

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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May 2006

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol.11, No. 4



"The view was a gift from God that I will always cherish."

Associate Pastor Doug Holt
Metro East Baptist Church

Story on page 3

THIS UTA

Picnic Planning

There will be a Family Day Picnic Meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Southwind Conference Room. For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Sean Lafave or Master Sgt. Katherine Pett at ext. 3391. Anyone interested in volunteering for this event can attend. The picnic will take place during the Sept. Unit Training Assembly.

CE Training

The 931st Civil Engineer Squadron will be unavailable during the May UTA. The squadron is attending Air Force Reserve Command Innovative Readiness Training in Hawaii.

Ancillary Training

Ancillary Training will be held Sunday at building 1185(AMXS) in room 121. The schedule is as follows:

1230-1245:

OPSEC

1245-1300:

Environmental Management

1300-1330:

Records Management

1330-1500:

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

1500-1510:

Lautenburg Amendment & Authorization to Carry Firearms/Ammunition



VOL.11 NO.4

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DEADLINES

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is close of business of the UTA.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Kanza Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government of the Dept. of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 931st Public Affairs Office. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

The *Kanza Spirit* is mailed each month to all 931st ARG members on file with Personnel. Members not receiving their copy should check with their administration section to ensure their filed address is correct.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the May UTA. First off, I would like to thank Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Fulton and Chaplain (Capt.) Hicks for their fantastic job organizing and executing our first ever "Clergy Lift". I have received extremely positive feedback concerning the event. I enjoyed interacting with the clergy and sharing some very entertaining stories. I would also like to thank all those who supported "Clergy Lift". Job well done.

I am proud to announce that we lead AFRC in completing "Fit to Fight" testing. Way to go fitness monitors! The down side of all this is that many people are not progressing toward the Air Force standard of "Good". I am concerned that soon this will begin to impact careers and in the end employment. This is serious as commanders are mandated to take action. We do not want to lose people due to substandard fitness scores.

Memorial Day is fast approaching and that means the annual Air Force summer safety campaign is about to begin. The "101 Critical Days of Summer" reminds all of us to think twice when engaging in all those fun summer activities. Think ORM as you take off for your summer vacation. The group needs and wants all our family members to be home with us after summer ends.

Thankfully this UTA should be fairly routine and allow all of us to get our AFSC training done.

Enjoy!

Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel
931st Air Refueling Group Commander

Who do you know?

The **Kanza Spirit** staff is looking for story ideas about 931st members who have unique hobbies or jobs, especially those that offer opportunities for unusual and interesting photos. Please contact Senior Airman Kenny Kimbrell at (316) 759-3686 or kenny.kimbrell-02@mccconnell.af.mil with your ideas.

UTA SCHEDULE

Next UTA: June 10-11

July 15-16
Aug. 12-13
Sept. 16-17

CLERGY GET 'LIFTED' BY 931ST ARG

BY SENIOR AIRMAN K.L. KIMBRELL
931 ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What circumstances would dictate having 21 clergy aboard a routine refueling mission in the skies over the Great Plains?

A pretty serious In Flight Emergency? A superstitious crew? A 'Clergy Lift'? The latter would be correct. On April 8, clergy from local places of worship flew on a mission aboard a KC-135R Stratotanker with the 931st Air Refueling Group.

"The response was outstanding. I have organized 15 clergy events in my career and this has been the most enthusiastic response I have experienced," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Fulton, 931st ARG chaplain.

The day started off bright and early with the visitors showing up at 7:30 a.m. for a group mission brief.

Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st ARG Commander, briefed everyone on the group's mission, people and the Air Force Reserve way of life.

Immediately following the mission brief it was time to 'load up'.

The clergy, along with Chaplain Fulton boarded the bus and headed out to the flightline.

The group was split into two and after pausing for a photo by one of the jets, it was time to take to the sky.

The two tankers taxied out onto the runway and made their way into the air.

After around 30 minutes of flying, the boom operator, Staff Sgt. Clay Dotson of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron came to let everyone know that it was almost time for the refueling.



(Above) An Arkansas Air National Guard F-16C from the 188th Fighter Wing at Fort Smith, Ark., prepares to receive fuel from a KC-135R Stratotanker. The aircraft was crewed by members of the 931st Air Refueling Group's 18th Air Refueling Squadron. (Below) Clergy from the local area, along with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Fulton, 931st Air Refueling Group (far right) stand along side a KC-135R Stratotanker Saturday April 8. The 931st Air Refueling Group's "Clergy Lift" included a 931st ARG mission brief, a flight on a KC-135R and lunch at the base dining facility. Twenty-one clergy participated in the half-day event. (Photos by Senior Airman K.L. Kimbrell)

"About 10 minutes (until the jets arrive)," said Sergeant Dotson.

