

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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May 2008

McConnell AFB, Kansas

Vol. 13, No. 5



Courtesy photo

Touch-N-Gos

Change of Command

Col. William T. Cahoon will relinquish command of the 931st ARG to Col. Edsel A. "Archie" Frye Jr. during a ceremony Sunday of the Unit Training Assembly. All Group members present for the UTA are required to attend. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the Robert J. Dole Community Center.

Farewell to Col. Cahoon

All Group members are invited to bid farewell to Colonel Cahoon at a barbeque Saturday afternoon of the May Unit Training Assembly. Free food and drink will be provided at the pavillion next to the base pool at 5 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering to help should contact Lt. Col. David Fruck at (316) 759-3704.

New MPF hours

The 931st Military Personnel Flight has changed its hours of operation during Unit Training Assemblies. The MPF will now be open to help Airmen from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Sundays.

New Finance hours

Due to a staffing shortage in the 931st Finance Management Office, its daily hours have been changed from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Military pay documents and travel vouchers should be submitted to the office by 3 p.m. for processing by the next duty day.

Col. Edsel A. "Archie" Frye Jr. emerges from a KC-135 assigned to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing at Manas Air Base, Krygyzstan. Colonel Frye will take command of the 931st ARG after serving as commander of the 376th Operations Group at Manas AB.

After living for four months on the other side of the planet, Wichita, Kan., shouldn't seem too far away for Col. Edsel A. "Archie" Frye Jr. the 931st's next commander.

Colonel Frye was the operations group commander for the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., when he was deployed to be the operations group commander at Manas Air Base, Krygyzstan.

He was selected to command the 931st and make the relatively short move from Tinker AFB to McConnell AFB while he was at Manas AB.

Colonel Frye started his military career in 1976, enlisting in the Air Force and serving as a crew chief, phase in-

spector, flight engineer. He entered the Air Force Reserve Air Reserve Technician program in 1982 at Barksdale AFB, La. Colonel Frye was then selected for and graduated from Officer Training School and then entered Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1986. During his career he has flown A-10, B-52H, KC-135R and C-141C aircraft at various Air Force Reserve units across the country.



He has served in many positions within the Air Force Reserve Command and has deployed repeatedly in support of such Operations as Deny Flight, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom to name a few. He is a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours.



Vol.13 No.5

Commander
Col. William T. Cahoon

Spirit Staff

Lt. Col. Dave Fruck
Chief of Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
Editor

Senior Airman
Connor Burkhard
Staff Writer

How to reach us

Kanza Spirit
931st Air Refueling Group
53280 Topeka St., Ste. 221
McConnell AFB, KS 67221
Commercial Phone:
(316) 759-3704
DSN: 743-3704

Deadlines

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

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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

General Stenner nominated to command Air Force Reserve

Maj. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr. has been nominated for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general with assignment as chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced April 18 that the president had nominated General Stenner for the promotion and assignment.

The general will replace Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley as chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander. General Bradley will retire in June.

General Stenner currently serves as assistant deputy chief of staff, Strategic Plans and Programs at Headquarters Air Force. He assists in the development, integration, evaluation and analysis of the U.S. Air Force Future Years Defense Program that exceeds \$682 billion, as well as the Air Force long-range plan to support

national security objectives and military strategy.

From July 2003 to July 2006, General Stenner was the director of operations and then director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB.

His joint assignments include deputy director and director of strategy, policy and plans, and director of transformation, U.S. Southern Command, Miami.

During his career, General Stenner commanded the 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., from December 1998 to May 2001, and the 442nd FW, Whiteman

AFB, Mo., from August 1997 to December 1998. He also served as commander of four operations groups.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant upon completing Officer Training School in 1973.

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)



Relevant Times

UTA SCHEDULE

May 17-18
June 21-22
June 28-29
August 9-10
September 13-14
October TBD
November TBD
December TBD
(Dates in red are mandatory)

DINING FACILITY

Breakfast 6:30 - 8:15 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Sat/Sun 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

FITNESS CENTER

Mon/Fri 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sat/Sun 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

COMMISSARY

Tues/Sat 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun 10 am. - 6 p.m.
Mon Closed

SHOPPETTE

Mon/Fri 6:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

BARBER SHOP

Mon/Fri 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A FINAL 'KABOOM NOTE'

FROM
Col. William T. Cahoon
931st ARG Commander



Col. William T. Cahoon gets the traditional wet down following his final flight as the 931st ARG commander.

photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

Members of the Golden Knights, 17 months ago I signed into the 931st Air Refueling Group, and 14 months ago I returned from KC-135 training at Altus and began my daily role as your group commander.

It has been a very busy tour with you, and I have learned a lot during my time here at McConnell. It barely seems that our tour here has started and we are already moving on to Andrews AFB.

While our time here has been hectic, it has also been satisfying. Serving, leading and flying—I have been very fortunate to have had this opportunity to be your commander.

Three things have impressed me about the members of the 931st—your dedicated service, your job competence and the tight bonds among all of you. I sincerely appreciate your service along with your family's and employer's support, and I recognize that you are all experts at what you do.

Few can rival this team where the members are so close to one another, and trust one another so much.

Clearly our nation and Air Force can count on you to serve them, and to expertly carry out your mission. I am blessed that I could depend upon that, and as a result not have to worry about these three critical areas, and could focus my attention in other areas. Thank you.

We have worked hard this past

year getting ready for the ORI while at the same time supporting deployments and conducting our daily mission here.

We have accomplished much this year. We continued to help fight the war, operated under constrained training sortie generation, and moved forward along with the rest of the Air Force on new ideas, new plans, and new systems.

