

Dining Out history
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Flying the boss
Spotlight, Pg. 4



Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

North ... the rush is on



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Tech. Sgt. Linwood Cottner, left, and Cpt. Robert Silvia check over the aircraft before a mission at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Ala.

18th crew overcomes obstacles during Elmendorf effort

By Staff Sgt. David Brumley
931st Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AFB, Ala. -- "North to Alaska, going north, the rush is on ..." That's how the song of many years ago celebrated the Alaskan gold rush of the late 1800's.

The rush to Alaska for the 18th Air Refueling Squadron was rush to provide refueling support to the 944th Fighter Wing, stationed at Luke Air Force Base Arizona, during a recent mission at Elmendorf.

The 18th ARS was involved with a business effort at Elmendorf in August. Midway through they switched out a majority of their crew.

"A business effort is when we support another units training by providing refueling," said Maj. Matt Archer, flight commander for the 18th ARS.

During the second week of the effort the 18th was faced with many challenges, but were able to overcome them and still perform its mission in a professional manner. The crew was assigned to new billeting that didn't have phones in the rooms yet, creating communications obstacles that forced members to find new ways to complete their mission.

"Usually the obstacles are weather and operational limitations, but here we also had to overcome communication problems," Archer said. "I think because it was such a large operation it caught the base a little by surprise and created a need for flexibility and understanding."

See related story, page 6

Typically when a crew goes on temporary duty, they have to coordinate with numerous base agencies in order to get proper support for the aircraft and the mission. Some of the numerous support agencies are transportation, maintenance, fuels, base operations, scheduling and the unit they are refueling. All of these are usually a phone call away from their rooms.

During this TDY, however, they had to become great improvisers in order to ensure they could still coordinate with each unit and perform the mission. The crewmembers were able to utilize cellular phones and radio communications in order to overcome the setbacks.

"Everyone performed outstanding," Archer said. "We backed everyone up."

See 18th ARS on page 8

Who started this?

By Col. Dean J. Despinoy
931st ARG commander

Since the October UTA will also include our Dining-Out, I thought it would be appropriate to talk about some of the traditions surrounding the event. The custom of the Dining-In is a very old tradition but is not exclusively military.

The tradition can be traced back to the earliest warriors with the pre-Christian Roman Legions probably beginning the Dining-In tradition. Roman and Viking warriors transplanted the tradition to ancient England. King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table practiced a form of the Dining-In in the sixth century.

The tradition eventually spread to non-military groups. The Monks, who followed a more, rigid regimen, had their form of a Dining-In in the monasteries, where their celebrations of life and fellowship slowly spread to early universities, and eventually to military units when the open mess was established.

As the fledgling Continental Army was being formed in our country, certain modified British customs and traditions were adopted by George Washington's officers. Later, contact with the British Air Forces and the British Dining-Ins during World War II, and the Wing Dings of General H.H. (Hap) Arnold resulted in the practice of the Dining-In in our Air Force.

Since World War II the Dining-In has expanded into a relatively new custom known as the Dining-Out. The Dining-Out provides

for all service members including spouses or guests to participate in a formal military function, and recognize the vast contributions they make to the organization. It was noted early on that these occasions provide ceremony, tradition, and good fellowship.

There are several time honored ceremonial aspects contributing to the unique military character of the event. Examples include the ringing of the dinner chimes, the POW/MIA ceremony, toasting, and the grog bowl.

The custom of toasting is universal, and thought to stem from an ancient practice of placing charred toast crumbs in wine to absorb and poison, or possibly, just to improve the taste of poor vintages. An alternate explanation attributes the custom to unknown ancient adversaries, who simultaneously drink wine from the same source to signify faith. With this foundation laid, discussions took place on a more trusting basis.

Today, toasting is a simple courtesy to the person honored. It should also be noted that it is not necessary to drain the glass at the completion of each toast, for a mere touch of the glass to the lips satisfies the ceremonial intent.