Then it was time for the clergy to witness some air-to-air refueling.

As Sergeant Dotson refueled the F-16/Cs from the 188th Fighter Wing at Fort Smith, Ark. the clergy took turns rotating into the boom pod for a view like no other.

"The view was a gift from God that I will always cherish," said Associate Pastor Doug Holt of Metro East Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan.

"It (the view) was just plain awesome!" said Pastor Rodger Thompson of Northwest Christian Church in Wichita, Kan.

The feeling was mutual throughout the group with everyone describing the event as 'awesome' at least once during the journey.

The crew seemed to enjoy the event just as much as the visitors.

"I enjoy being part of civilians seeing the Air Force mission, especially religious leaders from the local community who support us (Airmen) on the outside," said Sergeant Dotson. "During the refueling, I was grinning from ear-to-ear because I got the chance to show off my skills to them."

After returning to the base, the clergy were given the opportunity to have lunch at the base dining facility.

The day seemed a success from both the military and civilian side of things. "This was a great opportunity for me," said Pastor Holt, "I want to do it again."

"All were pleased with the outcome of the day, the planes flew, the weather was perfect and the clergy experienced a slice of life in the military," said Chaplain Fulton.



AF issues request for info on tanker recapitalization

BY CHRIS MCGEE
AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS



WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- The Tanker Systems Modernization Systems Squadron of Aeronautical Systems Center's Mobility Systems Wing here sent out the RFI for publication in Federal Business Opportunities and will manage the program.

By issuing the RFI, the Air Force has restarted the requirements and acquisition processes necessary for a traditional competitive acquisition program to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker.

ASC Commander Lt. Gen. Jack Hudson said, "We're looking forward to starting this very, very important program. Tankers are key enablers for our fighters, bombers, and transports in worldwide operations, especially over Iraq and Afghanistan."

The RFI requested information on KC-135 replacement platforms that is consistent with the findings of the Analysis of Alternatives, which focuses on a commercial-derivative tanker aircraft in the 300,000- to 1 million-pound-take-off weight class. The RFI asks for vendor inputs on capabilities to complement the recapitalization effort, such as specialized commercial aerial refueling services and KC-135 modifications and upgrades.

A draft request for proposal is expected to be released by September, with a final RFP to be published by January. The award of the contract is expected in summer 2007.

After issuing the RFI, the Air Force's next steps include refining the operational requirements and developing an acquisition strategy. Terry Kasten, TSMSS director, said the squadron is working to complete and coordinate the overall acquisition strategy for the KC-X program as Air Mobility Command formalizes the requirements within the Air Force and joint organizations.

TSMSS manages the recapitalization and modernization of the world's largest aerial refueling fleet. Along with overseeing replacement of the KC-135 tanker, the squadron also manages the modernization of KC-10 Extender aircraft.

Free Theme Park Admission

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place or Adventure Island for the service member and as many as three of his or her direct dependents. Any active duty, active reserve or ready reserve service member is entitled to free admission under the program. Anheuser-Busch operates nine U.S. theme parks. For a complete listing and information on how to obtain your free tickets, log on to :



WWW.HEROSALUTE.COM

Anonymous Self Assessment

Military members and families coping with the stress of overseas deployments and other potential health-threatening issues can now log onto the Internet to get help.

Servicemembers from all components and their families can obtain a mental health self-assessment or screening through a Web site co-sponsored by the Department of Defense and Screening for Mental Health Inc. After completion of the screening, you will be provided information on assistance and programs available to you and your family. For more information or to utilize the screening, log on to:



WWW.MENTALHEALTHSCREENING.ORG/MILITARY

'Virtual Commissary' expands products

The future is now at the Defense Commissary Agency. It's not the "final frontier" by a long shot, but DeCA's Virtual Commissary has been expanded to include 37 new item selections, including snack packs and special occasion baskets. This brings the total number of gift baskets on Virtual Commissary to 44 with more on the way.



Customers can check for availability of delivery to APO and FPO addresses as well as more information on what's in the gift baskets by clicking on the image. Virtual Commissary customers can make selections and fill in their payment and shipping information in one secure step.

Items offered on Virtual Commissary are well below average retail prices found at other online services. Authorized commissary shoppers in the United States and military shoppers overseas can check it out at

[HTTP://WWW.COMMISSARIES.COM](http://WWW.COMMISSARIES.COM).

“My Stuff” Tracking

Airmen can now track the status of requests and correspondence sent to the Air Force Contact Center via the “My Stuff” tab on the Air Force Personnel Center public Web site. Airmen need a separate user identification and password to access My Stuff because the new software cannot be accessed at this time with the reduced sign-on capability used by the Air Force Portal and the AFPC Secure site.

