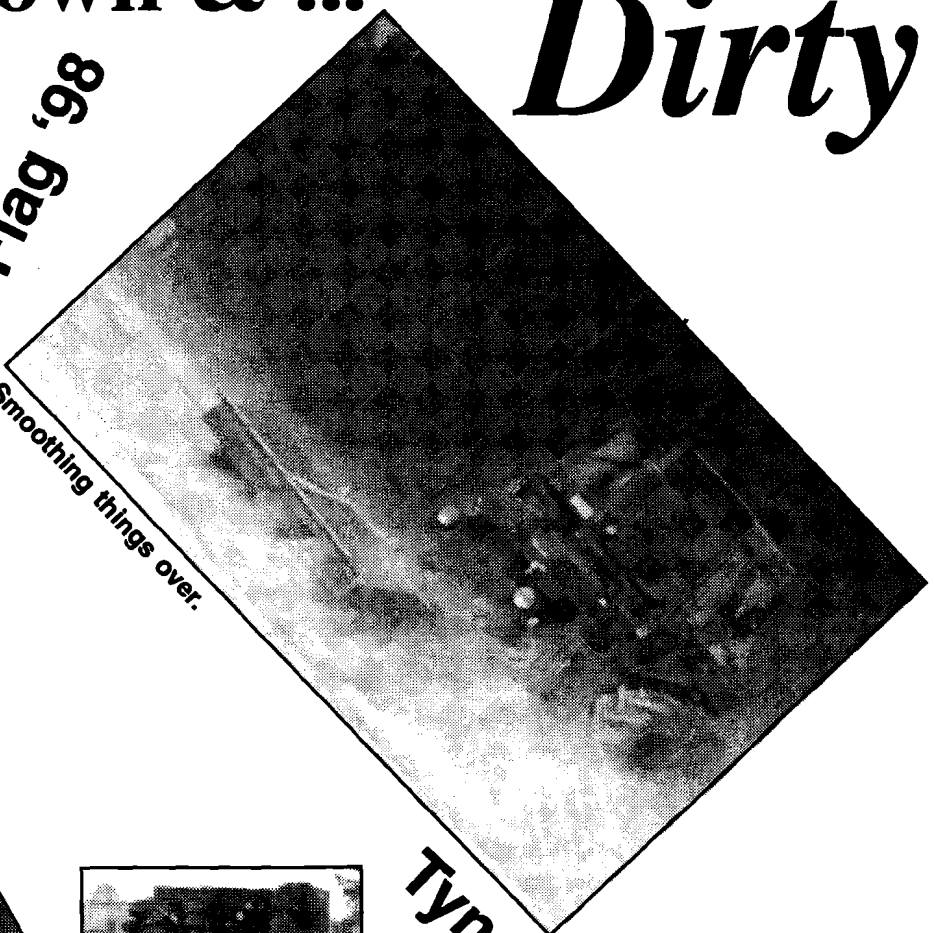
Down & ... *Dirty*

Silver Flag '98

Smoothing things over.



Tech. Sgt. Vero Palmer approaches a Red Flag cadre to discuss an issue on the "bombed out" flight line.



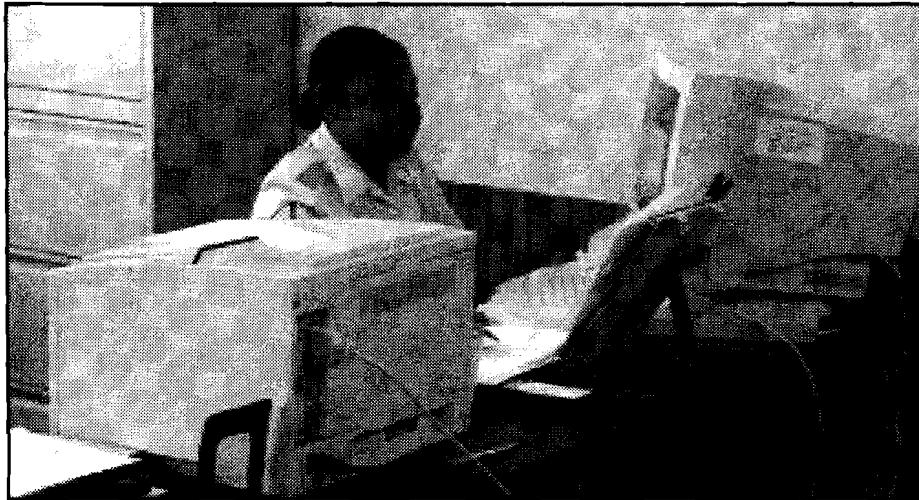
**Tyndall AFB, Fla.
3-9 May 98**



Clockwise from bottom left; Tech. Sgt. Noah Ordyne communicates in the command/control room; Senior Master Sgt. Steven White pulls a hose from its container; Staff Sgt. Shaun Hoobler and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Minard discuss electrical options near a generator; and Tech. Sgt. Gerald Janzen heads to the plane to fly home after completion of the exercise.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

The 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron began its move-in over the May UTA. The unit moved from its original location at building 1218 to its new location on the flight line at building 978.