As most of you know I had a stint in the Navy and wouldn't you know that the tradition of the grog comes from the British Royal Navy. Admiral Edward Vernon (1684-1757) of the British Royal Navy would have his men drink a rather foul-tasting mixture of rum and water for absolution of minor violations of the rules. The Admiral always wore a cape of grogram, which



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman/Spirit

Col. Dean Despinoy briefs employers at the annual Bosses' Day Lift in August.

is a course, often stiffened, fabric of silk, mohair, and wool. Because of this cape, the Admiral was affectionately called "Old Grog", by his men. It was only logical that the foul tasting drink the Admiral gave his men was called "grog".

This year's Dining-Out promises to be very special with an exciting line up of entertainment, community guests, knowledgeable speaker, and fun. Hope to see you all there, carrying on the traditions of the ages.

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

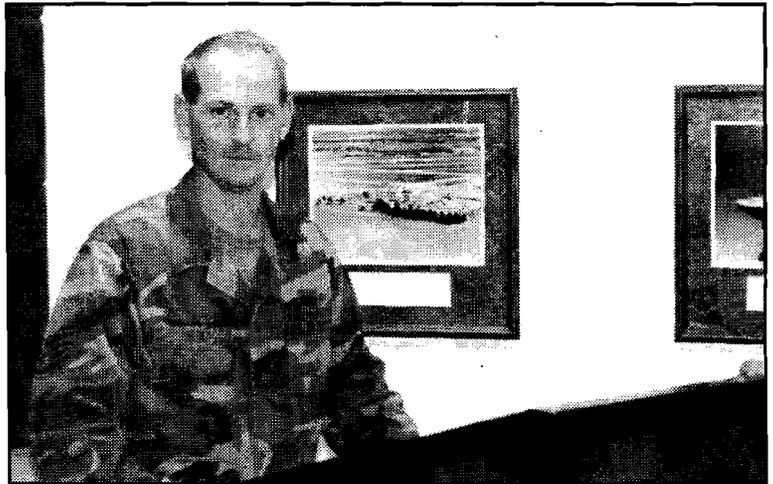
NCOIC, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Editor
Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. David Brumley

SPIRIT Spotlight

Name: Russ Hunt
Rank: Staff Sergeant
From: Wellington, KS
Unit: 931st ARG, Intel
Duty Title: Acting Superintendent
Civilian Position: graduate student
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite Music: Garth Brooks
Favorite Movie: The Right Stuff
Hobbies: Playing the piano
Ideal vacation: Las Vegas
Typical relaxation: Reading
Pet Peeve: People who are always late
What would you do with \$1 million?: Pay off the farm, invest the rest.



Hunt

Personnel News....

Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the MPPF 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 that you do not have to come out during the week to finish your out processing. For further information contact TSgt Thelma Herrera in Relocations at X-3637.

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 their unit representative. Commanders and First Sergeants are welcome to attend.

ENLISTED PME OPPORTUNITIES

NCO Academy (in-residence) dates are available. This year our quotas are at Tyndall AFB, Florida, versus Goodfellow AFB, Texas. Class dates are: **99-2** on 4 Jan - 11 Feb 99; **99-4** on 20 Apr - 27 May 99; **99-5** 21 Jun - 29 Jul 99; and **99-6** 2 Aug - 9 Sep 99. Members need to complete an AFRC Form 129 (available in Training) to request the class. Slots will be confirmed on a "first come, first serve" basis. If we end up with more applicants than quotas, however, we will request "out of cycle" quotas.

