

Summer Fun 101

Comments, Page 2

Supply Issues

Page 3

Ancillary Training

Schedule, Page 3

Kanza Spirit

Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

Sports update

Congratulations to the 931st ARG softball and golf teams who completed their regular seasons.

The softball team finished the regular season at 7-4 good for second place in its division. The team tied for fifth in the 15-team postseason double-elimination tournament, winning two of four games.

The softball team's final record was 9-6. At one point during the season, the team won nine of 11 games.

The golf team finished its regular season with an 82-62 match play record, including a 51-15 mark in forfeits. Lt. Col. Ron Johnston had the best match record, logging a 14 1/2 wins and 9 1/2 losses.

The golf team still has a postseason tournament left to play.

Ceremonies

Just a reminder, Saturday's nose art/VIP shield ceremony begins at 9 a.m. just to the south of building 1218. Sunday's change of command ceremony is at 10 a.m. at the Emerald City ballroom.

CE tackles Cheney mission - again

Work aids parks department develop lake campgrounds

By Staff Sgt.
Barbara Davis
931st Public Affairs

Twenty-six miles or more away from home 50 busy beavers clear a path of three-quarters of a mile. With mosquitoes swarming around their ears and creepy-crawling things scouring by their feet, the beavers continue to work for up to 12 hours a day. For four days they work chopping, digging, moving, leveling, and building.

These beavers are not the furry little kind you find in the forest but are 50 members of the 931st Air Refueling Group Civil Engineer Squadron who deployed to Cheney Lake Thursday and Saturday morning to build a handicap nature trail and two latrines for the lake.

The deployment was two fold - an opportunity to enhance training and to serve the community.

"The state didn't have the laborers so we seized the opportunity to give our people some valuable training," said mastersgt Joseph J. Fitzpatrick, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 931st CES utilities section.

Msgt Darryl L. Templeton, electrical section supervisor of the 931st CES said "The width of a three-quarter mile trail was ex-



Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

931st CES members clear brush to make this Cheney Lake trail wider.

panded to four feet to accommodate wheelchairs and will be topped with crushed rock when leveled.

Two years ago the engineers built a footbridge and a water cross for the Lake. "It is cost free to the public," said Ken Garrigues, Wildlife/Park Manager, Cheney Lake. "It's a win, win, and win again situation. It's kinda scary when it's that type of situation, but things are working out real good."

The deployment was not only hard work but the engineers had to brave the mosquitoes on duty and when off duty. Everyone had their own can or bottle of spray. The engineers lived in tents where each of them had mosquito netting around their cot.

"The netting helps," Fitzpatrick said. "Last year we didn't have any."

The unit didn't forget about the

engineers while they were away. Col. Terry Edwards, the 931st's vice commander, went out to the site to cook breakfast for them on Saturday morning. Col. Vik C. Malling, commander, Col. Edwards, and Chief mastersgt Billy Meade, first sergeant, visited them on Friday.

The 931st engineers received training in the four days out at Cheney Lake building the handicap trail and the two latrines. "It enhanced our capability and gives us a different outlook for what we are doing for the public," said Fitzpatrick.

"I kinda hope the Army and Navy will follow suit," said Garrigues.

Thanks for the great run

By Col. Vik C. Malling
931st Commander

As they say on Broadway—it's been a great run but it's time to move on and let a new actor take center stage. Colonel (select) Dean Despinoy has a fine background and has recent ORI experience from the 507th at Tinker. This will be a great fit to ensure the unit's readiness and a great showing in the ORI in Mar of '98. He's indeed very lucky to soon be taking command of a proud and professional organization of great people.

Being the commander and building our team has been a truly gratifying "once in a lifetime experience" and one I will never forget. The most important lesson I've learned is that teamwork from all of you is absolutely essential for unit success. We've always emphasized the "First" in 931st and you have come through each time you've been challenged. You proved you

have a professional team/quality attitude when you scored 219 on the mini-QAFA. You proved it again when the 4th AF RSAV team visit validated the unit's high compliance with Air Force standards and directives. And, most recently, our crewmembers shined in their ASEV evaluation from 15AF standardization evaluators. I'm extremely proud of the professionalism our crews displayed in their flying abilities and how strong our OGV office is under Lt Col Brantley's leadership.