We have adapted to change and limitations, and maintained our spirit while we did it, even though we sometimes really wanted to scream. It has not always been convenient or fun, but you have knuckled down with a great attitude and prepared as professional Airmen are expected to prepare.

You deployed to Turkey, you passed an HSI, some of you came back from Iraq shortly after I got here, and that was after another trying year the year before.

You have already shown the IG a glimpse of your capability by successfully completing the Readiness Assessment Test earlier in May. I am confident that you will do well in the deployed ORI in June, and support the combined Reserve, Air National Guard and Active Duty team in a commendable manner.

Many of you will then follow that almost immediately by deploying to Incirlik, Turkey, to support the tanker task force. There is no rest for the weary warrior. Good luck.

Vicki and I have met a lot of fine folks while here at McConnell. During this tour, we have come to appreciate your kindness, your honesty, your friendliness and your attentiveness. We were strangers when we got here, but we never felt like strangers after we got here.

I know I most often concentrated on work, and did not get out with you often enough, but whenever Vicki or I did we were always welcomed. To the pilots and boom operators with whom I had the privilege of flying, thank you. I was honored to fly with such capable aviators. I always enjoyed the time I spent with you; you welcomed me to your missions and proved what professionals you were.

As I re-learned from my younger years, you are a humble, loyal, dedicated bunch and we are fortunate to have you serving our nation. To my unit commanders and staff members, thank you for all your hard work, your patience, your tolerance of my long staff meetings and Kaboom Notes.

Of course, there were a few whom I had the pleasure of working more closely. Thank you so much for your long hours, hard work, your advice, your support, patience, dedication and loyalty, and your friendship.

I am proud of all of you, and Vicki and I wish you all the best. To all of you, "Farewell and may we meet again."

The Dramatic Life of a Flight Scheduler

photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

Tech. Sgt. Miranda "Mindy" Whiting "had a blast" performing in musicals before joining the Air Force. Sergeant Whiting, a Reserve and civilian flight scheduler for the 18th Air Refueling Squadron, recently returned to the stage as street tough Ronette in "Little Shop of Horrors."

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap 931st ARG Public Affairs

Long before Mindy Whiting moved to Kansas, she wanted to be Dorothy running down the yellow brick road.

She was in the second grade in her hometown of Williamsport, Pa., and young actors were needed for "Christmas in Oz."

"I wanted to be Dorothy so bad," Whiting remembered, playfully slamming her fist down. But her long, dark hair and self-admitted supply of "spunk" made her the "unanimous" vote to be the Wicked Witch.

The good soldier, she took her broom-flying orders and marched. And she kept on marching; and singing; and performing. In musicals, in chorus, and even in the orchestra strumming her now-missed string bass, all the way up through high school.

Then, just after graduation in 1995, Whiting left for the active-duty Air Force. It was time to see what

was beyond her small town in central Pennsylvania, and pick up some money for college along the way.

"It was something I always wanted to do" she said.

A free book cover from a recruiter had Whiting leaning toward the Marines in the ninth grade. But a relative who had been in the Air Force convinced her otherwise.

Today, Tech. Sgt. Miranda "Mindy" Whiting is a Reserve and civilian flight scheduler for the 18th Air Refueling Squadron, the flying squadron of the 931st Air Refueling Group at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

About three months ago, a basewide e-mail caught Sergeant Whiting's attention. A production of "Little Shop of Horrors" needed to fill some singing parts.

"You know that would be fun," she remembered thinking. "I did that in high school and had a blast."

She was cast as Ronette, one of three, girl group-inspired street urchins who sing and sass their way through the play. The first of three shows is scheduled at the base theater Thurs-

day. It will be Whiting's first performance in more than a decade.

Like her string bass, acting, "the challenge to be somebody else," is something she has missed since her Air Force journey began, Whiting said. Becoming Ronette, "letting loose a little bit," is a kind of freedom she has not felt since back in Williamsport.

It's also been more of a challenge than Whiting expected, thanks to her long stay in the Midwest.

"It's hard for me to talk like Ronette," she insisted, assuming her street persona as she spoke, "with a lot of attitude and not have a twang at the end."

Once she's off Skid Row, the aptly named setting "Little Shop" characters long to escape, Whiting plans to continue with the newly organized McConnell Players. There is talk of a mystery dinner theater later in the year and other projects.

Sergeant Whiting is not sure what specific roles wait for her down the road. But, living in Kansas, there's always the chance it will be paved with some yellow bricks.

SERE 100 training requirement for all Airmen

David Hopper
Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — All Airmen are now required to complete Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape Computer Based Training on the Advanced Distributed Learning System.

Air Force officials said the training is to ensure Airmen are equipped for the challenges faced on the battlefield as they find themselves fulfilling non-traditional roles in dangerous environments.

The level of training Airmen have received to this point did not prepare them for the possibility of captivity, said Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Carroll, Air Combat Command superintendent SERE operations and training. SERE 100 was created to ensure Airmen are prepared for what they would face in captivity.

The SERE 100 CBT is located in the mobility and readiness section of ADLS. The training is required once every 20 months after the initial SERE 100 training is complete.

The SERE 100 CBT is about four hours of training, Sergeant Carroll said. The training will provide Airmen with a much higher level of baseline training that will prepare them for potential captivity in a wartime, peacetime governmental or hostage situation.

Commanders of Air National Guard and Reserve components can extend the deadline for their members until Oct. 30. Active-duty Airmen have until June 30 to

photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine



Staff Sgt.'s Michael Garcia and Matthew Zimmer swim across a pond in upper Washington during the 2007 Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape Challenge. The sergeants, both SERE specialists at Fairchild AFB, Wash., were pushing a raft they constructed to keep their gear dry. All Airmen are now required to complete SERE training online.

finish the training. The SERE 100 CBT can be accessed on ADLS or through the Air Force Portal.

