

# KANZA SPIRIT

## 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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October 2007

McConnell AFB, Kansas

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## Civilian Employers Visit 931st ARG

BY STAFF SGT. K.L. KIMBRELL  
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A group of Reservists civilian bosses were on hand during the September Unit Training Assembly to see just what it is their employees do during their military service time.

Twenty-eight Reserve employers were invited to McConnell Air Force Base to take part in the 931st Air Refueling Group's annual Bosses Day event.

"I think Bosses' Day was a big success," said Col. Tim Cahoon, the 931st ARG commander. "I was pleased to see

employers, including emergency procedures, crew assignments and flight times before being escorted out to the bus to the flightline.

The two KC-135s took to the sky around 9 a.m. and headed east to refuel a KC-10 Extender.

Once the three aircraft met up, the 931st crewed aircraft took turns refueling the KC-10 as the employers looked on.

"The communication between the two aircraft was very imperative, they really have to work together," said



**Employers of 931st ARG Reservists look out to see a KC-10 Extender receive fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker during the Group's annual Bosses Day event. Two aircraft with employers on board made the four-hour trip in order for the employers to see the 931st mission first hand. (Air Force Photos/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell)**

such a strong turn out."

The day began bright and early at 7:30 a.m. with a briefing by Col. Cahoon.

After learning about the Air Force Reserve and the 931st ARG mission, it was time to prepare for an air-to-air refueling mission.

"I didn't realize how much AFRC (Air Force Reserve Command) contributes to the community and how many missions they support," said Ms. Cathy Downen of Hawker-Beechcraft Corporation, employer of Master Sgt. Eddie Estagin.

Passenger and mission specific briefings were given to the

*"We got to showcase our unit and our capabilities, and to strengthen the bonds between some of our members and their employers."*

**Col. Tim Cahoon**  
931st ARG Commander

Continued on Pages 4 & 5

# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

## PME EXPOSES YOU TO UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

I attended the most recent Airman Leadership School graduation, and was proud and impressed with our four graduates. They certainly made the Air Force Reserve and the 931st look good. Standing among the active duty and Air National Guard graduates they strengthened the meaning of Total Force. They had taken the first, next big step in their careers by voluntarily attending and succeeding in ALS. They increased their ability to serve and to lead. As such, I have committed to funding up to 18 ALS in-residence courses this fiscal year so that we may add to our ranks of young Airmen further preparing for the future. If you are interested in attending, talk to your supervisor, commander or our Training Shop.

I review our Professional Military Education statistics every month, and I am pleased to know that many of you have completed all appropriate levels of PME for your rank and experience. I also note that many of you have not yet enrolled in PME, yet are eligible to enroll. I have heard it said, "I don't want to be a general or a chief, so why should I waste my time with PME?" At a minimum, you don't always know what you may want to do in the future, and when you get there and have changed your goals, you may wish that you took the PME you then need, and it might just be too late to get it done.

Of course, the more important reason is that PME is the second half of the foundation for your career. It is not just a "square filler", but your completion of PME is often considered an indicator of your seriousness toward advancing in your career. If you are willing to dedicate the time and effort to completing PME there is a good chance that you are also very serious about your duties, responsibilities and your desire to lead.

In addition to your functional training and experience, PME is the education you need to learn about all the rest of the Air Force, other services, management and leadership, warfare, politics (yes, you need to understand our civilian leaders too) and policies to mention just a part of what you won't

learn in Tech School. PME helps steer you to the next level of leadership, and to prepare you to lead.

Good leadership does not come naturally for most, and it almost always requires more knowledge than just what you learned on the job or in Tech School. Certainly, PME alone will not make you a capable leader either, but it will certainly make you a better leader. PME often exposes you to experiences that you just can't get anywhere else, particularly early in your career: Leadership exercises, public speaking, war gaming, debating, researching, problem solving, interacting with individuals from other career fields, all happen in one form or another in our many different PME courses, whether they be in residence or by correspondence.

We need you to take the time to enroll in and complete your appropriate PME. I know time is at a premium for all of us, but PME is worth doing and will be money in the bank to you as you go through your career. I think it will also prove useful to you in your civilian career as well. Many companies would pay good money to have their employees complete dedicated leadership and management training courses, and you can get it from us at no financial cost to you or your company.

