

# KANZA SPIRIT

## 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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October 2003

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

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## Group member shines for active-duty

**Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap**

*931st Public Affairs*

The 22nd Air Refueling Wing, the 931st's host unit at McConnell AFB, recently finished what a departing Inspector General Team Chief described as "one of the best inspections (he'd) seen in an awfully long time."

The inspectors selected four airmen to receive IG coins for epitomizing the exemplary work that made such a successful inspection possible. One of those four was Master Sgt. Johnny Stephenson, a traditional reservist with the 931st serving on active-duty with the 22nd ARW.

Stephenson was recognized for his outstanding achievements as the superintendent of the 22nd's alert facility. He volunteered to go on active-duty and take over the facility soon after the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001. His active-duty su-



**Master Sgt.  
Johnny  
Stephenson**

pervisor, Maj. Tim White, 22nd Operations Support Squadron commander, wasn't surprised to see the inspectors take notice of Stephenson.

"It was an honor to see a man who has done so much to better the military response capability receive such high praise for his efforts," White said.

White told Stephenson there were three things that earned him a coin. First was his reformation of the alert facility. Before the terrorist attacks, the building was occupied by personnel offices and used for some real world

*See COIN, Page 3*

## *Horsin' Around*

Senior Airman Tyrel Askren, 931st Security Forces, lends his hat and his horse to a young family member at the 2003 Family Day Picnic held during the September Unit Training Assembly. Askren provided rides throughout the picnic and was one of the many 931st members who volunteered to help make this year's event a success. See page 4 for more picnic photos.



photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

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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.

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 or the Department of the Air Force.

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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**

Wow! The Family Day Picnic was wonderful! Great turn out with plenty of food and activities for all ages. What a great way to spend my first UTA at McConnell.

During the opening festivities, I had the honor of accepting the adoption of the 931st by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 112. They will be a great help to our members and their families during our numerous deployments.

A special thanks to Staff Sgt. Penny Ricketts and her Family Day Task Force for planning and organizing such a great event (see "Lass-O' Fun at the Family Day Picnic" on page 4 for names of key picnic players). You all did a fantastic job organizing and running the picnic. The group sincerely thanks you for your hard work. Hey, how about next year? (just kidding).

In case you haven't heard, Air Mobility Command has reorganized. It has transformed into a structure that better fits our expeditionary Air Force. This will affect you and your unit when dealing with your functional at AMC (our gaining major command). Please refer to my article on the next page for a more in-depth look at the changes.

The 931st is again becoming heavily involved in the AEF cycle. Seems like we just got back! I am proud of our professional volunteers who continue to give their time and effort for the War on Terrorism. I thank the 22nd Air Refueling Wing for their strong support of our commitments. I thank the many employers who continue to support the mission of the 931st and I especially thank and commend our families. You sacrifice week after week and year after year.



Karl J. Hurdle, 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: October 18-19**  
November 15-16  
December 7-8

# 'New improved' AMC better for operations

**Col. Karl J. Hurdle**

*931st ARG Commander*

As of Oct. 1, the 15th and 21st Air Force's were redesignated Expeditionary Mobility Task Forces and the 18th AF was reactivated.

The reason for the change is to provide an efficient and effective mobility fighting structure that fully supports expeditionary operations. To do this, there must be a clear delineation of staff and operational responsibilities.

Air Mobility Command will sharpen its focus to non-warfighting functions such as organizing, training, and equipping the force.

The 18th AF will be responsible for global execution of the operational

mission and refocusing on its traditional role of warfighting.

The Tanker Airlift Control Center will be the centralized worldwide tasking center for the 18th AF, in essence a global air operations center. TACC will now report directly to the warfighting commander (18AF/CC) instead of the force provider (AMC/CC).

This should enhance mobility command and control. The AMC staff functions have also changed. Traditional AMC directorates are coalescing into an "A" staff structure (A-1 through A-

8) similar to U.S. Central Command Air Forces. For instance, mission support groups will fall under A-7, a single AMC focal point for mission support issues.

The 15th and 21st EMTFs will lead four Air Mobility Operations Groups and their subordinate units in providing a full range of expeditionary mobility support. They will no longer have the redundant staff functions that the 15th and 21st AF's had.