Airmen looking for more information on SERE 100 training should contact their Unit Deployment Monitor.

Editor's Note: 931st members participating in the ORI also have until October 30 to complete the SERE 100 CBT.

ORE, RAT declared successes for 931st ARG



photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kilian (left) and Master Sgt. Shaun Hoobler seek shelter under a table while relaying information to fellow civil engineering troops during an Operational Readiness Exercise at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wis., in April. Both sergeants are assigned to the 931st Civil Engineer Squadron.

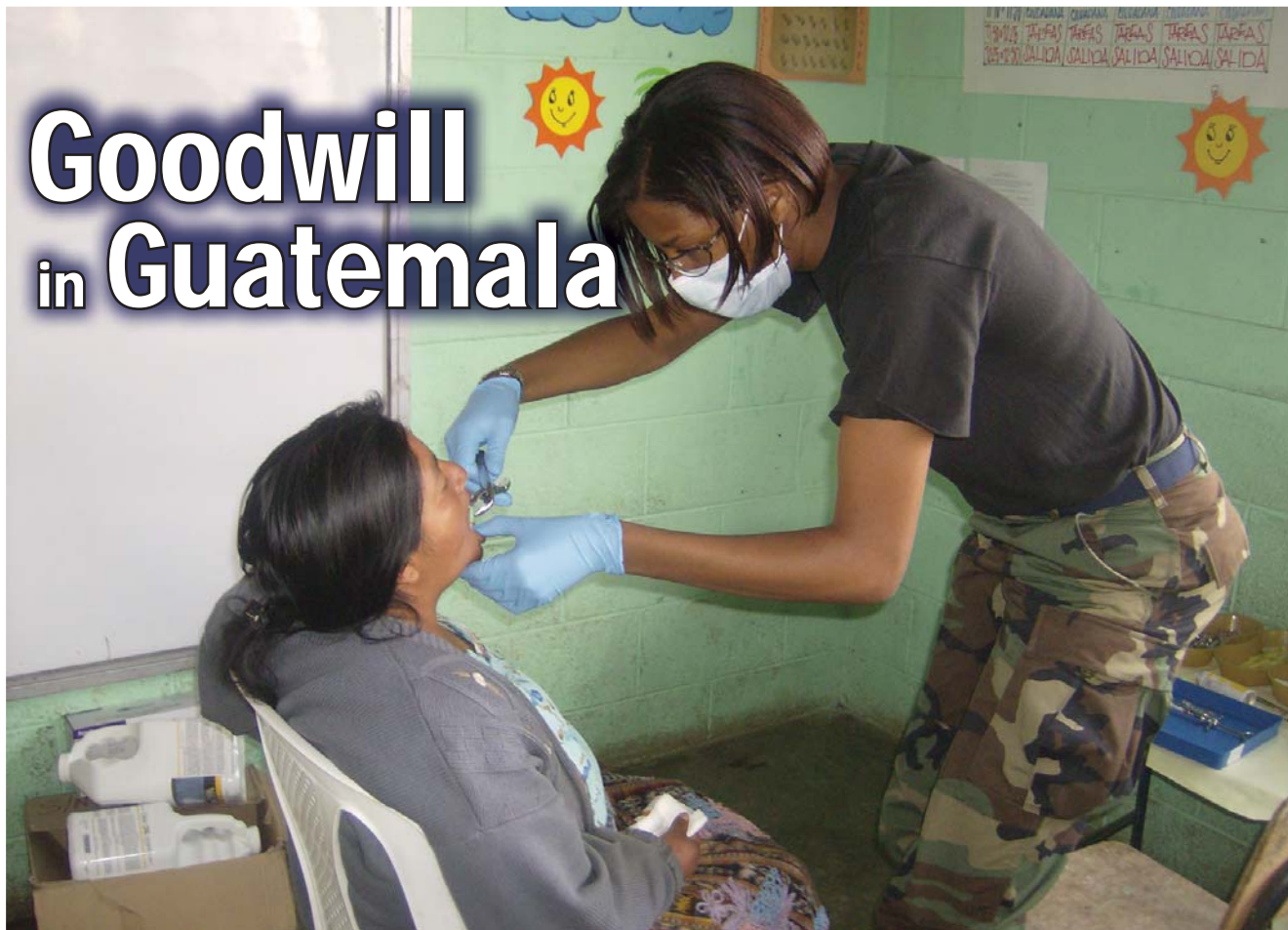
Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st ARG Public Affairs

The 931st ARG is "quite capable of performing (its) mission," an inspector from a Readiness Assessment Team said to Col. William T. Cahoon, the Group's commander.

Flyers and maintainers from the Group were evaluated by the team at McConnell AFB in early May. Grades from the assessment will be incorporated into the 931st's Operational Readiness Inspection in June.

"Comments were positive and indicated we are on the right track for a successful ORI," Col. Cahoon said about the RAT feedback.

Lt. Col. Keith Kontz, 931st training chief, said confidence is high the ORI will go well. Col. Ray LaMarche, commander of the wing 931st troops will join for the ORI, described the ORI's preceding Operational Readiness Exercise in April as "very successful," Colonel Kontz said.



Goodwill in Guatemala

Staff Sgt. Crystal Herrington provides dental care for a local woman during a two-week humanitarian mission in Guatemala. Sergeant Herrington is a dental assistant for the 931st Air Refueling Group. She was part of a group of 931st medical personnel who traveled with Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to provide care for more than 8,000 Guatemalans in late April and early May.

Medical Airmen return from humanitarian mission

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st ARG Public Affairs

It didn't take long for Staff Sgt. Crystal Herrington to realize she was in for a long two weeks.