If you are currently enrolled in PME or have completed your appropriate level I commend you. If you are eligible to tackle the next level or a complementary short course such as NCO Leadership Development Course then I encourage and fully support that. If you think you have made up your mind to go no further with your PME I ask that you reconsider. We will all benefit by increasing our ranks of PME graduates.



*William T. Cahoon*

**William T. Cahoon, Colonel**  
931st Air Refueling Group Commander

Integrity



Service



Excellence

# THIS UTA < OCTOBER 2007 >

**Saturday:**  
**HRDC Meeting**  
**Southwind Conf. Room 3 p.m.**

**Sunday:**  
**Commander's Call at 7:30 a.m.**  
**followed by mandatory training**

Photographs from Group events, retirements and ceremonies are now available for all to view and copy off of the share drive, Kanza-05 and are stored in the "PA Photos" folder.



Vol.12 No.10

**Commander**  
**Col. William T. Cahoon**

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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 emailed each month to all 931st ARG members. Members not receiving their copy should check with their workgroup manager. The publication is also posted monthly on the unit website:

[www.931arg.afrc.af.mil](http://www.931arg.afrc.af.mil)

## UTA SCHEDULE

**Next UTA: November 3 - 4 (5 - 7 Mandatory AT)**

**Dec. 8 - 9**

**Jan. 12 - 13**

**Feb. 9 - 10**

*DATES IN RED DENOTE MANDATORY UTAs*

## FITNESS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY:

9:30 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. – 18th ARS

2 p.m. – Three-mile walkers

3 p.m. – Headquarters, 931st OSF and 931st CES

### SUNDAY

2 p.m. – 931st AMXS

3 p.m. – 931st AMXS, 931st MSF, 18th ARS

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE



931st Air Refueling Group leadership joined together during the September UTA for physical training at the base track. Col. Tim Cahoon, Group commander is at far right and flanked by squadron commanders, chiefs and first sergeants. (Air Force Photo / Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap)



# FEATURE

Continued from Page 1



Senior Master Sgt. John Wallman, an 18th ARS boom operator speaks with Mr. Terry January of the Bradbury Company during the flight. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )

*"I had an excellent time today, the crew was right on with the mission and took great care of us."*

**Mr. Mel Carpenter  
Boeing**



The view of a KC-10 Extender from the boompod of a KC-135 crewed by the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )

*"I was just amazed at the technology and how close the planes were while refueling."*

**Mr. Terry January  
The Bradbury Company**



A KC-10 Extender takes on fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker crewed by the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )



Reserve employers board a KC-135 Stratotanker during the Group's annual Bosses Day event. 28 bosses made the trip on two aircraft. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )



Reserve employers listen as Tech. Sgt. Steve Sirois, a boom operator assigned to the 18th ARS, explains some of the features of the KC-135 Stratotanker during the Group's annual Bosses Day event. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )

Mr. Tim Pestinger of BNSF Railway, employer of Tech. Sgt. Steve Sirois.

“It (refueling) was a great experience,” said Ms. Emily Howard of Boeing, the civilian employer of Maj. “T” Tung.

After the refueling was complete, the aircraft returned to base.

“The most impressive thing was how we were treated by all the Reservists on the ground and in the air,” said Mr. Don Kaufman of The Bradbury Company, employer of

Senior Master Sgt. David Lofton. “They were all willing to answer questions and were very personable.”

The employers then met back with Col. Cahoon and were given employer support certificate and thanks from the commander.

“We got to personally thank some of our valued employers for their support of our Traditional Reservists,” said Col. Cahoon. “We could not do our mission without their support and understanding.”



Senior Master Sgt. Troy Lawson, an 18th ARS boom operator, talks to his civilian employer, Mr. Mike Pierce of Cessna Aircraft during the Bosses Day flight Sept. 15. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )



Senior Master Sgt. John Wallman, an 18th ARS boom operator fills out flight related paperwork during the flight. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )



Reserve employers enjoy “flight meals” aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker during the Group’s annual Bosses Day event. (Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell )



# Exercise tests McConnell response

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA LOCKOSKI  
22ND ARW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A wingman on the ground, suffering from an open chest wound, fading in and out of conscious, while sounds of mortars and gunfire dominate the surroundings in a hostile environment.

