

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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June 2005

McConnell AFB, Kansas

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100 and Counting

COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Doug Brown (at left) stands with the crew he recently completed his 100th combat sortie with. Maj. Brown and Maj. Byron Rager (at right), 18th Air Refueling Squadron pilots, completed the flight while assigned to an Air Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Cops train for desert deployment

COURTESY PHOTO



Staff Sgt. Tyrel Askren practices his grenade throwing technique at a training exercise in Nevada. Sgt. Askren and five other 931st Security Forces members are getting ready for deployment in August.

TECH. SGT JASON SCHAAP
 931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Six members of the 931st's Security Forces returned last month from training at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev.

They were there for Silver Flag Alpha, a two-week exercise designed to refresh Air Base Defense skills and provide advanced weapons training prior to a deployment. The six Airmen who attended the training are scheduled to deploy later this summer.

"It was a lot more fun than I thought it was going to be," Senior Airman Ryan Jarboe, 931st Security Forces
continued on page 7

FY 2006 UTA Schedule

Oct. 15-16

Nov. 5-6

Dec. 10-11

Jan. 7-8

Feb. 11-12

March 11-12

April 8-9

May 6-7

June 10-11

July 15-16

Aug. 12-13

Sept. 16-17



Group members are encouraged to cut this schedule out for their future reference.

**Commander,
931st Air Refueling
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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

Wow, what a terrific 10th Anniversary Celebration! Special thanks go out to Col. (retired) Vik Malling and the Kaw Nation. Col. Malling's words concerning our proud history touched all members of the 931st family.

The Kaw Nation's attendance and presentations gave the celebration an extraordinary sense of honor and tradition. The band was excellent and the dancing for the most part was of a high caliber (I hope the photos of me dancing never make it to the Internet.). It definitely was a great weekend marking a tremendous milestone in our proud history. None of this, of course, could have happened without the hard work of the 931st ARG 10th anniversary organizing committee. To them, my biggest thanks! The golf tourneys were also superbly organized and extremely fun.

If you see Master Sgt. Dana Wagner or Mrs. Vickie Hayden around campus please shake their hand for a job well done. Sgt. Wagner earned the AFRC Aircrew Life Support Senior NCO of the Year for 2004. Mrs. Hayden earned the Federal Employee "Make a Difference" Award. This award is presented to Federal Employees who have made a significant difference in their work and communities. Congratulations to both of you!

We are well into the 101 Critical Days of Summer. Please get back to basics. Follow that tech order, buckle that seat belt, think your project through, and use your common sense. The 931st family wants everyone to get through the summer of 2005 unhurt with families intact.

Have a great and productive June UTA!



Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel
931st ARG Commander

Fraud, Waste & Abuse

To file a fraud, waste or abuse complaint with the Air Force, call (316) 759-3192 or toll free (800) 424-9098.

UTASCHEDULE

Next UTA: June 11-12

July 16-17

August 20-21

September 17-18

New law to affect SGLI payments, premiums

DONNA MILES

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush last month increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for servicemembers with traumatic injuries, explained Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

The increased SGLI coverage will take effect Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit, December 1. Wurtz said the legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct results of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The benefit does not apply to servicemembers suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Wurtz said.

Servicemembers enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Wurtz said.

Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage -- \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 - will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.

Because the rates have not changed, servicemembers who retain \$250,000 or less coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Wurtz said, except for the \$1 "traumatic SGLI" premium.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected servicemembers won't be charged retroactive payments, he said. DoD will absorb that cost.

In a new twist introduced through the supplemental legislation, troops with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of members who are not married, notice will be provided to the designated beneficiary when

the member purchases less than the maximum coverage.

The new traumatic SGLI benefit is designed to provide "a quick infusion of cash" for cash-strapped families of troops recuperating from traumatic injuries received in the line of duty, Wurtz said.

Compensation will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and is designed to help families of severely wounded troops leave their homes and jobs to be with their loved one during recovery. "These families incur a lot of expenses, and this is designed to help them financially," Wurtz said.

While VA staff members consult with DoD to write regulations that will put the new SGLI benefits into effect, Wurtz said, "lots and lots of details have to be worked out."

Among outstanding issues is the fact that the expanded SGLI coverage is part of the supplemental legislation package that funds operations only through Sept. 30. That's 30 days after the new SGLI limit takes effect and two months before the traumatic SGLI benefit begins.