Sergeant Herrington, who returned last week from a 15-day humanitarian mission in rural Guatemala, had a window near her in an old school room that was her Guatemalan dental office. In between pulling rotted teeth from children as young as 4 years old, she could see the crowd outside.

"It just goes and goes," Sergeant Herrington said, describing the massive line of people she saw every day. "It was never ending."

When the 15 days was over, the 35-member medical team she supported had treated more than 8,000 Guatemalans. The dental portion of the team pulled more than 700 teeth.

"We were just rocking," Senior Master Sgt. Edward Espinoza said, referring to the speedy rate he watched people move through the makeshift clinics. Sergeant Espinoza served as an interpreter during the mission and like Sergeant Herrington, was one of six 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight members sent to Guatemala as part of a medical readiness training exercise, or MEDRETE.

The MEDRETE is an important component of New Horizons, a series of joint and combined humanitarian assistance exercises U.S. Southern Command conducts in Latin American and Caribbean nations annually. They generally take place in rural, underprivileged areas and provide much needed services while giving deployed U.S. military forces invaluable training.

Sergeant Espinoza's first experience with a New Horizons mission was "awesome...yet sad." He spent much of his time translating for the dental portion of the team and was shocked by how many young children needed "black, rotted" teeth pulled.

It was the preceding pain from a needle, filled with anesthetic, and poked into the roof of their mouths that shocked the children, Sergeant Herrington said, "especially if they were really small."

"They scream loud," she said. "The crying is the hardest."

Some of the little patients tried to grab the needle from her. Some closed their mouths down on the needle. Fortunately, a dentist from Guatemala's military was on hand to help.

"He would take them if they were kicking and screaming," Sergeant Herrington said. "He was used to it."

Staff Sgt. Loni Geihlsler provided administrative sup-

continued on page 13

AFRC commander makes first visit to 931st ARG

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st ARG Public Affairs

For the first time as Commander, Air Force Reserve Command and Chief, Air Force Reserve, Lt. Gen. John Bradley visited the 931st Air Refueling Group at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., on May 8.

With his itinerary shortened by unexpected transportation changes, the general used his few hours at McConnell AFB to visit with 931st members and answer their questions during a town hall meeting.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing manpower issues and the 931st's future. "We're adding a lot of jobs here," General Bradley said during his opening remarks about solving a maintenance issue that resulted from the Group's associate unit status.

Initially, he said, the associate program was set up so that active-duty Airmen provided the majority of maintenance support for flying missions. But over time, continuity of the agreement was lost and active-duty maintainers began questioning the appearance of Reserve maintainers not bearing a fair share of the workload.

"I got tired of hearing the complaints," General Bradley said.

The 931st has already benefited from a manpower increase approved to solve the issue AFRC-wide and more improvements are expected. "We're working on it," General Bradley insisted. "We'll get it fixed."

Given the green light to grow, the general was asked if he thought the 931st could ever become a wing. The question has been a popular one for generals visiting the 931st.

"It could very possibly happen," he responded.

The number of tankers owned by the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, the 931st's active-duty host unit, is expected to increase. If the 22nd needed a wing-size 931st to support the mission at McConnell AFB, General Bradley said he "would be all for it."

What kind of tankers will be added to the McConnell AFB inventory was a topic the general avoided due to the

current controversy surrounding the Air Force's new tanker acquisition plan. No matter what happens with the plan, he said, getting rid of KC-135s is not going to be quick.

"It's going to take a long time to replace them," General Bradley said before predicting some KC-135s will be 80 years old before they are retired.

Chief Master Sgt. Donald Askren Jr. stood up during the meeting, but told

KC-135 flight simulators. Colonel Cahoon told him the simulators have been crucial to keeping pilot training current.

The general, who later said he never flew in a KC-135 simulator before, strapped in for a simulated flight with the 931st's Maj. Mike Gibbons as his co-pilot. A fighter pilot his entire career, the experience was quite different than what he was used to.

"That's a lot of work," he said to



photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

Senior Master Sgt. Colleen Celeski receives a coin from Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Commander, Air Force Reserve Command and Chief, Air Force Reserve, just prior to a town hall meeting at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., on May 8. General Bradley traveled to McConnell for his first visit with the 931st Air Refueling Group. Sergeant Celeski is a 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight member.

the general he did not have a question. Instead, the 931st's chief boom used the opportunity to compliment the fine Airmen of the 931st.

General Bradley agreed with the chief. The general once commanded a wing near Kansas City, Mo., that included a civil engineer squadron at McConnell AFB. Senior Master Sgt. Tamera Askren, Chief Askren's wife, was part of that squadron.

"This Midwest work ethic is a force multiplier," General Bradley said. "There's not a lot of looking over the shoulder here."

After the town hall meeting, Col. William Cahoon, 931st commander, took General Bradley to McConnell's

Colonel Cahoon after he landed the virtual jet. "I don't know how you fly those big planes."

"You slowly get used to it," the colonel told him. Like General Bradley, Colonel Cahoon was once an A-10 Thunderbolt pilot.

General Bradley first flew combat missions in the Vietnam War. His long Air Force career is scheduled to end when he retires in June.

"In my 41 years in the Air Force, I have never seen a better attitude toward AFRC than I see today," General Bradley said to 931st members at the town hall meeting. "You and your performance have given us credibility and respect."

TOTAL FORCE TANKER



Col. Michael "Ninja" Dillard and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pickard show a newly-painted KC-135 rutterator to Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Commander, Air Force Reserve Command and Chief, Air Force Reserve, at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., on May 8. The 931st Air Refueling Group's name was recently added to the rutterator to display total force teamwork at McConnell AFB. General Bradley was at McConnell to visit members of the 931st, an associate unit to the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, the active-duty wing at McConnell. Colonel Dillard is the 22nd Maintenance Group commander and Colonel Pickard is the 931st Maintenance Squadron commander.