The system automatically created a generic user ID and password for Airmen who previously corresponded with the contact center. Those members should have received an e-mail from contact.center@randolph.af.mil requiring them to personalize and secure their account by establishing a unique password. Members can personalize their generic account by visiting the AFPC public Web site.

[HTTP://WWW.AFPC.RANDOLPH.AF.MIL](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil)

Establishing the My Stuff account will help Airmen track any requests, applications or questions they have sent to the Air Force Contact Center.

2006 U.S. Senior Open Volunteer Opportunity

Team McConnell has been selected to be part of the VIP Transportation team for the 2006 U.S. Senior Open golf tournament July 6-9, to be held at the Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kan. Volunteers are needed to work at least four 4-hour shifts from July 1-5. Registration fee is \$35, which includes the following: an Ashworth golf shirt with Championship logo, cap or visor, volunteer appreciation party, volunteer credential valid all week, meals provided during shifts, preferred parking, 20% off merchandise, volunteer gift and the opportunity to be up close and personal while taking a behind the scenes look at the legends of golf. Contact Capt. Gabriel Avilla at extension 1735 to register.



Military Sentinel



Military Sentinel is a project of the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Defense to identify and target consumer protection issues that affect members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

To file a consumer complaint, visit the site and click on your service seal. This will link you to the consumer complaint forms.

The site also provides a gateway to consumer education materials covering a wide range of consumer protection issues, from auto leasing, to identity theft, to work-at-home scams.

Military Sentinel allows members of the United States Armed Forces to enter consumer complaints directly into a database that is immediately accessible by over 500 law enforcement organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. These law enforcement agencies use this complaint data to target cases for prosecution and other enforcement measures.

[HTTP://WWW.CONSUMER.GOV/MILITARY/](http://www.consumer.gov/military/)

SPRIT SPOTLIGHT

Tech. Sgt. Anneliese N. Barrier

Joined the Air Force Reserve one year ago after serving 12 years with the United States Army.

Job Title: Health Services Management

Civilian job: Release of Information Specialist, 22nd Medical Group

Favorite way to relax: Reading

What annoys me: Liars

Most influential person in my life: My mother for all the struggles she went through and still survived.

What I’m listening to: Rock

What I’m reading: The Da Vinci Code, by Dan Brown

If I won \$1 million, I would: Create a place where all abandoned babies could live and be taken care of.



Aerospace Medicine Flight

Lee Greenwood entertains troops on Patriotic World Tour

BY 1ST LT. MATTIE FULLER
AFRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTHWEST ASIA – On his 18th military world tour, country music legend Lee Greenwood once again proudly stood up for the men and women in uniform deployed overseas.

Mr. Greenwood left the USA April 5 for Germany, Turkey and three forward-operating bases in Southwest Asia. His final stop on the tour was Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, April 17.

C-17 cargo aircraft and a KC-10 air refueling aircraft crewed by Air Force Reserve Command reservists flew Mr. Greenwood and company from gig to gig. Joining the composer of “God Bless the U.S.A.” were country-rockers Restless Heart, comedian Dick Hardwick and six New England Patriots cheerleaders.

At every stop, Mr. Greenwood told the troops how much he appreciates what they are doing for their country. He said people think they know what is going on half way around the world until they get there and see America’s military men and women in action.

“It affects me deeply,” he said in an interview in Southwest Asia.

On the way to the first show of the tour at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, the artists stopped at Ramstein AB, Germany, to visit wounded troops at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. They spent two hours visiting and signing autographs for the patients and staff before getting back on the jet and heading for Turkey.



After each show, the band spent hours signing autographs and taking pictures with the long line of troops eager to meet the entertainers.

Famous for his support of America’s military men and women, Mr. Greenwood made sure everyone in the crowd knows how much he appreciates what they do.

After seeing the reactions of thousands of deployed Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, it’s obvious they feel the same way about him.



(Top) Lee Greenwood entertains the crowd during the Patriotic World Tour’s third performance stop in Southwest Asia. The tour was sponsored by Air Force Reserve Command. (Middle) Maj. (Dr.) Jules Gamache is visited by New England Patriots cheerleader. The cheerleaders, along with Lee Greenwood, were at Balad Air Base, Iraq, as part of the Air Force Reserve Command-sponsored Patriotic World Tour. Dr. Gamache is an anesthesiologist assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Hospital. (Bottom) Members of the AFRC sponsored 2006 Patriotic World Tour prepare to board a KC-10 Extender from McGuire AFB, N.J., for their 16-day around-the-world trip. The tour was headlined by Lee Greenwood. (Photos by Ken Hackman)

B.A.S.H.

