

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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August 2003

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

Vol. 8, No. 7

Destination Suriname



photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

Engineers to join humanitarian mission

Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

931st Public Affairs

The group's Civil Engineer Squadron has been selected to participate in a joint humanitarian mission in Suriname, a young democratic nation on the northern coast of South America.

CES is scheduled to rotate two groups of its airmen into Suriname in early April, according to Senior Master Sgt. Tamera Askren, CES program analyst. Each 30-man group is expected to stay 18 days.

Airman Nabil Abdul-Kader, Civil Engineer Squadron engineering apprentice, helps inventory weapons during the July Unit Training Assembly. CES airmen will be taking the weapons with them in April when they leave for a humanitarian exercise in Suriname, a nation on the north coast of South America.

The squadron will be taking part in Operation New Horizons, a series of exercises aimed at helping people in Central and South America and the Caribbean while enhancing capabilities of U.S. Armed Forces to deploy and train in foreign environments.

"12th Air Force describes (a New Horizons exercise) as a logistics exercise with an engineering and medical flavor," Askren said.

Building schools and medical clinics will be CES's primary focus while in Suriname. They'll be based out of a Suriname military camp while actually working at five different locations outside their camp.

The mission and joint-task nature of the exercise will allow for just the type of training CES has been looking for,

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931st ARG Change of Command Ceremony

All group members are required to attend, regardless of activation status, the 931st Air Refueling Group change-of-command ceremony scheduled to begin 9 a.m. at the McConnell AFB theater on Saturday of the August UTA.

**Commander,
931st Air Refueling
Group**

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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 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

Demobilization began in July. Everyone that mobilized will be given one month for reconstitution and then time to take any accrued leave. The unit responded superbly throughout the mobilization.

The members of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron should be proud of their service to the nation and contribution to Operation Iraqi Freedom. This effort could not have been accomplished without the support of the entire group. Everyone had a supporting role in the success of this operation. Thank You.

August brings the end to my tenure at the 931st.

My family and I will be moving to Scott Air Force Base for an active-duty tour. I would like to thank everyone for their sacrifices endured over the past 16 months to make the 931st the premier tanker unit in AFRC. Throughout the past year, we have had numerous volunteer deployments, an outstanding Aircraft Standardization and Evaluation Visit and Unit Compliance Inspection, and endured a mobilization, which took many of our airmen away from home for an extended period to be put in harms way.

Moving, especially from one's first command is hard anytime, but especially hard when you are leaving such an incredible hard working and professional group.

My leaving opens up the opportunity for someone else. Col. John Hurdle inherits an outstanding organization. Please give him and his wife Kay the same warm welcome that Kim and I received. John and Kay are outstanding individuals and should fit nicely into the 931st family.

Finally, Kim, Spike and I would also like to pass on our thanks for letting us be part of your family. We will miss each of you. If you are ever at Scott, please stop and say hi. For the last time, GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK.



Jeffery Glass, Colonel
931st ARG Commander

Got a story?

Send story ideas for the
Kanza Spirit to:
david.fruck@mccconnell.af.mil
or call (316) 759-3704

UTASCHEDULE

Next UTA: August 9-10
September 13-14
October 18-19

931st planning for first AEF requirement

Tech Sgt. David Brumley

931st Public Affairs

The 931st is scheduled to join with two other units to support an Aerospace Expeditionary Force Mission in the European Theater from Oct. 1 to Jan. 1.

The current plan is for the group to team with the 939th Air Refueling Wing, from Portland, Ore., and the 434th Air Refueling Wing, at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., to fulfill the 90-day mission.

While the 931st ARG has provided forces for past AEF's, this will be the first time it will have actual personnel requirements to fill during an AEF cycle.

Most of the details are still being finalized and each unit's planning office is still putting together the final details of how the deployment will be executed.

The AEF will require the 931st to fill about 20-30

slots from aircrews, maintenance, intelligence and personnel support during the entire duration.