Where He Needs To Be



photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

Master Sgt. Bob Livingston (far right) shares a laugh with Joe (far left), one of the many who benefit from a free breakfast Sergeant Livingston volunteers to support every month. Homeless men make up the majority of those who travel, usually by foot, for the free meal in a church basement.

Helping to feed act of faith for first sergeant

Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap
931st ARG Public Affairs

Despair can take on many forms. For Master Sgt. Bob Livingston, despair has many names, many faces, and it visits him the third Saturday of every month.

That is when Sergeant Livingston and other members of his church volunteer their morning to provide a free breakfast near downtown Wichita, Kan. Hungry and 99 percent homeless, around 100 people usually make their way to the meal.

"I start to see them about 10 blocks out," Sergeant Livingston said, referring to his early-morning drive to the old church where the breakfasts are offered. They start to arrive soon after he does.

Breakfast is in the basement. Volunteers prepare food in an adjoining kitchen while the crowd makes its way through the food line and sits down at circular folding tables. Some

obviously know each other and chat their way through the meal. Many silently stare their way through any object, or person, in front of them.

Sergeant Livingston knows there are faces he will never see again. Dire need, personified and amassed, makes reality too recognizable for some. "It's just too devastating," he said. "They don't come back."

Some of those who do come back know Sergeant Livingston as "Preacher," a nickname born from his words of encouragement and tendency to be out in front.

A first sergeant for three sections of the 931st ARG, Sergeant Livingston brought his ability to lead with him when he started helping with the breakfasts two years ago.

"I just knew right away this is where I needed to be," Sergeant Livingston said about why he continued to volunteer.

His living room can testify to his desire to help lead the way. He and his wife, Sally, recently filled the room with 66 boxes of clothes to be

made available at the breakfasts. The clothes came from donors he tracked down.

There once was two tables of clothes at the breakfasts to choose from. Now there are six.

Sergeant Livingston also looks out for other things in need, like shoes and backpacks.

"I talk to these guys," he said. "I know what they need and when they need it."

At a breakfast in mid-April, Sergeant Livingston stood at the end of the food line. A man he recognized approached him, but without food. "You're not eating?" Sergeant Livingston asked while shaking his hand. No, the man replied, just getting some clothes for a Bible study later that night.

As the line continued, so did Sergeant Livingston's greetings. Most didn't say much as they passed, but they didn't need to. Life on the streets does not need to be heard. It can be felt.

"These people are cold," he later

said, referring to the handshakes he has grown used to. "It's like grabbing an ice cube."

Brian Colvin sat on a side bench after breakfast, watching Sergeant Livingston hand out bus passes to people before they left.

A roofer originally from Oklahoma City, Okla., Colvin said he traveled to Wichita in 2006 looking for work after

breakfast regular and veteran. He helped cap burning oil wells during the first Gulf War before he wound up on the street, Raines said.

There was the man who showed up late one day when the volunteers were cleaning up. The food was gone. Angry, the man said he'd go find a dumpster. The volunteers found him when they took out the garbage.

'These people are cold...it's like grabbing an ice cube.'

a hail storm battered houses throughout the city. What he eventually found was unemployment, homelessness, and devastation.

"You wouldn't have recognized me," Colvin said, describing the physical result of his situation. "I literally had nothing."

Until one Saturday morning.

"I followed the pack of people and they led me here," Colvin said.

He met Sergeant Livingston, who encouraged him to trust in God.

And that's just what he did. God, Colvin said, blessed him with work, a home and a "fresh start."

Some happy, many sad, stories are what Sergeant Livingston said he has a lot of. There is Steven Raines, a

"There he was," Sergeant Livingston said, in the dumpster, breaking open bags and eating what he found.

The volunteers were again cleaning up at the April breakfast when another latecomer walked in. "Happens every time," Sergeant Livingston said to himself, looking up from the broom in his hands.

"I just got off of work," the man says. "My boss' truck is outside running."

"We can probably get you some peanut butter sandwiches," Livingston tells him, the kitchen not totally closed.

The man crosses the long basement toward the volunteers. His clothes look newer. "I got a job, I got a bank account," he tells them proudly.

Sergeant Livingston smiles, then heads inside the kitchen to help with the sandwiches.

931st ARG helps welcome President Bush

Col. William Cahoon, 931st Air Refueling Group Commander, greets President George Bush at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., on May 4. The president was in Kansas to visit Greensburg, Kan., a town west of McConnell AFB that was destroyed by a tornado a year prior. Airmen from throughout the 931st also greeted the president, who took time to shake many of their hands. (*Below*) The president plays along after someone teases an Airmen about her trying to flirt with him.



photo by Senior Airman Roy Lynch

photo by Airman 1st Class Maria Ruiz



Anheuser-Busch offers free admission

Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — For the rest of this year, sitting in Shamu the killer whale's "splash zone" or talking turkey with a big yellow bird are just two activities servicemembers and their families can enjoy for free at Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks.

Through its "Here's to the Heroes" program, which began in 2005, the brewing company is offering free tickets to its theme parks for servicemembers and up to three family members to thank them for all they do in service to the country.

"It's important to us for all the reasons you can probably predict," said Fred Jacobs, vice president of communications for Anheuser-Busch. "[This] is a great way for them to reconnect, particularly if they've been separated."

Mr. Jacobs knows the program is living up to the company's goals when he sees letters like one an Airman wrote.

Master Sgt. Michael Huffman said in his letter that he didn't join the service for applause or to become a hero, but is simply serving his country as his father and grandfather did.