The new improved AMC. Right now it seems a bit confusing, but over time the group will get used to the new way of doing business with AMC. In case you are wondering, Air Force Reserve Command and the 4th Air Force are not changing.



**COIN**, from page 1

alerts and exercises. "A lot of people didn't know it was even there," Stephenson said.

But by Sept. 12, 2001, more than 200 people were swarming the halls of an alert facility that was obviously in need of more attention.

"They said, 'Here's the facility, do what you can with it,'" Stephenson remembered. "I said, 'Can I have some money?' and they said, 'No.'"

Faced with a great deal of work and a minimum of resources, Stephenson said he "learned a lot" about acquiring materials on a base when funding is short.

"The inspectors said they were impressed because I didn't have any funds," Stephenson said. "They were impressed with the way I utilized what was available."

Transforming and maintaining the facility wasn't all Stephenson was responsible for during his two-year tenure. "I handled everything from maintenance to arranging meals with services," Stephenson said. "When crews were in the facility I had to monitor where they were at all times."

White said Stephenson's exceptional work with his services squadron was the second reason the inspectors gave him a coin, but there was a third action by Stephenson

that truly displayed his willingness to go above and beyond the call to duty.

Some security forces members assigned to the alert facility area started showing wear from the extreme heat this past summer.

Stephenson could tell some of the guards weren't hydrated enough so he used his own money to buy them replenishing drinks. His deed not only helped him earn an IG coin, the security forces chief gave him a coin too.

"The chief was in the facility and somebody pointed me out to him and said, 'There he is,'" Stephenson said. "For a second I thought I was in trouble, but it turned out he just wanted to thank me for helping his troops."

Stephenson did such a good job for the 22nd he transcended the reservist stereotype and fooled his co-workers into thinking he was part of them.

"They didn't know I was a reservist until I told them," Stephenson said. "It was hard to get it through that I needed a replacement. They kept asking me, 'Are you PCSing (changing duty stations)?"

The active-duty had to let Stephenson go in September. But he didn't "PCS" back to his civilian job in Salina. The 931st gained his full-time services as the new Standards and Evaluation administration chief.



# Lasso-O'Fun

at the  
Family Day Picnic

photos by  
Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

(Above) Lasso throwing was just one of the many activities designed for 6-year-old Mark Myers (above) and the other children at the Family Day Picnic held during the September Unit Training Assembly. (Right) Senior Master Sgt. Charles Smith, 931st Security Forces chief, helps a young family member aim an M-16A2 rifle.



(Above) Staff Sgt. Penny Ricketts, 931st Security Forces chief, helps a young family member aim an M-16A2 rifle. (Right) Family members look at many door prizes donated by sponsors for this year's picnic.

# Special Thanks

Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st commander, and Staff Sgt. Penny Ricketts would like to thank the following individuals and sponsors, as well as the many others who helped make this year's Family Day Picnic a success: Master Sgt. Dallas Jones and Senior Master Sgt. Jim Liss and their Backroom Blues Band, Senior Master Sgt. Pam Summers, Tech. Sgt. Hugo Hurtado, Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown, Maj. Blake Tibbets, Senior Airman Tanya Lang, Senior Airman Tyrel Askren, Tech. Sgt. Frank Avila, Senior Master Sgt. Charles Smith, Ace Hardware, AAFES, Awards Factory Plus, Big Tool Store, Cargill/Excel Meats, Carlos O'Kelly's, Caribbean Sun, Classic Touch Massage, Commissary, Dillons, Emmert's Jewelry, Friends of McConnell, Genesis Health Club, Home Depot, Jabara's Carpet, Jacob's Liquor Exchange, Johnson's Garden Center, Joyland Amusement Park, Kay Wiggins Jewelry, LaMar's Donuts, Lynch Jewelers, North Rock 14, North Rock Lanes, On the Border, Pizza Hut, Randy Cooper Fine Jewelry, Red Bean's Bayou Grill, Seneca Bowl, VFW Post 112, Wichita Marine, Wichita Thunder Hockey, Wonder Bread Store, 931st First Sergeants and the Booster Clubs of the 18th ARS, 931st AMXS, 931st CES and the 931st MSF



(Above) Tech Sgt. Gary White (recently promoted to master sergeant), 931st Security Forces, shows 6-year-old Cody Devoid the workings of an M-240 machine gun. (Below) Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st commander, presents a group scarf to the commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 112. Hurdle accepted Post 112's adoption of the 931st during the opening ceremony of the picnic.