The selection of who will go and how they will rotate into the AEF requirements will be finalized at a joint planning meeting to be held at a yet to be determined day this month.

"We are going to meet to determine what personnel each unit is going to provide, what type of rotation we will need and any other details to support the AEF," said Maj. Clint Burpo, 931st Planning and Operations chief.

The first priority for the group's flying squadron is to look to the current mobilized forces first, according to Maj. Scott Dickmeyer, 931st operations plans officer.

"We will start with those who still have mobilization orders and want to stay mobilized," Dickmeyer said.

Volunteers on 15-day rotations utilizing annual tour will fill the remaining positions.

SURINAME, *from page 1*

according to Askren.

"This is what we do everywhere we go, just the building system will be a little different," Askren said, referring to some prefabrication materials her engineers will be using for the first time. "The Army will be there. The Navy and Marines will be there ... this will prepare us for the real thing. If we get mobilized, it's likely we will be part of a joint task force; that's almost always how it is now."

The exercise will also mark the first humanitarian mission for CES since it became part of the 931st in 1995 and will end more than two frustrating years of being put on hold.

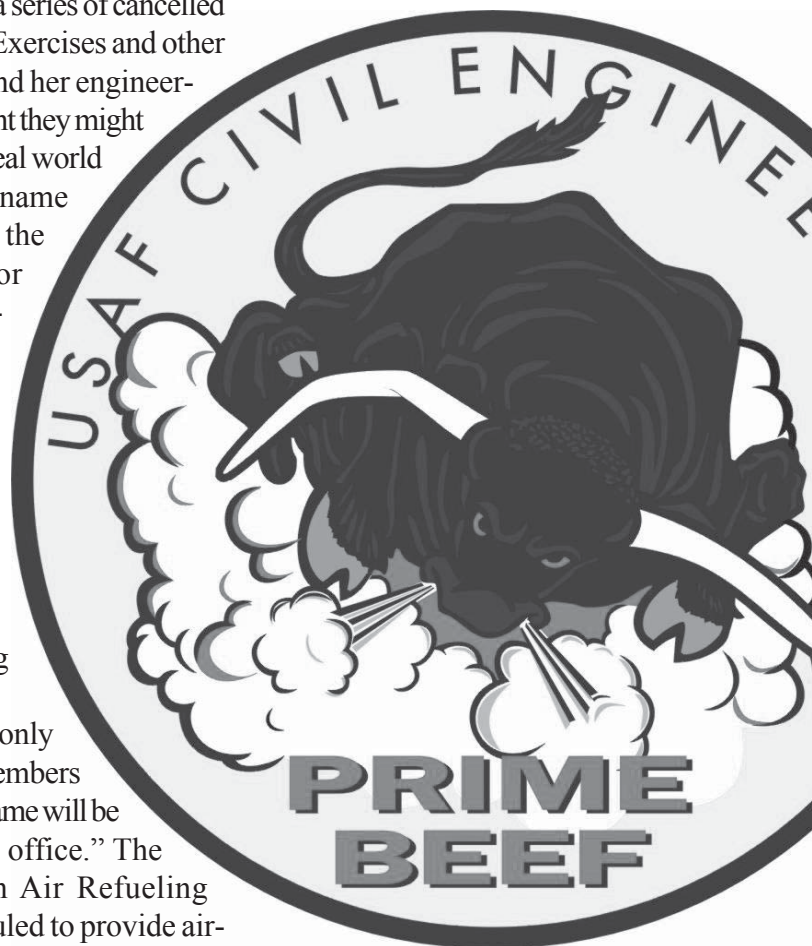
"All of my guys (and gals) are real excited to actually pack up and go somewhere," Askren said. "They worked their tails off for the last two years to get ready to join a fight and 'the war' kept getting cancelled."