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 one their area recruiters listed below:

MCCONNELL AFB, KS
MSgt Terry Gosh (316) 852-4350
MSgt Lester Shaw, Jr. (316) 652-3786

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

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

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

MIDWEST CITY, OK
MSgt Linda Smith
TSgt Erick Glick
(405) 733-8403

UTA Schedule for

Sept.	12-13
Oct.	17-18
Nov.	14-15
Dec.	5-6
Jan.	5-6
Feb.	6-7
March	13-14

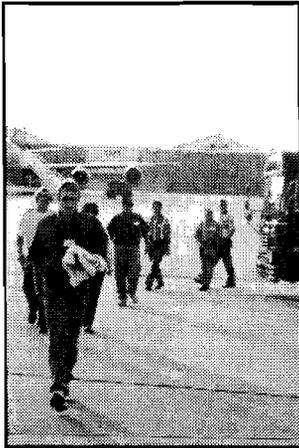
931st ARG Bosses' Day, 1998



At left, Kirk Wycoff, Tech Sgt. Ken Girty and Paul Porter watch others in the boom pod as Wycoff and Porter wait their turn to watch the refueling mission.



Marvin Hoover shoots over Staff Sgt. Dennis Struve shoulder as he operates the boom.



Heading to the aircraft.



Col. Dean Despinoy, Lt. Col. Ellis Yoder and Col. Mario Goico enjoy lunch with a Boeing employee, invited by fellow Boeing employee Goico.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Electronic Age changing, empowering IM

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Today's electronic office environment has substantially and, some contend, irrevocably changed the responsibilities of every military member and civilian in the Air Force.

These changes have been a natural outgrowth of increasing dependence on computers, software and networks in day-to-day operations. They directly translate into new roles and responsibilities for information management people, according to Chief Master Sgt. Dan Toma, Air Force career field manager for information managers.

Five years ago, an information manager's primary job was to prepare, transmit, safeguard and store letters, messages, publications, performance reports and decorations. Today, software tools have moved many of these tasks, formerly performed by information managers, to the user's keyboard. Formatting, transmission and storage of information are now a keystroke or mouse click in an office automation application.

This has freed information managers to focus on the larger picture of integrating information technology with information requirements. Toma said this created smooth flowing and customer-responsive information support to Air Forces offices.

"We must continue to focus our attention on the information

life-cycle ... creation, access, use, collection, dissemination, maintenance and disposal of information in any medium," he said. "It's extremely important that we do this — it makes sense, and it's the law."

The Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 are aimed at reducing the burden of information collection and promoting greater sharing of information resources. These acts are built on the premise that less paper, coupled with the effective use of information technology, will produce greater efficiency in government agencies.

"Our information managers are the key to ensuring that the Air Force achieves these goals," Toma said. "This has also added new responsibilities to their repertoire, such as workgroup administration and workgroup management duties, which encompass managing the customer's link to network services via the desktop computer."

Since the focus of workgroup administration is desktop and automated tools, information managers' duties now include desktop and network applications, such as the use of web pages and management of their development. Duties also include basic hardware

See IM page 5

4th Air Force returns to March

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – Who says you can't go home again? After more than 56 years, Headquarters 4th Air Force returned here Aug. 15 in a formal ceremony in front of the Riverside Municipal Museum.

The building that houses the museum was the original site of 4th Air Force before the start of World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, 4th Air Force's commander and key staff officers moved to Hamilton Field, and by the end of the week the entire headquarters staff had relocated to the unit's new home north of San Francisco.

To mark their return, Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Whaley, 4th Air Force commander, led some 200 members of his headquarters staff down Mission Inn Avenue to the museum. Members of the Band of the Air Force Reserve and a contingent of 37 military training instructors from 4th Air Force's 433rd Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, also took part in the pa-

rade. As bagpipe musicians played "God Bless America," they marched past saluting children and teary-eyed citizens.

"I'm extremely patriotic and came to the event to show support," said one citizen, dressed in red, white and blue. "The



Whaley

military uniform is important to us because it promotes awareness of the contributions those who wear it make to the country."

Over the years, 4th Air Force has experienced numerous changes in roles and missions. Today it is primarily responsible for Air Force Reserve

Command's C-5, C-141 and KC-10 units west of the Mississippi; the C-141 unit at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; the C-9 unit at Scott AFB, Ill.; and all of the Reserve's KC-135 units. All of these units would be gained by Air Mobility Command in the event of war or national emergency.

Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson, commander in chief of U.S. Transportation Command and AMC commander, was the reviewing official for the Aug. 15 parade and keynote speaker at the stand-up ceremony. Other dignitaries included Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, AFRC commander.

"I'm particularly proud of our Reserve forces today," said Robertson. "The real bottom line is that for 50 years you have proven able to adjust and adapt to the nation's needs. This morning, you have once again demonstrated your remarkable flexibility and resilience."

Fourth Air Force's most recent home, McClellan AFB in Sacramento, Calif., is scheduled to close as a military installation

in July 2001. Military officials elected to move the Reserve's numbered air force to March ARB, a decision favored by Whaley and the surrounding communities.

"The outstanding welcome we have been given by this com-



Smith

munity is unprecedented for us," said Whaley. "We look forward to working with community leaders, congressional officials and the citizens of the greater Riverside area to make this the nation's best military-community team." (AFRC News Service from a 4th Air Force news release)

IM *cont. from pg. 4*

and software installation, configuration management and first-level initial problem resolution.

To prepare information managers for these new responsibilities, the Air Force has incorporated workgroup administration training into the 3- and 7-level technical schools at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and the new career development courses for information managers.

While each 3A0X1 (information manager) receives workgroup administration training at Keesler and in their CDCs, there is another level of training called Workgroup Management, explained Toma. Each organization will designate one of its information managers as the workgroup manager. This person will receive more in-depth training on automated tools and processes in the modern office environment.

This training is now available at most Air Force bases in the form of computer-based instruction, and is required for certification as a workgroup manager. Since workgroup management training is more in-depth than basic workgroup administration, a major command or base may choose to train its information managers at

the workgroup management level to meet major command requirements.

When work required is beyond the capabilities of a workgroup manager, as the customer's link to the network they will coordinate with the organization's system administrator and the servicing network control center to find the proper solution.

"Assigning the information manager as the unit workgroup manager formalizes the important link between the user and the network control center," Toma said.

"Based on current and foreseeable trends in technology, the Air Force encourages all information managers to take this training even if they are not assigned as workgroup managers," Toma said. This added training is part of the Air Force's strategy of licensing network users and "professionalizing" network operations.

"So, the next time you want to know what an information manager does," Toma said, "just think of the information life-cycle: creation, access, use, collection, dissemination, maintenance and disposal of information in any medium. If it falls within these boundaries, the information manager should be involved."

For more information, contact the information management functional manager at your base or headquarters.

When the mission is complete ...

Elmendorf area offers outdoor adventures

By Staff Sgt. David Brumley
931st Public Affairs

ELMENDORF AFB, Ala. -- A short temporary duty to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Ala., can be quite an adventure -- even with a limited amount of time to visit the vast scenic sights that are afforded you.

Elmendorf is located just outside of Anchorage, Alaska's most populated city. From here there are many outdoor activities that are only a short drive away.

Many people are familiar with the great Salmon runs of the summer, when they come back from the ocean to the fresh water regions to spawn. These fish can be found as close as the Eagle River which is located just outside the Boniface gate. A fishing license and a pole can bring in your limit. There are also several lakes located on base for the part time fishermen to enjoy.