All these accolades from outside sources just prove that we have attained and continue to accomplish our unit mission statement of providing mission ready reservists to fly, maintain, and support Global Reach for America. I know I speak for Col Edwards and myself, in that we leave proudly, with our heads held high. It'll be fun for us to visit and monitor your future progress as you continue to build the model associate tanker unit for the Air Force. I don't like good-byes which seems too final but rather say, "see you later" and I wish you all the very best."



Col. Vik Malling

ASEV: 931st results as good as it gets

By Lt. Col. David Brantley
931st Stan/Eval OGV

The 931st has completed its first Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Visit (ASEV) and once again we rose to the task and came through with flying colors.

Inspectors from both 15th Air Force and 21st Air Force arrived the afternoon of 10 July. A reception sponsored by the 931st was held for the team that afternoon at Emerald City. The following morning the team presented the leadership of both the 931st ARG and the 22nd ARW with an inbrief explaining what areas would be looked at and how the evaluation would be run.

The next two weeks would result in the 931st getting its first report card on the operations side of the house. The inspection centered around the functions of three areas within the 931st; Standardization/Evaluation, Training, and Flight Management. Basically, they wanted to see how we do the job of first training aircrew members, and then maintaining their proficiency in air operations.

Inspectors flew with 26 different crewmembers on local flying missions and Headquarters AMC missions. During the flying evaluations, the inspectors looked at everything; mission planning, air refueling, formation flying, and navigation procedures. Our crews performed admirably. SSgt Tonya Haenka received the coveted "Outstanding Performance" follow-

ing her checkride. Sixty-two members were given closed book written examinations centering around warnings, cautions, and operations limits of the airplane. The testing results were equally impressive with a 99.8% average.

The administrative portion of the evaluation centered around training procedures, documentation, flight management, and the functions of our local Standardization/Evaluation Branch. The inspectors were duly impressed with all these areas and stressed that we should be very proud of how far we have come since standing up the unit less than three years ago.

The following areas received "outstanding" ratings: Standardization/Evaluation Administration, Training Administration, and the Celestial Training Device Program. On Friday, 25 July, the ASEV team chief, Colonel Descoteaux, conducted the formal outbrief to the leadership of the 931st and provided a draft copy of the report to Col Terry Edwards, 931 ARG Vice Commander. "Stan/Eval and training programs are particularly well managed and continuous improvement is evident. High quality programs are the standard, and the processes are in place to support them. In a short time, this associate unit is producing exemplary results." were among the team chief's comments.

Col Edwards was elated with the results and reiterated that it was, and is, a team effort everyday here at the 931 ARG, and that flying airplanes and support functions go hand in hand in accomplishing our mission.

Congratulations and well done members of the 931 ARG!

Kanza Spirit
Volume 2, No. 6

Tuesday, Aug. 26 is the deadline for articles in the August 1997 issue of the **Kanza Spirit**. All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 931st Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1218, Room 221 by 4 p.m.

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Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Maj. Mark Dickinson works the navigation table during the 44th's Air Refueling Squadron's maiden mission July 31. Six crew members, including 44th commander Lt. Col. Ellis Yoder, participated.

44th gets off the ground

By Lt. Col. Ellis Yoder
44th ARS commander

Although there are rumors of storm clouds on the horizon for the 44th ARS, it was a beautiful day for flying when it made its first "official" flight.

I went along for the ride on July 31 when Maj. Ken Harris, Capt. Beau Johnson, Maj. Mark Dickinson, Tech. Sgt. Jack Norris and Staff Sgt. Jim Yokom flew a picture perfect local refueling mission that marked the beginning of flight operations by the new 44th ARS. Capt Steve (Merco) Mulich had intended to go but was unfortunately needed on a Pacer Crag flight at the last minute.

With an 0835 take off under clear skies, light winds and cool temperatures, a text-book enroute rendezvous with a B-52 and nav leg by Mark, smooth as silk contacts by the booms, a perfect landing by Beau, and a stellar command decision by Ken not to do any transition (thanks to a little mechanical problem), we had one of those "it doesn't get any better than this" type missions. Well, OK., I guess it would have been a little more relaxing if that TV guy hadn't been there with his camera and microphone.

At any rate, it was my pleasure to be a part of that historic

Continue 44th page 4

Staying safe on the job

By Chris Rush
Safety office

Would you believe that job-related injuries and illnesses are more common and cost the nation far more than AIDS or Alzheimer's disease and at least as much as cancer or heart disease?