It's situations like this that the ability to survive and operate exercise addressed here during the base exercise, Sept. 19-21. It challenged military personnel's capability to respond.

"It has been a long period of time since the base has done an exercise like this and we started from ground zero," said Maj. Michael Rambo, 22nd Air Refueling Wing Plans and Programs office. What we saw as an evaluation team over the course of the exercise was a dramatic improvement from day one to day three. Starting from ground zero you have no where to go, but up. We saw that this should continue with the next exercise."

The McConnell Exercise Evaluation Team presented the wing with multiple scenarios to exemplify the need to always "be prepared" for situations that may arise anywhere and anytime. With this exercise completed and another one on the way in November, the wing, along with the 931st Air Refueling Group are preparing for an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled June 20-29.

"Forty-two members of the 931st participated in the exercise in some capacity," said Lt. Col. Keith Kontz, the 931st ARG chief of group training.

The ORI will assess McConnell's ability to execute its wartime or contingency mission. The wing as a whole as well as unit and individual operations will be evaluated by the Inspector General.

For now, on a local scale, the 22nd



**Staff Sgt. Cameron Collins of the 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight tries on overboots while building a training bag during the September Unit Training Assembly. The 931st Air Refueling Group will join the 22nd Air Refueling Wing in the next Ability To Survive and Operate (ATSO) exercise Nov. 3-7. (Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap)**

ARW XP carries the responsibility for all wing components through the EET. This includes function group representatives and unit level personnel who are functional experts in their career fields that know what tasks must be accomplished with what criteria.

One of the best ways people can prepare for the ORI is to make sure they fully know their responsibilities in their own jobs, Maj. Rambo said.

Doing this improves readiness, he said, because when unforeseen elements are introduced, Airmen are able to adapt to them based on their job core knowledge.

But no matter any Airmen's job duty, or assigned unit type code, the ATSO exercise can task anyone to exercise common skills needed to carry out a mission.

No matter what role they played during the exercise, Airmen were alerted to by alarm signals to wear mission oriented protective posture gear (chemical protective equipment) during a series of simulated attacks.

Some responded to evacuations, administered self-aid buddy care, and performed post-attack reconnaissance looking for suspicious activity and unexploded ordnances in the play area.

"Our Nov. Unit Training Assembly and attached Annual Tour will give all 931st ARG members a chance to practice their Initial Response/ATSO skills," said Lt. Col. Kontz. "This exercise is a chance for all of us to hone critical war fighting skills that we may need to use in the future when we once again get the call to mobilize."



## M.O.P.P. LEVELS

- 0 - Wear Field Gear, Carry Mask and Hood
- 1 - Wear Overgarment and Field Gear
- 2 - Wear Overgarment, Field Gear and Overboots  
Carry Mask and Gloves
- 3 - Wear Overgarment, Field Gear, Mask/Hood and Overboots  
Carry Gloves
- 4 - Wear Overgarment, Field Gear, Mask/Hood, Overboots  
and Gloves



# PROMOTIONS



**LT. COL.**  
 Joey Burns  
 Richard Fowler  
 Kerry Lehman  
 Charles Youngblood

**TECH. SGT.**  
 Jared Arrington  
 Arthur Banks

**STAFF SGT.**  
 Pilar Dunning  
 Ryan Jarboe  
 Patrick Strange

**SENIOR AIRMAN**  
 Christopher Espartero  
 Jermaine Goins

## Tricare Reserve Select

The revised plan offers coverage comparable to Tricare Standard for \$81 per month for an individual reservist and monthly premiums of \$253 for a reservist and family.

Reservists can learn more about the new plan and enroll by going online to:

[WWW.TRICARE.MIL](http://WWW.TRICARE.MIL)

## REAP the benefits

Have you been on Active Duty for 90 days or more since 2001? If so, you might qualify for the new Montgomery G.I. Bill benefit referred to as REAP. REAP is a new benefit providing educational assistance to members of the Reserve component who are called up to active duty in response to war. You could earn between

\$430 and \$860 a month as a full time student for serving. Contact Staff Sgt. Shannan Hughes at 743-6082 to check eligibility.