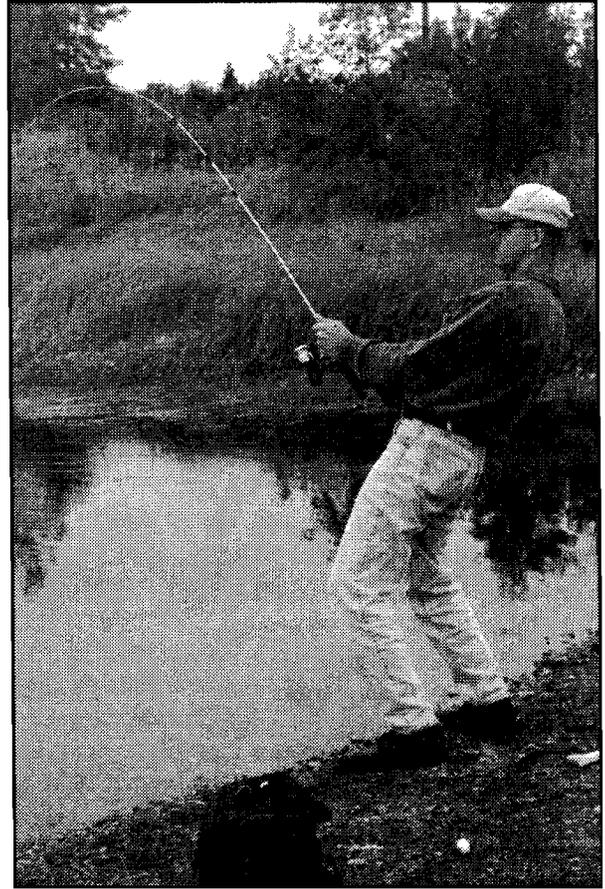
For those who are not into fishing, but are interested in some of the sights locally there are many other activities that can be seen in one day or less. The closest is Portage glacier outside a city called Portage about an hour drive south of Elmendorf. "There are nu-

merous hiking locations around the area," said Caryn Davis, travel clerk with 3rd Services Ticket and Tours office. "The Portage Glacier has receded back to the point that you have to take a tour boat out to see it. We sell the tickets here (tickets and tours) for \$22. There is a second glacier called Byron Glacier that you can take a short hike up to and is free of charge."

Alaska also has a drive through game park that is a between Portage and Alyeska Ski Resort. "The park has a large assortment of the different wildlife found in Alaska. You can either drive or walk through it," said Davis, "We have tickets for \$3."

During the winter months there are many ski resorts that are open. For those who are looking for something close with lively slopes the Alyeska Ski Resort is the perfect spot. "Alyeska is in Girdwood a few miles north of Portage," said Davis, "We usually have special prices on ski pass tickets during ski season it depends on Alyeska prices."

For additional information on these and other sights call the Elmendorf Ticket and Tours office at (905)753-2378.



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Senior Airman Joe Lively with a fish on the line at a pond at Elmendorf.

Reserve will be part of Expeditionary Force plan

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Reservists can expect to receive more advanced notice about possible deployments and continue to serve them on a rotational basis under the Air Force's new Expeditionary Aerospace Force restructuring plan.

Finding its Cold War structure inadequate to handle recent hot-spot contingencies, the Air Force is changing how it organizes and trains its forces to support regional unified commanders. By the year 2000, the new structure will reflect the kinds of forces and capabilities needed to deal with regional conditions. The EAF will also help to reduce the impact of today's high operations tempo for Air Force people by providing them with responsibilities spelled out a year

or more in advance.

Ten air expeditionary forces, made up of bluesuiters from active-duty major commands, Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard, will form the EAF. Each AEF will consist of fighters, bombers, tactical airlifters, air refuelers, and radar and electronic-warfare aircraft from the various major commands, Guard and Reserve.

"The expeditionary aerospace force is an evolutionary change for the Air Force," said F Whitten Peters, acting secretary of the Air Force. "It will affect the way we think and how we organize, train, equip and sustain aerospace forces. It will also allow us to meet the requirements of the national military strategy and the challenges of a chang-

ing global security environment."

Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan discussed the EAF during a news briefing Aug. 4.

In the briefing, Ryan said the Reserve commitment for a forward deployment could take the form of a "rainbow" unit, consisting of several aircraft, crews and support people from two or more units.

"We've done this before with C-130s and fighters in other instances," he said. "If we give the Guard and Reserve a long-lead notice, then their people can arrange with their schedule and their employers to be available when needed. They've done this in the past and say they can do it better in the fu-

See Force, page 8

Personnel *cont. from pg. 3*

Airman Leadership School has provided us our 3 class dates for FY'99. They are Class 99-B on 5 Nov - 11 Dec 98; 99-F on 31 May - 1 Jul 99, and 99-G on 27 Jul - 27 Aug 99. Interested SRA should contact Group Training for an application.