Those facts are according to research conducted by the Archives of Internal Medicine. The researchers combined many

sources of government and other data for what they believe are the first national estimates of job-related injuries and illnesses in a single year. Researchers say in 1992 approximately 6,500 Americans died and 13.2 million were hurt from work related causes.

Recently an individual was working inside of a C-130 aircraft at Robins AFB, Ga. He was descending the cockpit area by means of temporary steps, when his left foot

Continue SAFETY page 4

NAACP holds convention

By Chris Rush
Safety office

This year the National Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held its 88th National Convention in Pittsburgh Pa. The United States Military specifically the Air Force was honored for its contributions to equality of its people regardless of their race, gender or religion.

Speaking at the convention was President William J. Clinton who talked to delegates on the importance of people coming together as a nation, the need to get a good education, and self-reliance. He encouraged young people to become teachers in inner city and rural areas. And he talked of a plan to establishing programs to aide individuals who wanted to become teachers and would teach in under privileged areas. He also gave praise to the NAACP for its work with the young people, siting it's many programs and efforts to keep the youth on a positive track.

The convention also hosted the 22nd Annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Dinner the guest speaker was Air Force Secretary Dr. Sheila E. Windall who told convention-goers the Air Force is undergoing many changes and plans to sustain world-class capabilities far into the next century. The military has a long history with

the NAACP dating back to educator, civil rights leader W.E.B. Dubois who was one of the founding fathers of this historic organization. We need our people skills, their insight, their expertise, and their inventiveness to deal with cutting edge technology.

"We are now one to the nation's most racially diverse institutions. Very few nationwide employers, public or private, can top that in terms of minorities in leadership roles," she said. Award Recipients were Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman who received the NAACP's Meritorious Service Medal for his efforts to eliminate discrimination and sexual harassment in the Air Force. And D. Michael Collins deputy for equal opportunity, office of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower, received the Benjamin L. Hooks Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to in the area of civil/human rights, race relations, and equal opportunity. Throughout the week numerous events were held including; an Air Force gala event at the Pittsburgh Air Reserve Base, Legislative Plenary Sessions, daily workshops and seminars including an Armed Forces Hearing on Racial Discrimination and the Military Justice System, Labor Luncheon, Benefit Concerts, Commerce/Industry Show, Job Fair, and Youth Competitions.

931st adds non-prior service member

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman
931st Public Affairs

And then there were two.

In the three years since the reactivation of the 931st, only one enlisted person has come to the unit with no previous military background. But the unit added a second airman to that select group in July.

Thirty-year-old Ray McIntosh enlisted on July 22 and, after he completes basic and technical training, should start at-

tending UTAs by the end of the year.

McIntosh said he had long thought

of joining the military.

"I had a basketball scholarship offer for the Air Force Academy after high school," he said. "My Dad really wanted me to do that."

But he said he just wasn't ready like he is now.



McIntosh

"I wanted to join something that I would be accepted in," McIntosh said, who works in the medical field in civilian life. "I think information management will be challenging."

Recruiter Master Sgt. Terry Gosh said McIntosh will leave for basic training on Aug. 13 and should return to Wichita from technical school in December.

SAFETY cont. from pg. 3

slipped. He was able to grab a handle of some sort but his back struck the cockpit platform and the temporary step. He went to the Base Clinic where he was diagnosed with having abrasions and a muscle strain to his upper and lower back, he was given light duty for two days. Three weeks later he returned to the clinic complaining of chest pains he was referred to a private doctor. He was admitted to a civilian hospital and died three days later.

Preliminary indications are he died from medical complications arising from the back injury. In all, the direct costs of job related injuries and illnesses totaled \$65 billion in 1992, Indirect costs including lost wages were \$106 billion making the total \$171 billion

(\$468 million a day) that year. The cost of AIDS which was \$30 billion excluding the costs of administrating worker's compensation, Social Security or health benefits. Occupational injuries and illnesses were \$155 billion excluding the same cost.

The thing to remember is that unlike some other illnesses we have the tools of prevention.

If we follow technical orders, applicable safety regulations ensure personal protective equipment is properly worn, and training is current and effective we will reduce on duty mishaps. In the event a mishap does occur reporting and correcting unsafe conditions/hazards in timely manner contributes to a healthy and safe working environment and prevents reoccurrence.