The "war" Askren figuratively re-

ferred to is actually a series of cancelled Inspector General Exercises and other world events she and her engineering comrades thought they might be a part of. Some real world experience in Suriname may be just what the doctor ordered for Askren's work-hungry airmen.

"Engineers have this need to build things," Askren said with a jovial smile. "You have to get them out there or they start getting grumpy."

CES isn't the only squadron whose members the mission in Suriname will be getting "out of the office." The group's own 18th Air Refueling Squadron is scheduled to provide air-lift support for the trip.



Welcome Aboard...

Tech Sgt. David Brumley
931st Public Affairs

Maj. Joel R. Clay
New Commander of AMXS



A former chaplain of the 507th Air Refueling Wing took over the reigns of the 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during the July unit training assembly.

Maj. Joel R. Clay, a Tulsa University graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Masters of Theology Degree from Southern Methodist University, comes to the 931st from the 913th Maintenance Squadron at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pa.

Prior to his service at the 913th, Clay was the 507th's chaplain from 1985 to 1991. He left his position as chaplain to pursue his dream of flying.

Clay did get his private pilot's license, but ended up not getting all the way to the commercial airlines.

"I went for my dream," he said. "I didn't want to look back when I was older and wished I had gone for it."

Clay later took over as the quality assurance officer at the 507th where he was able to use many of the same skills he employed as a minister with the United Methodist Church in Oklahoma from 1978 to 1991. "Quality was what I did for the church, so this was a great fit for me," Said Clay.

Clay went to the maintenance officer trainee program

in 1997, served a short stint at Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters, Robbins AFB, Ga., and was sent to Willow Grove in December 1998. He became the commander in March 2000.

Clay's leadership principles are simple.

"I have three absolutes: Everything is done safely. Be professional. If you're safe and you're professional then you're doing your job. Finally, if you're doing these things then Have Fun!" said Clay. "It's amazing to me that people work some place that they don't enjoy. If you don't enjoy what you are doing do something else."

Clay said he is also a strong believer in mentorship, and trusting his folks to do their job. "The purpose of a leader is to have people who can take over if the leader were to die tomorrow."

Clay was born in Miami, Okla., and calls Choctaw, Okla. home. Clay and his wife Peggy have one son, Shawn, and will celebrate 30 years of marriage next May.

The 931st Air Refueling Group's Chaplain's office got a little bigger during the July unit training assembly.

1st Lt. John Dobbs became the newest member of the group's chaplain office after serving one year as a reserve chaplain for the 301st Fighter Wing at Ft. Worth, Texas. Previous to serving at the 301st, Dobbs spent three years in the Air Forces chaplain candidate program.

"I like ministering to the people of the Air Force," said Dobbs. "There is something

about the professionalism I really enjoy being around. It's not the rank structure, it's about ministering to airmen and their families."

Dobbs said his proudest career moment so far was earning his mission badge while in the candidate program. "I'm really looking forward to learning more about the Air Force," he said. "I consider it a great honor to be sitting behind Chaplain Peters. I look forward to learning from him what it means to minister to the 931st and the Air Force."

A Southern Baptist by study, Dobbs has been ministering for seven years. "I got my license to minister in 1996 and I've been ordained for about two years. Once you are ordained you can conduct the Lord's supper, and perform baptisms," said Dobbs.

Originally from Missouri, Dobbs, his wife Kathi, and 8-month-old son Joel are settling into Kansas City after moving from Texas. Dobbs is a traditional reservist, and has a civilian job as a clinical chaplain at a hospital near Kansas City, Mo.



1st Lt. John Dobbs
New Chaplain

& Fond Farewell

The 18th Air Refueling Squadron's operations officer is moving on to greener pastures as the new operations group commander at the 927th Air Refueling Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., after eight years with the 931st Air Refueling Wing.

Lt. Col. Ray Kozak joined the 931st in August 1995, and will end his tenure here this month.

Starting as the 18th ARS's chief pilot, Kozak has seen many changes at the 931st. "The best days were the earliest days, when there was a lot of excitement doing something new, starting something

from scratch," he said.