ID CARDS FOR THE FAMILY

Did you know spouses and unmarried children, 10-21 years of age can have a reserve dependent ID card?!?? Of course, it will be pretty in 'pink'.

Handicapped children over 21 years of age, and children in college, under age 23, are eligible for an identification card. Normally children under the age of 10 do not receive an ID card.

Children over the age of 10 must have an ID card to obtain medical care (with over 30 day orders) and gain access to the commissary, base exchange and certain other base facilities (MWR). Contact your Customer Service at X3593 for necessary documents (college, handicapped, etc) you must present to obtain an ID card. This will also ensure that your family is enrolled in DEERS when they receive an ID card.

RETIREMENT POINTS

The ANG/USAFR Point Credit Summary or Point Credit Accounting Reporting System (PCARS) or even formally known as an AF Form 526, is not an actual form but now a computer product/printout which lists your participation points credited during your inactive and active duty training, special tours, MPA tours, ECI courses, and membership. You should receive your AF Form 526 within 60 days after your reserve retirement (R/R) date. **So check your V-file or DISTRO box on the UTA.** The summary shows the current year total points earned, total points credited for retirement, and satisfactory years credited towards retirement. Within 30 days of receipt, compare your personal record of participation with the annual AF Form 526 to detect errors. Report errors to Customer Service for corrective action. Be prepared to supply the appropriate source documents. Did you know, the required minimum points for a satisfactory year for retirement is **50** points (total inactive and active duty points) **and** you are allowed to have a maximum of 75 points inactive points per R/R year?

AFI 36 - 2903 REMINDERS

*Friendly reminder that the below items are scheduled for "phase-out" or "implementation".

*Women's blue/white service hat will be phased-out 1 Oct 98.

*Women's solid blue service hat is mandatory for majors and above effective 1 Oct 98.

*Satin & oxidized finished belt tip and buckle, badges/specialty insignia (regular and miniature) will phase-out 1 Oct 98.

*Service dress coat, shade 1598, polyester double knit and shade 1609, polyester wool tropical will be phase-out 30 Sep 99.

*Majors and above may wear clouds and darts on the visor of organizational baseball cap.

*Both men and women may wear the blue cardigan sweater. When outside button up, when inside may be worn unbuttoned.

Did you know the mess dress is optional for enlisted and mandatory for officers?

ONLY officers wear the formal dress. **ONLY** enlisted wear the semi-formal dress.

FAMILY READINESS

It is time again for us to assess whether or not our families are prepared for us to deploy or go TDY. It is important for us all to make sure we have the proper and current documentation for our families before we go. If you follow a short checklist, you can leave and feel secure that you and your family will be able to manage any obstacles that may occur. Here are a few helpful hints to help you build your checklist.

First of all do you have a safe deposit box or fire proof box to store your important documents? Some of the documents you really need to have for your family are:

- Birth/death certificates.
- Adoption papers
- Marriage certificates/Divorce decrees
- Records of passport numbers
- Wills
- Stocks, Bonds, Credit card lists.
- Powers of Attorney for **all** family members who may need it.
- Medical/ dental records, as well as prescriptions for medication/ eyes.
- Deeds, mortgages,
- Vehicle titles and registrations.

If you need any help or have questions, contact SSGT Holland in Family Readiness on the UTA weekends. Phone (316) 652-5989 / DSN: 743-5989. During the week please contact Capt. Dodd at (316) 652-3577 / DSN: 743-3577.

Email: shawna.holland@iab.afres.af.mil
kenneth.dodd@iab.afares.af.mil

AIRMAN/NCO OF THE QUARTER

Nomination packages are due NLT 17 Oct 98 for 1 Jul to 30 Sep 98. Send completed packages to the MPF, Career Enhancement office.