44TH cont. from pg. 3

flight as it is my pleasure to have a part in the stand-up of our new squadron. Because we have some outstanding people already assigned and many more on the way, I have no doubt the 44th can quickly rise up to the high standards of the 931 ARG and become one of the best air refueling squadrons in the Air Force Reserve.

Now if we can just get those rumors of storm clouds on the horizon to dissipate, we'll be off to a great start of many years of safe, successful, and enjoyable missions flown by the 44 ARS.

QDR calls for few cuts in Air Force Reserve

WASHINGTON - The Quadrennial Defense Review report issued recently by the Department of Defense did much to validate the importance of Air Force Reserve

Command and its reserve component partner, the Air National Guard.

The QDR looked at every element of the U.S. military, including how it fights,

how it supports it forces, how it buys equipment and what forces the nation needs in the years ahead. The objectives of the review were to seek ways to continue modernizing U.S. forces, sustain their readiness, preserve the forces needed to perform missions and ensure resources are available to achieve those objectives.

As the most integrated Total Force service on a day-to-day basis according to the review, the Air Force relies heavily on reservists to fly a large percentage of its mobility and support missions, in peacetime and in war. The Reserve fighter force has also been used extensively to enforce no-fly zones over Bosnia and Iraq.

"We are a part of the Air Force long-range plan and will continue as a viable part of the Air Force after QDR initiatives are implemented," said Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh, AFRC commander. "My first post-QDR prediction is simply more of the same. Becoming a major command has allowed us to better transition into the future because we are now an understood organization entity." "ence the change process."

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) 652-4350
MSgt Lester Shaw, Jr. (316) 652-3766

TINKER & VANCE AFB, OK
MSgt Al 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 Gilck
(405) 733-9403

Personnel News You Can Use

Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the Military Personnel Flight are as follows:

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

Record of Emergency

Data (DD Form 93)

This is the single most important source of information within your personnel record for dependent data and notification of next-of-kin in an emergency. If data is incomplete or incorrect, the Air Force cannot extend dependent benefits, and timely or proper notification cannot be made in the event of injury, serious illness or death, while on duty. You are the only one who can keep this document current. Remember, there is no such thing as a minor error on this form. Check the form in your mobility folder. If any information is in error or out of date, come by the MPF Customer Service to update the information. You may be one of the lucky ones who escape injury or illness, but can you afford the risk?

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Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

Currently, all service members are afforded the opportunity to elect up to \$200,000 coverage under the SGLI. If you are unsure of the coverage you have or the beneficiary you have chosen, please contact Customer Service at ext. 3593.

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Outprocessing



All personnel scheduled to do any of the following items must outprocess through Personnel Relocations:

- TDY for 30 or more days
- Retirement
- Separation from unit
- Assignment
- TDY School Tour

Contact Msgt Melvin at ext. 3637 for information.

Schools and Training

HQ AFRC has released dates for the in-residence **Squadron Officer's School (SOS)**. Members wishing to attend need to submit a DD Form 1556 for attendance in civilian status or a DD Form 9701 for military status to DPMAT for processing. Selection will be made by headquarters. As we didn't receive many quotas, the sooner you submit your request the better your chances are of being selected. Eligibility is Capt and above or GS-9 and above. The dates are:
98A: 27 Oct - 12 Dec '97 **98B: 5 Jan - 20 Feb '98**
98C: 9 Mar - 24 Apr '98 **98D: 11 May - 26 Jun '98**
98E: 3 Sep - 17 Oct '98

The **Airman Leadership School** slot for 10 Nov - 12 Dec '97 is still available. Interested SRA need to contact their Unit Training Manager or the Base Training Office for the application. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with the active duty members. Our last graduate, Ssgt Barbara Davis, received the Levitow Award and the Leadership award! She can vouch for the outstanding quality of this course.

We have yet to receive dates and quotas for the **NCO Academy** in-residence. Members wishing to attend may start working the application process now so that the forms will be completed once we have dates. Stop by Base Training to get AFRC Form 129.



Self-Improvement Flyers are Available in DPMAT

Computer courses, management skills, stress management techniques, and time management are among the many offered. Civilians may enroll via a DD Form 1556 and military members may attend while on orders. Please stop by DPMAT or call ext. 3587 for assistance.

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931st Airman / NCO of the Quarter

The Airman / NCO of the Quarter schedule:

Nomination	Due to	Board
Quarter:	DPMPE:	Date:
Jul - Sep	Sep UTA	Oct UTA
Oct - Dec	Dec UTA	Jan UTA