In his 26 years of service, Sergeant Huffman said, he's seen the pendulum of public support swing from the more negative end of the spectrum to where it is today.

"I see the people express their support, and while I do appreciate it, I never really gave it much thought ... until I sat

through the opening video of the whale show at Sea World," he said in the letter to Anheuser-Busch. "There before [everyone] was your CEO expressing his gratitude to me. Sure, it wasn't directed solely at me, ... [but] I felt a pride in serving that I had forgotten was in me. I had become so complacent.

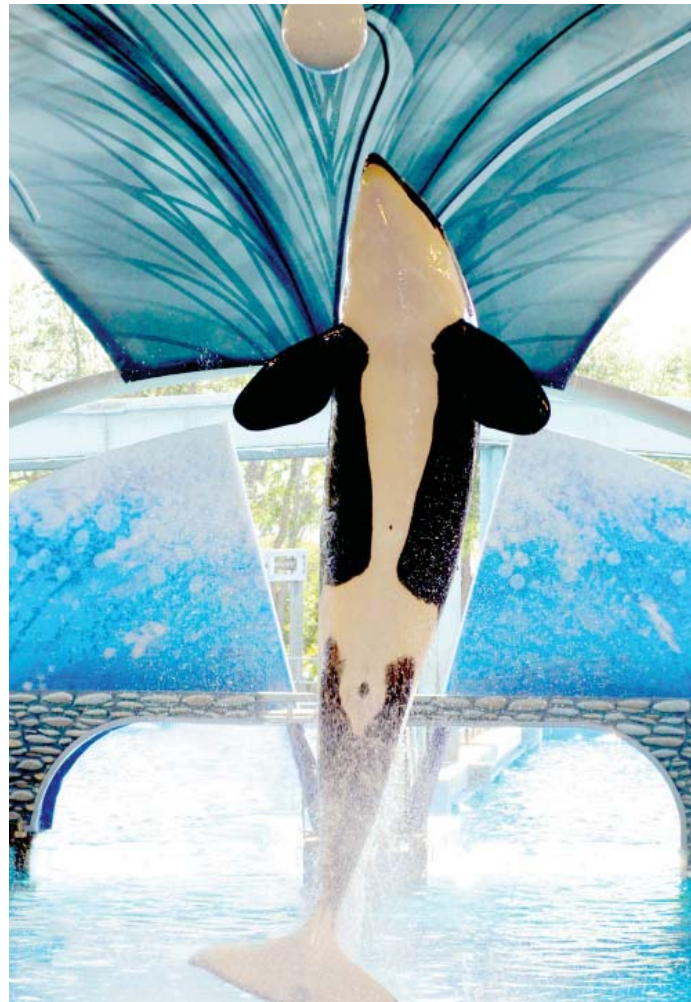
"For that alone, I owe you thanks," Sergeant Huffman added. "The free admission and opportunity to enjoy some high-quality family time was icing on the cake."

Active-duty servicemembers, activated or drilling reservists from all five branches of service, and National Guardsmen are eligible for the program.

All servicemembers need do is register online, print and sign the form and bring it with them. If the form can't be printed, it can be filled out upon arrival at the park. Every person over 10 participating in this program must present valid active-duty military or service identification.

Each pass is valid for a one-day admission per person per year to five of Anheuser-Busch's seven theme park brands. Visitors may choose Sea World Orlando, San Diego or San Antonio; Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg; Pennsylvania's Sesame Place; Florida's Adventure Island; or Virginia's Water Country USA. Discovery Cove and Aquatica parks are not included in this offer.

Anheuser-Busch is a corporate supporter of America Supports You, a Defense Department program connecting citizens and corporations with servicemembers and their families serving at home and abroad.



Log on to:
www.herosalute.com
www.americasupportsyou.com



Courtesy photos

Junior ROTC instructor duty opens to 'gray area' reservists

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. — Air Force Junior ROTC is now able to hire Traditional Guardsmen and Reservists who have retired but are not yet drawing their retirement ("grey area" retirees). The passage of the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act allows AFJROTC to tap into the large pool of highly trained and motivated Guardsmen and Reservists.

"We are looking for retired Guard/Reserve officers and NCOs who want to continue serving their communities by teaching the next generation of leaders," said Col. Richard J. Ragaller, director of Air Force Junior ROTC at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

AFJROTC currently has over 50 officer and over 30 NCO instructor positions open at locations across the U.S. There are 869 units world-wide and 10 new units will open up for the next school year. Over 101,000 students are enrolled in AFJROTC.

"It's exciting to have the chance to add these outstanding Airmen to the AFJROTC family," he said. "I don't

think there can be any more rewarding career than "Building Better Citizens for America."

Traditional Guard/Reserve applicants must have been retired within the past five years or less with 20 "good years" of service and possess a DD Form 214/NGB Form 22, ANG/USAFR Point Credit Summary and retire with at least 3600 retirement points. For more information about Guard/Reserve requirements, go to <http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFJROTC/grayarea.asp>.

Officers must have a bachelor's degree or higher and NCOs must have a minimum of high school diploma and must obtain an associate's degree within five years of employment. Additional education degrees and teacher certification are an advantage and may be required by some school districts.

Instructors wear the Air Force uniform and must meet the Air Force appearance and weight/body fat standards. They must also have high standards of military bearing and moral character.

AFJROTC provides TDY funding for new instructors to complete Air University's 2-week Aerospace Science Instructor Course at Maxwell AFB prior to receiving certification for instructor duty. The course includes training on instructor performance, standards and accountability as representatives of the Air Force; learning theory; communication skills; teaching methods; lesson planning and student evaluation.