NEW MAJORS ON BOARD

The following captains have been promoted to the rank of major: Trace McDermott, Wesley Reed and Charles Thibault

The following promotions are effective 1 Oct 98: Brian Clothier, William Dorsey, Rebecca Farmer, Steven Manning, Paul Meek, Alan Powers, Jerry Schmid, Samuel Schofield and Bert Coleman.

CONGRATULATIONS to our newest Airman Leadership School graduate SRA Velincia Johnson. Lynn graduated on 28 Aug 98 and is an Information Management Specialist in the Safety shop.

18th ARS *cont. from pg. 1*

The experience of the crew members was evident for overcoming these challenges.”

Maintenance was especially challenged with ensuring the aircraft was ready for service before every flight. They have primary responsibility for ensuring the aircraft is mission ready before the flight crew shows up for take-off. Here they had to rely heavily on alternative methods of communications. “Maintenance was awesome, they really worked great under pressure,” said Staff Sgt. Christine Lewis, boom operator for the 18th ARS. “We had many instances when the batteries for our radios and cell phones would go bad so we would have to go to the facilities and speak with the individuals face

to face,” said Tech Sgt. Woody Cottner, Communications navigations specialist for the 931 Aircraft Generation Squadron.

The business effort consisted of about two sorties being flown everyday and on average 4 F-16’s receiving fuel per sortie. “We were scheduled for 10 sorties and flew 7. Three of them were canceled, because they (the 944th) didn’t require refueling,” said Archer.

Overall the members of the 931st Air Refueling Group performed their mission by overcoming the obstacles with flawless precision. “We really worked well under the stress and pressure that we were put under,” said Archer.

Would you like to participate in an event to help feed hungry kids? Check for the “Race Against Hunger” email in your inbox or call ext. 3616 or 3703 this UTA to find out more.

Force *cont. from pg. 6*

ture with more notice.”

Under this scenario, active, Guard and Reserve units would share aircraft and rotate troops into and out of the theater of operations to cover the duration of the deployment. Most traditional reservists serve two weeks with permission from their civilian employers.

“We’re pleased Air Force Reserve Command will be an active member of the Expeditionary Aerospace Forces mix and that our people will be able to perform that mission on a rotational basis,” said Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, AFRC commander. “Our reservists cannot serve in the Reserve without their employers’ support. “Details on how our people will be deployed, how many will be needed and other key concerns still need to be worked out in the coming months. We are confident that reservists will play a major role in the EAF and will perform that mission in the same superb manner as other taskings.”

Three days before the news conference, five KC-135s and crews

from three Reserve units deployed to Europe to provide air refueling support for fighter aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone over Bosnia. Three KC-135s from the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., went to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom, while a KC-135 from the 940th ARW, Beale AFB, Calif., and a KC-135 from the 927th ARW, Selfridge ANG Base, Mich., deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy, to support Operation Deliberate Guard. The Reserve units will support the operation through Sept. 15 by rotating crews and support people.

KC-10 crews from the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, Calif., are augmenting their active-duty counterparts in Operation Southern Watch. Three crews went to the Middle East July 30. Others will follow to provide support through Sept. 23.

“The Air Force has always had an expeditionary mission,” Ryan said, “but we need better organization to manage and train to a wide range of capabilities. Using AEFs, we can rapidly respond to contingencies requiring different types of assets without upsetting baseline Air Force organizations.

From the IG

We would like to think that we could find a quick answer to every problem brought to the IG, and that the answer would be satisfactory to the member.

The reality is, though, that a member may very well not agree with our conclusions or the way we conducted the investigation. In such cases, there are avenues of appeal. Those avenues basically follow the chain-of-command. The “appeal chain” runs from the local IG, through 4 AF/IG, AFRC/IG, SECAF/IG, to DOD/IG.

IG personnel at each level will review the case to determine if additional investigation is called for. Can you skip the intermediate steps and appeal directly to the top, DOD/IG? Yes, you can. However, DOD/IG will most likely refer the case back to the lowest appropriate level for investigation and resolution, anyway.

Your case will generally be handled more quickly if you follow the appeal chain. If you have questions about this, or any other IG issue, please call.

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