Kozak said he is most proud of the two major activations that the 931st performed in.

"Our best accomplishments while I've been here are the two times we've been called to action. It was our proof that we are a valid viable significant unit when we were called during (Operations) Allied Force in Kosovo, and Enduring/Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Those are the two things we should be most proud of," Kozak said. "A very close second is the success in the team building with the 22nd (Air Refueling Wing) when we joined them during Enduring Freedom missions. It brought to life the best of the associate structure."

Kozak, his wife Maureen, and their children Andrew and Caroline, will miss their local parish community the most when they leave. "I'm going to miss our association with our kids going to school at St. Thomas Aquinas. It's going to be hard to leave that parish community," said Kozak.



Lt. Col. Ray Kozak

Outgoing 18th ARS Ops Commander

Maj. Ken Dodd, the 931st's executive officer, is trading in his combat boots to go back to school as a teacher in Albany, New York.

Dodd finished his teaching credentials here in Wichita, Kan., in May 2003, and will begin looking for a full time teacher's position when he and his family move to New York this month.

Dodd joined the group in October 1995 as the Mission Personnel Flight commander.

"I started out as the MPF commander. Then when they broke us out of OSF (operations support flight) I became the MSF commander. Then I became the Executive Officer in 2001," said Dodd.

There have been many changes in Dodd's eight years of service at

the 931st ARG.

"The thing I'm most proud of here is being the first MSF commander, and being able to put the initial staff together," Dodd said.

It didn't hurt Dodd to have an already experienced staff to get the ball rolling when he began his command.

"If I had to pick a few people to thank the most during that time it would have to be Dave Malenky and Corinna Seitz, because they are the ones who brought in the expertise, especially in the MPF," Dodd said.

Leaving the Wichita area after more than eight years won't be easy for the Dodd family. "I'll miss the friendships you develop, especially after the years we've been here," Dodd said.



Maj. Ken Dodd

Outgoing 931st Executive Officer

Family Picnic Scheduled, volunteers needed

The 931st Family Day Picnic is scheduled for Sept. 14, the Sunday of the September Unit Training Assembly, at the McConnell Air Base pool pavillion from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Admission is to be determined and will depend upon fundraisers to offset picnic costs. Those interested in volunteering to help organize the picnic should call Penny Ricketts at (316) 759-5551.

Weigh-In deadline set for Septemeber UTA

All group members are required to have their weight recorded by Sept. 13 at 10 a.m.

Recordings can only be performed by weight management monitors certified by the Career Enhancement Office.

Pillow afghans to be given away for picnic donations



Staff Sgt. Penny Ricketts sits with the two afghans she made and donated to raise money for the Family Day Picnic. Both afghans convert into pillows.

Contact Senior Master Sgt. Larry Shippy at (316) 759-6412 for ticket information. Drawings for the afghans will be held at the picnic.

West Gate closed for Unit Training Assemblies

McConnell Air Force Base's west gate entrance will not be open during the Aug. and Sept. unit training assemblies.

All group members will need to enter the base through the east gate off of Rock Rd.

Welcome 931st new joins

1st Lt. John Dobbs
Chaplain Office

Staff Sgt. Dale Posey
AMXS

Senior Airman James Purcey
AMXS

Senior Airman Sarah Shewcraft
18th ARS

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

This month's selectee is a Mulvane, KS., native who has worked at McConnell AFB for 2 years.