931st headquarters administrative assistant, hands out one of the portions of this year's picnic. Ricketts was in charge of organizing this year's picnic. Participants build bird houses using supplies provided by Home Depot.



## SPIRIT SHORTS

### **Base driving privileges now revoked for seat belt offense**

Anyone stopped while driving on McConnell AFB and cited for not utilizing seatbelts will immediately have their installation driving privileges suspended for seven days.

Subsequent violations within a one-year period will result in suspension of privileges for 90 days.

### **Club near McConnell declared off limits**

Due to the recent shooting of two individuals, the McConnell AFB commander has directed that the establishment currently known as the Bubbles Club, located at 2835 South George Washington Blvd., just outside the base's west gate, be off limits, to include the establishment's parking lot, to all active duty military members and mobilized Guard and Reserve personnel until further notice.

### **CFC underway through November**

The Combined Federal Campaign has kicked off at McConnell AFB and will run through Nov. 17. Below are the points of contact for the 931st ARG:

**ARG/OSF:** Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown  
(316) 759-3196

**AMXS:** Senior Master Sgt. Larry Shippy (316) 759-6401

**CES:** Master Sgt. Noah Ordoyne  
(316) 759-5499

**MSF:** Master Sgt. Gary White/Senior Airman Tyrel Askren (316) 759-5989

**AMF:** Senior Airman Linda Sutter  
(316) 759-3379

**18th ARS:** Capt. Frank Ellis/Lt. Dave Gomez (316) 759-4014

### **Climate Survey**

The Air Force is encouraging all airmen to complete a climate survey by Nov. 23 at the following web site:  
<http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil>

### **Promotions**

Congratulations to the following promotees:

**Lt. Col. Luis Cortes, 18th ARS**

**Lt. Col. Gregory Gilmour, 18th ARS**

**Lt. Col. John Fraser, 18th ARS**

**Lt. Col. Joel Clay, AMXS**

**Lt. Col. Matthew Archer, 18th ARS**

**1st Lt. Angela Chatmon, OSF**

**Master Sgt. Susan Forsberg, 18th ARS**

**Master Sgt.**

**Arthur Shamburger, 18th ARS**

**Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Arndt, AMXS**

**Tech. Sgt. Larry Megget, HQ**

**Staff Sgt. Brian Caley, CES**

**Staff Sgt. Edward Cropper, AMXS**

**Staff Sgt. Laurie Kavanaugh, AMXS**

**Airman 1st Class**

**Nabil Abdulkader, CES**

**Airman 1st Class**

**Marvell Summerow, AMXS**

**Airman 1st Class Keith Yoho, AMF**

## SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

**This month's selectee is a Wichita, Kan., native who has been in the Air Force for 2.5 years.**

**Job title:** Medical Administrative Assistant

**Civilian job:** Air Reserve Technician (same as military position)

**Favorite way to relax:** Curling up with a good book

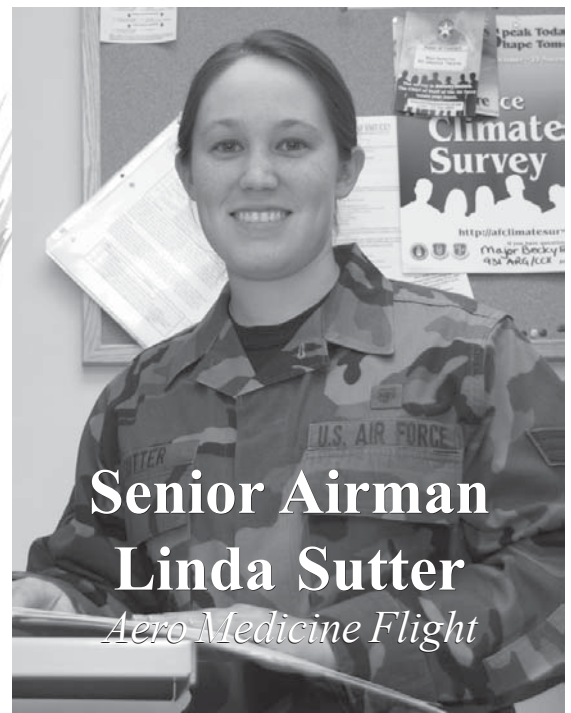
**What annoys me:** Crying children (which I hear continually working in a medical clinic)