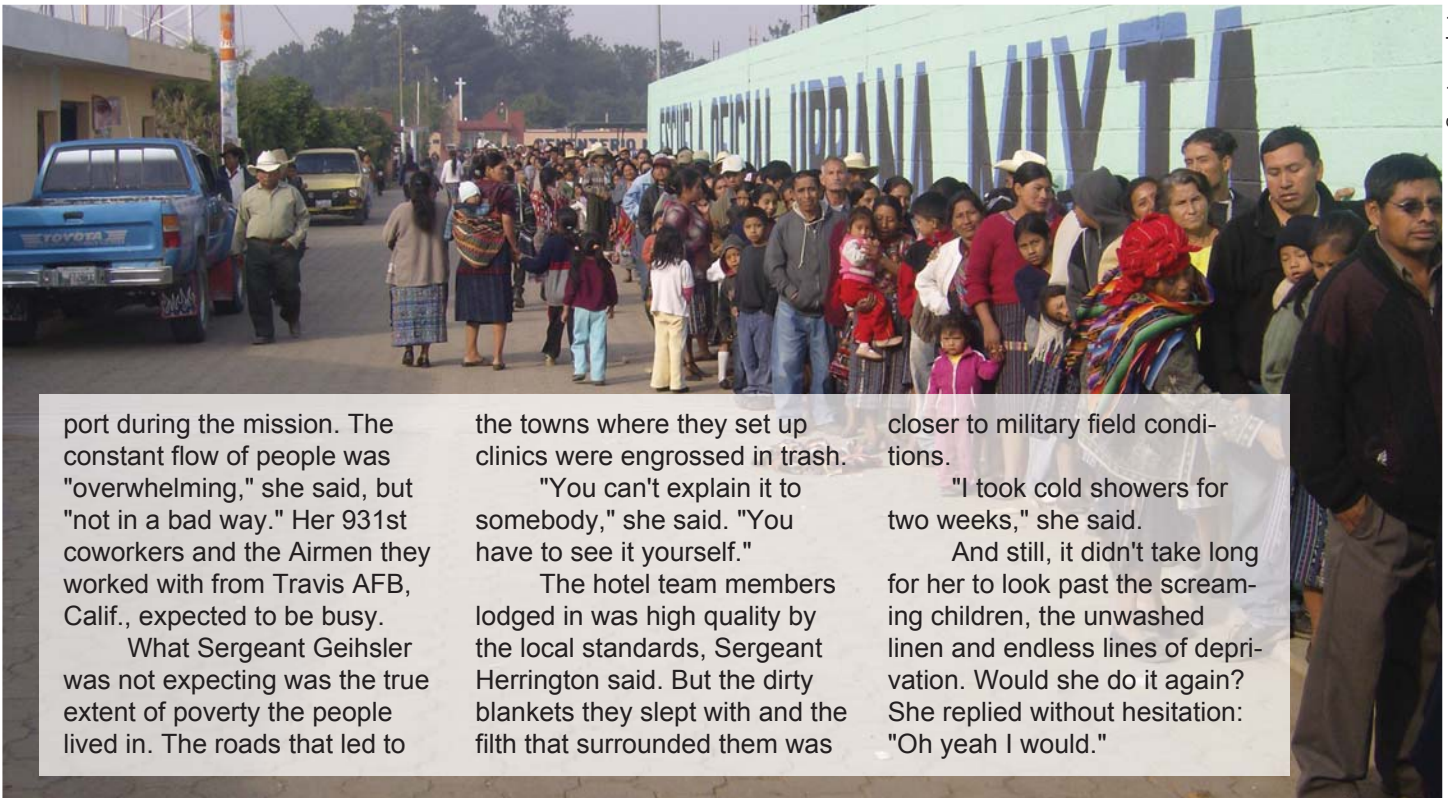
For
More Information

(866) 235-7682
Ext. 35112 of 32535

DSN 493-5112
493-2535

[www.afoats.af.mil/
AFJROTC/instructors.asp](http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFJROTC/instructors.asp)

Goodwill in Guatemala from page 6



Courtesy photo

port during the mission. The constant flow of people was "overwhelming," she said, but "not in a bad way." Her 931st coworkers and the Airmen they worked with from Travis AFB, Calif., expected to be busy.

What Sergeant Geihlsler was not expecting was the true extent of poverty the people lived in. The roads that led to

the towns where they set up clinics were engrossed in trash.

"You can't explain it to somebody," she said. "You have to see it yourself."

The hotel team members lodged in was high quality by the local standards, Sergeant Herrington said. But the dirty blankets they slept with and the filth that surrounded them was

closer to military field conditions.

"I took cold showers for two weeks," she said.

And still, it didn't take long for her to look past the screaming children, the unwashed linen and endless lines of deprivation. Would she do it again? She replied without hesitation: "Oh yeah I would."

The lines of Guatemalans seeking medical care were described as "never ending" by one 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight member who supported the mission there. Airmen from the 931st AMDF spent two weeks in Guatemala supporting New Horizons, an annual series of joint and combined humanitarian assistance exercises that U.S. Southern Command conducts in Latin American and Caribbean nations.

SPIRIT SHORTS

SGLI rates to decrease

Effective July 1, 2008, the SGLI premium rate will be decreased from the current level of 7 cents per month per \$1,000 of coverage to 6.5 cents per month per \$1,000 of coverage.

This will decrease the premium rate for a service member with the maximum coverage of \$400,000 from \$29.00 to \$27.00 a month. (The premium includes an additional \$1.00 per month for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage (TSGLI), which is mandatory and added automatically.)

WWW.INSURANCE.VA.GOV/SGLISITE/DEFAULT.HTM

Airmen on orders must visit MPF and Finance

All Group members who receive orders for 30 days or more are required to visit the Military Personnel Flight and the Reserve Pay Office to receive an entitlements briefing.