Job title: Laborer (931st ARG student hire)

Civilian job: Wichita State University student, engineering major

Favorite way to relax: Go shooting

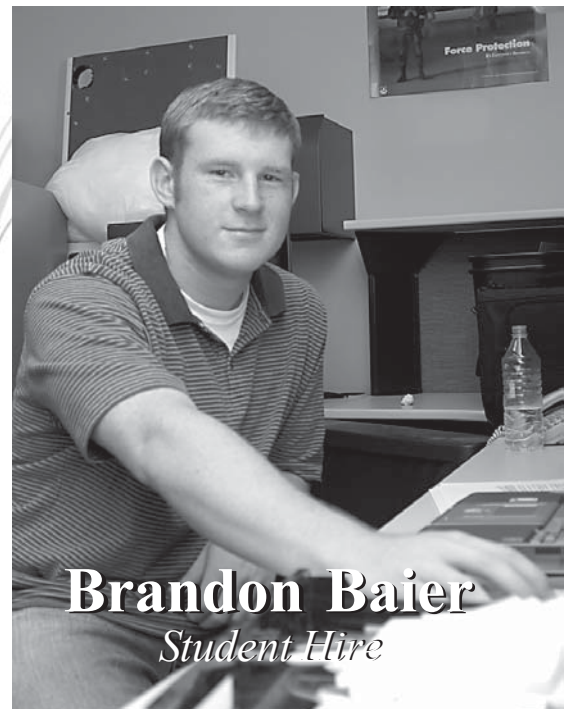
Easiest way to annoy me: Disrupt my organizational system

Most influential person in my life:
My brother

What I'm reading now: "Life Lessons" by Bill Snyder

What I'm listening to now: Renegade, Styx

If I won \$1 million, I would: Invest most of it and retire when I'm 40



Brandon Baier
Student Hire

A “First” Sergeant



Senior Master Sgt. Mackey Housman, the 931st, Operations Support Flight, and Military Support Flight first sergeant, receives congratulations for finishing as the leader in his flight at the Air Force First Sergeant Academy. Housman also finished top in the Air Force Reserve Command class and received the Commadant Award, the top award at the academy.

Job well done



Members of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron receive Air Medals for actions in Operations Enduring and Iraq Freedom from Col. Jeffery Glass, group commander, at a commander's call during the July Unit Training Assembly.

WICHITA WEEKEND

WWE Wrestling

Up Close and Uncensored

Aug. 10 – JVC Tower of Power presents World Wrestling Entertainment “Smackdown! brand” wrestling at the Kansas Coliseum at 7 p.m.

Call (316) 755-7328 or visit www.selectaseat.com for tickets.

Don Williams

Aug. 8 – Country legend Don Williams is scheduled to perform 8:30 p.m. at the The Cotillion. Advance tickets are \$25. Call (316) 755-7328 or visit www.selectaseat.com for tickets.

Hunting and Fishing Expo

Aug. 8-10 – A Century II Convention Hall event scheduled from noon to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m to 10 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Call (866) 326-7469 or visit www.huntingandfishingexpo.com for more information.

Free concert at Bradley Fair

Aug. 8 – Listen to the sultry sounds of Angela Haganbach singing blues, swing and jazz from 8 to 10 p.m. Admission is free. Call (316) 630-9990 for more information.

Toys for Tots

Night at 81 Speedway

Aug. 9 – Donate a new, unopened toy to receive a discount on grandstand admission. Gates open at 5 p.m.

Call (316) 755-1781 for more information.

Free Oldies Concert

Aug. 8 – Kevin May and the Deaconaires will play from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Farm & Art Market Plaza in Wichita. Lawn chairs are welcome but alcohol is not. Admission is free. Call (316) 262-3555 for more information.

At The Movies



28 DAYS LATER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8 7pm

1 hrs. 48 min. A virus that sends those infected into a killing rage spreads across the entire planet. A group of survivors find themselves trapped in London 28 days later.

MPAA Rating: R for strong violence and gore, language and nudity



CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 7pm

1 hr. 59 min. Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu reunite as indomitable crime-fighting heroines demonstrating expertise in espionage, martial arts, and disguise.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violence, sensuality and language/innuendo

*Movies are shown at the **McConnell Air Force Base Theater** and are subject to change.
Admission is **\$2.25** for adults, **\$1.50** for children 12 and under.*

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