## MAFB Airman's Council

An Airman's Council has been established at McConnell Air Force Base. The council leadership would like to include Reservists in their meetings and activities. To join or for questions contact Senior Airman Jamie Train at 759-4567.

## Submissions?

Have something such as an announcement, request or photograph you would like to see in this or another section of the Kanza Spirit? All submissions are subject to editorial review. Please email submissions to:

[kenny.kimbrell-02@mcconnell.af.mil](mailto:kenny.kimbrell-02@mcconnell.af.mil)

## ALS Graduates

Congratulations to the following 931st ARG Senior Airmen who graduated from McConnell's Airman Leadership School Sept. 20. Senior Airmen Marina Coronado, Matthew Gefaller, Theron Thompson, and Lacey Wilson. Airman Gefaller also received the academic award and Airman Coronado received the fitness award.

[PUBLIC.MCCONNELL.AMC.AF.MIL/NEWS/STORY.ASP?ID=123069750](http://PUBLIC.MCCONNELL.AMC.AF.MIL/NEWS/STORY.ASP?ID=123069750)

## Combined Federal Campaign

The base's Combined Federal Campaign kicked-off Sept. 26 and will run through Nov 7. For information contact the 931st ARG CFC representatives 1st Lt. Brian Doom or Airman 1st Class James Utash.

# WHO'S THE BOSS

HONORING RESERVE EMPLOYERS FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE 931ST ARG PEOPLE AND MISSION

**RESERVIST:** Master Sgt. Eddie Estagin, a Boom Operator with the 18th Air Refueling Squadron has served in the Air Force for more than 18 years.

**CIVILIAN EMPLOYER:** Hawker-Beechcraft Corporation is the world's leading business, special-mission and trainer aircraft manufacturer – designing, marketing and supporting aviation products and services for businesses, governments and individuals worldwide. The company's headquarters is located in Wichita, Kan. Master Sgt. Estagin has worked as a Systems Safety Engineer for the corporation for more than a year.

**BOSS:** Brian Botts, Program Manager and Cathy Downen, Project Engineer, Premier New Product Development division

*"We try to be very supportive of Eddie in his service. The knowledge he has of aircraft is very important in the job he has at Hawker Beechcraft, so the training and experience he gets while on duty serves HBC as well." - Brian Botts, Program Manager*



# WICHITA WEEKEND

## Art Aid 14

Oct. 13 — 7 p.m. at the Cotillion Ballroom. Benefit fundraiser with scheduled events including silent and live art auctions, a runway show at followed by a night of dancing with the band, The Naughty Astronauts. Admission is \$55. For tickets and more information visit:

[WWW.THECOTILLION.COM](http://WWW.THECOTILLION.COM)

## Kyoko Takezawa

Oct. 13 — 8 p.m. at the Century II Concert Hall. Acclaimed violinist Kyoko Takezawa performs Peter Tchaikovsky's much beloved Violin Concerto with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. For tickets or more information, visit:

[WWW.KYOKOTAKEZAWA.COM](http://WWW.KYOKOTAKEZAWA.COM)

## Forest of Terror

Oct. 12, 13 — Dark until midnight at 50th Street North and Ridge Road in Wichita, Kan. There are things in this forest that will make even the biggest horror fan cry for their mummy. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$8 for children and can be purchased at the gate.

[WWW.360WICHITA.COM/FORESTOFTERROR](http://WWW.360WICHITA.COM/FORESTOFTERROR)

## At the Movies



### **BALLS OF FURY**

**FRIDAY, Sept. 14, 7pm**

*1 hr. 30 min. In the unsanctioned, underground, and unhinged world of extreme Ping-Pong, the competition is brutal and the stakes are deadly. Now, this outrageous new comedy serves up this secret world for the first time on-screen.*

**MPAA Rating:** PG-13, language, rude humor



### **MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY**

**SATURDAY, Sept. 15, 7pm**

*1 hr. 28 min. In his latest misadventure, Mr. Bean – the nearly wordless misfit who seems to be followed by a trail of pratfalls and hijinks – goes on holiday to the French Riviera and becomes ensnared in a European adventure of cinematic proportions.*

**MPAA Rating:** PG -13, crude humor, cinematic violence

*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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