The briefing should be accomplished prior to the date the orders begin. Both offices are located on the second floor of the Group headquarters building.

The pay office can be contacted at (316) 759-3629 and the MPF at 759-3479.

New Web site for retirees

The Air Force has a new Web site just for its retiree community that is full of news and information, plus it is easy to access and navigate. The site offers the retiree family in-depth information on the Survivor Benefit Plan, plus a list of Air Force Retiree Activities Offices worldwide and various other resources. There are also sections dedicated to the Afterburner and Air Force Retiree News Service.

Visitors can access the sections by using the top navigation bar on the home page. The home page also features the latest Air Force headline news and video clips. There is even a special icon for quick access to the Combat-Related Special Compensation information page.

WWW.RETIRES.AF.MIL

Stars approved for Iraq and Afghanistan medals

The Department of Defense has announced that campaign stars are authorized for wear on the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal. The campaign stars recognize a service member's participation in designated campaigns only and Airmen should check their virtual or unit MPF for eligibility.

NCOLDP deadline/class info from Group Training Office

The May UTA is the deadline to sign up for the NCO Leadership Development class in August. Seats may be reserved by contacting the Group Training Office at (316) 759-5423/6082.

The Training Office is also offering classes through ExecuTrain that discuss changes in software applications associated with Office 2007. Classes will be in the upstairs auditorium of building 840 and members will receive a workbook for each session attended:

May 28 (must signup by May 18)
Migrating to Office 2007 Noon-1:15 p.m.
Excel 2007 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Word 2007 3 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
May 29 (must signup by May 18)
Outlook 2007 8-9:15 a.m.
PowerPoint 2007 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Access 2007 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

June 28 (must signup by June 16)
Migrating to Office 2007 Noon-1:15 p.m.
Excel 2007 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Word 2007 3 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
June 29 (must signup by June 16)
Outlook 2007 8-9:15 a.m.
PowerPoint 2007 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Access 2007 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

1st Lt. Gary Barbee is a Dublin, Texas, native who has been in the Air Force for 6 years.

Air Force job: KC-135 pilot

Civilian job: Avionics Technician for Boeing

Favorite way to relax: Fishing, golf and playing with my son Tucker

What annoys me: When I call a company hoping to speak with a person and I get an automated customer service system

Most influential person in my life: Dawn, my wife—she helps me approach life with more patience

What I'm listening to: Kevin Fowler & Cross Canadian Ragweed

What I'm reading: Bob Hoover

Favorite movie: Transformers

If I won \$1 million, I would: Buy a home on Lake McQueeney in Seguin, Texas and help family the best I could



18th Air Refueling Squadron

ROUND THE GROUP

Courtesy photo



Medal given to new MSF troop for volunteer work

Tech. Sgt. Rachel Forrest recently received a Military Volunteer Service Medal from Col. James Vechery, 22nd Air Refueling Wing Commander, during a ceremony at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. Sergeant Forrest is a new Family Readiness technician for the 931st Air Refueling Group. She was nominated to receive the medal for her work with the McConnell Drug Education For Youth program while on active duty with the 22nd ARW.

photo by Senior Airman Connor Burkhard



Chili feed, other efforts raise money for assistance fund

Col. William T. Cahoon, 931st Commander, joins Senior Master Sgt. Lloyd Campbell, Staff Sgt. Ramon Bortle and other 931st troops at a chili feed put together during the April Unit Training Assembly to benefit the Air Force Assistance Fund. The chili feed kicked off the campaign for the 931st and raised \$132. A burger burn was scheduled for May 16 to help reach the Group goal of \$2,500.

Welcome Newcomers

SSgt Walter Spears III
CES

SSgt Jason Gandee
CES

SSgt Joshua Jankowski
CES

SSgt Mars Hinton
CES

SSgt Shawn Guy
AMXS

SSgt Michael Reavis
AMXS

SSgt Wallace Brannen
AMDF

SSgt Monica Delgado
18th ARS

SSgt Vanessa Thomson
ARG

SrA Anthony Caruso
CES

SrA Charles Wallace
AMDF

SrA Dedra McCallister
AMDF

SrA Marcia Parham
Deatherage
AMDF

SrA Anthony Ruggles
AMXS

A1C Rachel Haggard
CES

A1C Haskia Paschal
AMXS

A1C Crystal Tucker
AMDF

AB Bradley Vanzandt
CES

WICHITA WEEKEND

Wichita Riverfest

May 16-17 — Wichita's annual block party features an Oldie's concert and a free ice cream social on Friday and the Wichita Symphony's Twilight Pops Concert followed by fireworks on Saturday. All events are free with purchase of a festival button.

WWW.WICHITARIVERFESTIVAL.COM

Stoney LaRue

May 17 — The country sounds of Stoney LaRue, with special guests Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights plus Russell Sawyer & the Lost Cause, come to the Cotillion in Wichita. Doors open at 8 p.m. Call (316) 722-4201 for information or log on to:

WWW.THECOTILLION.COM

Shocker baseball

May 16 — Watch the Wichita State Shockers, the 14th ranked team in NCAA Division I baseball, in a must-win series against the Braves of Bradley University. The first pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Eck Stadium in Wichita.

WWW.GSHOCKERS.COM

IN THE FIGHT



931st Air Refueling Group BY THE NUMBERS

Missions Flown: 446

Overall Time Flown: 1492 hours

Passengers Flown: 397

Cargo Delivered: 171,055 lbs.

Aircraft Refueled: 399

Fuel Transferred: 350,400 gallons

The above information pertains to the period of OCT. 1, 2007 TO MAY 11, 2008.