Tech. Sgt. Allison Abbensetts works through the mess to get the job done. "I was really concerned about the move, but it all went really well," Abbensetts said.

Intel *cont. from pg. 4*
qualified:

Tech. Sgt. Mark Allen; Chief Master Sgt. Donald Askren; Senior Master Sgt. Tamera Askren; Maj. Anthony Gussman; Maj. Steven Kett; Maj. Terri Kett.

Rodeo team

Maj. Bill Hansel, Capt. Evan Fisher, Capt. William Eaton, Staff Sgt. Tonya Halenka, Staff Sgt. John Walman, Senior Master Sgt. Lloyd Campbell, Tech. Sgt. Mark Allen, Tech. Martin Curry, Staff Sgt. Mark McClard, Senior Airman Jeff Hicks, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Schier, Master Sgt. Eric Smith, Staff Sgt. Gil Romero, Staff Sgt. Al Ryder, Tech. Sgt. John Boulett.

Chatmon 4th AF NCO of the Year; finalist in AFRC

Tech. Sgt. Angela Chatmon, the NCOIC of customer support for the 931st Military Personnel Flight, was named the NCO of the Year by Fourth Air Force and was one of four finalists for Air Force Reserve NCO of the Year.

A ceremony for the four finalists was held recently in Washington D.C.

"I was shocked about winning the award," Chatmon said.

"It was honor just to make it as far as I did ... and a surprise."

Chatmon is a 10-year veteran of the Air Force Reserve. She plans on pursuing a commission after her graduation from KU.

Chatmon, who recently completed her junior year at the University of Kansas, plans to graduate next year with a degree in chemical engineering.

Chatmon joined the 931st in August 1995.



Chatmon

Flag

cont. from pg. 1

Red Horse Squadron. "It's what military engineers exist for ... this is not the day-to-day base operations, but the combat role."

The training brings different civil engineering units together for training with deployment equipment they don't have at their home stations. The engineers are tasked with setting up a complete working military camp and deal with other problems, such as the bombed out runway.

"The training is realistic," Maj. Kimberly Thompson, commander of the 931st CES, said. "For instance, we're tasked with a reverse-osmosis water purification system. If we want to drink water, we have to get it operating. If we want to eat, we have to get the kitchen up."

Cross training and task prioritization are at the heart of the exercise. Heavy equipment operators might find themselves helping lug water hoses. Generator operators with licenses to operate dump trucks might be on the flight line.

"Commanders have to decide what priorities are most important," Byron said, "and get those tasks done first."

Drinking water and fixing the flight line became top priorities. The flight line was particularly troublesome, as the engineers were tasked with fixing four huge craters on the runway in just a few hours. The scenario had aircraft landing at the site by 2 p.m., just a few hours after the exercise started.

The engineers proved the skeptical cadre wrong by finishing the job just minutes before the deadline.

"We went right up to (2 p.m.)," said Tech. Sgt. Vero Palmer, a heavy equipment operator for the 931st CES. "The cadre said we did it a lot quicker than most people who come down here."

Working with other units is also a major part of the training.

"When they deploy," Byron said, "that's how it will be. This is one Air Force training."

Byron added that the training is task-saturated.

"We don't expect them complete all the tasks we throw at them," he said. "They have to decide what's important and go from there."

The training started on a Monday, with task-familiarization courses that lasted three days. The exercise consumed the fourth day, with cleanup and an exercise review culminating the training on the fifth day. The Silver Flag site is some 20 miles from the main part of Tyndall Air Force base, so the units were housed in a tent city at the site.

Because of cost restraints, the Silver Flag site is the only place in the continental United States where engineers can train on certain deployable equipment. Byron said the cost of the water purification system, for example, is more than what one unit would spend to train at the site all week.

The units earn certification toward many of their "critical core" tasks by attending Silver Flag. Reserve units must rotate through Silver Flag once every three years.



931st Air Refueling Group Employer Appreciation Day, August 22

Employer Nomination Form

Reservists, we need your help. Here's your chance to let your boss see what you do in your military jobs, for them to understand the mission of the 931st ARG and the Air Force Reserve. They will be invited to visit the group on Saturday, August 22, 1998. They'll get a mission briefing, find out about the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, visit your workcenter, have lunch and fly aboard a KC-135.