Program aims to eliminate threat to aircraft

BY MASTER SGT. SCOTT KING
40TH AEG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM- The team of four works to save lives, aircraft and money, usually behind the scenes. They are vital to the mission of this forward operating location serving Operation Enduring Freedom by running the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard, or BASH, program.

The 40th Air Expeditionary Group safety office manages the BASH program by monitoring, evaluating, and where needed, eliminating the threat so that the aircraft based here can complete their combat missions.

The primary threats to bombers and refuelers launched and recovered from here are wimbrels, mynahs and egrets.

“For an effective BASH program we need to ensure aircraft are safe to take off and land without the threat of a bird strike,” said Tech. Sgt. Roy Ollie, flight safety noncommissioned officer. “With minimal resources available, especially at a deployed location, we cannot afford to lose one aircraft to a bird strike.”

The B-52 Stratofortresses launched from here provide close-air support for U.S. and coalition forces on the ground in Afghanistan. The KC-135 Stratotankers launched

here provide gas -- building air bridges -- so that B-52s can complete their missions.

The safety office uses a four-pronged approach to decrease the threat of aircraft bird strikes.

There are six cannons on the airfield. The control tower or the safety office sets them off when needed to scare birds out of the area. The safety office also uses pyrotechnic guns to scare birds away.

Another approach is “pushing” or “directing” birds out of the area with the safety vehicle by approaching them and slamming doors, honking horns, etc. The last approach is eliminating the birds with a shotgun.

The cost of a bird strike can be deadly or, at a minimum, create a mission no-go.

“Depending where (on the aircraft) the strike occurs, it could cause an engine failure that leads to a loss of thrust during takeoff where the crew and aircraft would be lost,” Sergeant Ollie said. “Another possibility is losing vital instruments or flight control systems because an engine-driven generator or hydraulic pump isn’t functioning, also resulting in a catastrophic mishap.”

Another factor of a bird strike is the non-mission capable status while engines are being replaced. Both the B-52 and KC-135 could be down for 24 hours or more, thus hampering the mission, Sergeant Ollie said.

B-52 pilots know how important this program is to their mission.

“As a commander of a combat squadron, a solid BASH program offers my organization two important benefits,” said Lt. Col. Mark Maryak, 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron commander.

“First, avoiding bird strikes offers immediate benefits for the crews returning from extremely long-duration sorties. If they were to encounter a bird strike while approaching the field, they would have to hold and accomplish a time-consuming controllability check,” the colonel said.

“Secondly, avoiding bird strikes keeps our B-52 fleet healthy. Because the maintainers do not have to spend time inspecting and fixing bird strike-related problems, they can prepare the our bombers for their next ‘in country’ sortie in minimum time -- taking the fight to the enemy,” Colonel Maryak said.

These KC-135 Stratotankers parked on the ramp of a forward operating location April 23 provide fuel to B-52 Stratofortresses that fly in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. John Rohrer)



WICHITA WEEKEND

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta 2006

May 5-7 — Old Town, Farm & Art Market. Presented by the National Latino Peace Officers Association, Wichita-Sedgwick County Chapter. Family entertainment, live bands, contests, arts & crafts and traditional food. Fri-Sat 11 a.m.-Midnight, Sun 11 a.m.-10 p.m. For more information log on to:

www.oldtownwichita.com

Gary Puckett

May 6 — The Orpheum Legends Series presents Gary Puckett live in concert at The Orpheum at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$33 for auditorium, \$25 for mezzanine and \$20 for balcony seats. Information and tickets can be attained by calling (316) 755-SEAT.

Wichita Aviators

May 6 — The Wichita Aviators of the American Professional Football League will take on the Missouri Minutemen. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Wichita Ice Center downtown. For more information and tickets, call the Aviator ticket office at 665-4692 or by logging on to:

www.aviatorsfootball.com

At the Movies



STAY ALIVE

FRIDAY, MAY 5 7pm

1 hr. 25 min. After the mysterious brutal death of an old friend, a group of teenagers find themselves in possession of "Stay Alive," a next generation horror survival videogame. The gamers don't know anything about the game other than the fact that they're not supposed to have it--and they're dying to play it.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for horror violence, disturbing images and mild language



HEALTH INSPECTOR

SATURDAY, MAY 6 7pm

1 hr. 29 min. Larry is a big city health inspector who is happy with his usual beat of greasy spoon diners and low-rent ethnic restaurants. But his easygoing life is turned upside-down when he's saddled with a straight-arrow rookie partner and assigned the biggest case of his career.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for crude content and language

Movies are shown at the McConnell Air Force Base Theater and are subject to change. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

McConnell Movie Line – (316) 759-4181

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