**Most influential person in my life:** My older sister Veronica, I have looked up to her my whole life

**What I'm reading now:** Works by VC Andrews

**What I'm listening to now:** Country Music

**If I won \$1 million, I would:** Payoff my house, my truck and go on a LONG vacation!



**Senior Airman  
Linda Sutter**  
*Aero Medicine Flight*



photos courtesy of 22nd Services Squadron

## Parting Gift

Senior Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz (pictured in middle), Military Personnel Flight superintendent, drove away a Pontiac Grand Am after her key, one out of five given to ATWIND finalists, started the vehicle (see picture at right). Seitz also received a card worth \$250 in gas. Seitz won't be seen in her new car around Wichita, however. She is leaving her position with the 931st to join a unit in Hawaii, her home state.



## Singapore Salute

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Schrier, Maintenance Squadron, waits for the coin recently awarded to him by members of the Republic of Singapore Air Force for his "dedicated and professional work" in support of their maintenance training program at McConnell AFB.



photo courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. Larry Shippy

## Welcome 931st newcomers

Senior Airman  
Brian Hainstock  
*AMXS*

Senior Airman  
Randall Hudgins  
*AMXS*

Senior Airman  
David Schrepfer  
*MSF*

# WICHITA WEEKEND

## Midwest Beerfest

Oct. 17-18 – The Wichita Chapter of the American Institute of Wine & Food is sponsoring Midwest Beerfest 2003, a two-day event. “The World Beer Dinner,” featuring beers from around the world paired with beer-friendly foods, is scheduled for Oct. 17, beginning 7 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency.

“Grand Tasting & Auction,” featuring more than 200 beers, educational seminars, food, live music and a silent auction is scheduled for Oct. 18, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Century II Exhibition Hall. For more information, visit [www.midwestbeerfest.com](http://www.midwestbeerfest.com).

Call (316) 755-7328 or visit [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com) for tickets.

## Fiddler on the Roof

Oct. 17-18 – No other musical has been translated into more languages than “Fiddler on the Roof,” presented by the Crown Uptown Professional Dinner Theatre at 3207 E. Douglas.

Doors open 5:45p.m. Dinner buffet open 6-7:15 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Call (316) 682-1566 for more information.

## Rocky Horror Show

Oct. 17-18 – Cabaret Old Town presents “The Rocky Horror Show” at 412 1/2 E. Douglas.

Call (316) 265-4400 for showtimes and reservations.

## Comedian Steven Wright

Oct. 18 – Hear the unique humor and voice of Steven Wright, scheduled to perform at the Orpheum Theatre at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$30.50. Call (316) 755-7328 or visit [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com) for tickets. Visit [www.stevenwright.com](http://www.stevenwright.com) for more information about Steven Wright.

## Wichita Thunder Hockey

Oct. 17 – The Thunder host the Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum.

Oct. 18 – The Thunder host the Tulsa Oilers 7:30p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum.

Call (316) 755-7328 or visit [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com) for tickets.

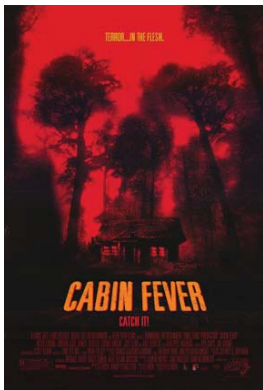
## At The Movies

### CABIN FEVER

FRIDAY, OCT. 17 7pm

1 hrs. 34 min. Five friends celebrating college graduation at a remote cabin are visited by a diseased lunatic. Panic ensues and friends turn on each other when one member's body deteriorates before their eyes after contact with the lunatic.

**MPAA Rating:** R for strong violence and gore, sexuality, language and brief drug use



### DICKIE ROBERTS: FORMER CHILD STAR

SATURDAY, OCT. 18 7pm

1 hr. 39 min. David Spade is a 35-year-old former child star who feels childhood fame led to his abnormal behavior. He tries to gain the normalcy he needs to revitalize his career by hiring a family to adopt him so he can relive his youth.

**MPAA Rating:** PG-13 for crude and sex-related humor, language and drug references

*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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