Please complete the form below if you would like your civilian supervisor and company principal(president) to participate. 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 June 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 _____

COMPANY PRINCIPAL(PRESIDENT) _____

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

Air Force Reserve June History.....

June 1956 – Operation 16-Ton, the first Air Force Reserve by-product airlift operation, began. Air Force Reserve troop carrier units moved Coast Guard long-range navigational equipment from Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, N.Y. to various points in the Caribbean. The operation ended in September 1956.

June 9, 1978 – The 507th Tactical Fighter Group deployed 18 F-105s and more than 400 support personnel from Tinker

AFB, Okla., to Royal Air Force Sculthorpe, United Kingdom. They returned to Tinker June 24.

June 1991 – Reserve aircrews participated in Operation Fiery Vigil by assisting in the evacuation of those fleeing from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo near Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Reserve volunteers also provided assistance when McChord AFB, Wash., became a processing area and the largest group of personnel, nearly 13,000, arrived from the Philippines.



From the Safety Office

931st ARG Ground Safety Advisory part of "101 Critical Days" Program

101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

Summer in Kansas...this phrase conjures up images of sunshine, barbecues, volleyball, swimming, fun and games. Summer is the time to take advantage of good weather and to take a break from the often relentless pace of being in the Air Force Reserves these days.

And well we should stand back from the pressures of the mission for just a few moments to relax with family, friends, or maybe just camaraderie among unit members.

But...as is so often the case, behind the pleasant imagery of this fun in the sun scene lurk many hazards; some are minor, others catastrophic. Last summer, we (AFRC) experienced numerous mishap injuries that happened during the 101 Critical Days of Summer. I bet you did not know that off duty stuff can come under the Operational Risk Management (ORM) concept just as on-duty operations do. So as we plan these summer events, we should rely on the same process we use to conduct our military operations...Risk Management.

IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS

Lets look at the hazards associated with a simple summer day picnic:

Weather (heat, thunderstorms, wind, humidity).

Location (near water, desert, forest, urban).

Wildlife (bugs, snakes, poisonous plants, other friendly critters).

Activities (water activities, sports, mountain climbing, games).

Attendees (military, family members,

children, open to the public).

Menu (barbecue, store-bought, cooked on site, refrigeration, alcohol).

Many others, situation-dependent.

ASSESS THE RISK

Then assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss and severity:

Injury/damage due to severe weather, sunburn, etc.

Incidents involving water, dehydration, heat injuries, POVs, etc.

Animal bites, insect-borne diseases, skin irritations, bothersome pests.

Drownings, sprains, broken bones, overexertion, slips/trips/falls, etc.

Relative health of attendees, allergic reactions.

Food poisoning, barbecue burns, flammable liquids, increased susceptibility to heat injury due to alcohol consumption.

ANALYZE RISK CONTROL MEASURES

Once you have identified your hazards and assessed the associated risk, you should decide on some controls which can be employed to reduce or mitigate the hazards:

Start with a good, thorough **safety brief** to all participants. (You know how your spouse and kids enjoy your safety briefings)

Check the weather and plan accordingly. Don't take chances with summer thunderstorms. Plan for shady areas and cover in case of inclement weather. Encourage (insist on) the use of suntan lotion and hats.

Make sure **people** don't wander off into the water, woods or the desert.

Use insect repellent. Know what local critters may be encountered and

what to do if one shows up...talk to the medical folks.

Ensure sports are played by the rules and are **supervised**.

If alcoholic beverages are present (and they usually are), **watch drinkers** for signs of overindulgence.

Watch young children closely.

Consider elderly people or anyone with known pre-existing medical conditions.

Know the **rules of safe barbecuing** and follow them. Have a fire extinguisher handy.

Be careful of food, particularly meats; ensure they are continuously refrigerated prior to cooking, and that they are cooked thoroughly. Pre-cook chicken if possible.

MAKE CONTROL DECISIONS

Accept the risk, avoid the risk, reduce the risk, or spread the risk. Do not make dumb decisions.

RISK CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION

Once you select appropriate controls, use them!! A plan is only good if it is followed.

SUPERVISE AND REVIEW

As always, the situation is subject to change quickly. Monitor the situation and adjust the controls as necessary to keep things under control. Summer is a great time to have fun, and we all (me too) deserve a break every now and then. From now on, use risk management to make your summer fun memorable, and safe. No one wants a summer outing to turn into a tragedy...again.

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