Wurtz said VA is confident Congress will resolve this issue before there's any lapse in coverage.

VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program.

Air Force Reserve adopts new, 'cool-looking' logo

Air Force Reserve Command has a new advertising logo that more closely aligns it with the active force while touting the command as a high-tech, professional fighting force.

Sleek and simple, the AFRC logo features the Air Force's new logo alongside the words "Air Force Reserve" in a stylish, modern typeface. AFRC recruiting officials began working with Blaine Warren Advertising in January to develop the new logo. It replaces the "Above and Beyond" logo featured in Reserve recruiting and advertising products since 1998.

Lt. Col. Jerry Herbel, chief of Headquarters AFRC Recruiting Service's advertising and information systems division here, said the time was right for a new advertising logo.

"We wanted a logo that captured the spirit of Air Force

Reserve Command but also conveyed the message that we are a part of the overall Air Force," he said. "We went through a number of different designs and got input from focus groups of recruitable people. This was the design that best conveyed the message we were trying to get out."



Col. Francis Mungavin, AFRC Recruiting Service commander, said the new logo is appropriate for the command during its transformation into the 21st century. "The young folks entering AFRC really like the new logo," he said. "Their feedback to us (from focus groups) has been that it's modern, high-tech and cool looking."

The command will feature the new logo in all of its new advertising products but will continue using promotional items with the old logo until they are all gone, Colonel Herbel said.

Making A Difference

Long-time AMXS employee earns award for outstanding work

TECH SGT. DAVID BRUMLEY
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Going above and beyond with a passion and drive are the attributes that helped Vickie Hayden, 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS) office automation assistant, win the Federal Employee "Make a Difference" Award.

"I nominated Vickie because she truly deserves recognition for the outstanding job she performs for the 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron," said 931st AMXS Commander Lt. Colonel James Brock. "A multi-talented professional, Vickie can always be counted on to get the job done."

The award was presented to Mrs. Hayden in a ceremony held at the Robert J. Dole Veteran's Medical Center Auditorium in May. The sponsor for the ceremony was the Wichita Federal Executive's Association, which recognizes the "best of the best" of Wichita's 8,000 federal work-force members. "It was an honor to win," said Mrs. Hayden. "The people I work with here are a great group of guys. They are always really apprecia-



tive of what I do."

Mrs. Hayden was the winner in the Technical/Clerical category presented by the WFEA.

As a charter member of the 931st Air Refueling Group, Mrs. Hayden has spent most of her time filling dual roles. In addition to being the assistant to the 931st AMXS commander, she has filled in for a consistently vacant administrative air reserve technician position in the unit's orderly room.

"I think (her award) is well over due. She is here every UTA. She is truly the driving factor on ensuring that things are accomplished in the orderly room," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Stephenson, 931st AMXS Superintendent. "She's been (with the unit) since 1995, and has been here every step of the way with maintenance."

According to Col. Brock, she provides administrative support to more than 100 unit personnel, ensuring all of their needs are met from pay issues to personnel concerns. "Basically, she makes this place go," said Senior Airman Philip Friend, 931st AMXS crew chief. "Without her



this place would fall apart."

Her ability to master the military position in the orderly room has allowed the maintenance unit to consistently maintain its goals.

"I feel so comfortable with her out there (in the orderly room) by herself. Even if the staff wasn't around she could accomplish just about anything on both the civilian and military sides," said Chief



Mrs. Vicki Hayden stands near a display in the building that is home to the 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Mrs. Hayden is the squadron's office automation assistant and was recently given the Federal Employee "Make A Difference" Award, which she was nominated for by the squadron commander for dedication and outstanding job performance.

PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. DAVID BRUMLEY

Master Sgt. Dana Wagner (at right) instructs a parachute descent training class held for 18th Air Refueling Squadron aircrew members during the May unit training assembly. Sgt. Wagner is the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the 18th ARS Life Support shop and was recently named the 2004 Air Force Reserve Command Senior NCO of the year.



18th ARS Life Support NCO top in AFRC

STAFF SGT. DAVID SEVART
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Life support equipment must work right the first time, every time.

That is the motto of Master Sgt. Dana Wagner, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the Life Support shop and recently-named 2004 Air Force Reserve Command Life Support Senior NCO of the year.

In the year and a half Sgt. Wagner has been with the Group, she's turned the Life support shop into a well oiled machine, Lt. Col. John Stansfield, Life Support officer, said.

"She carefully inspects every piece of equipment, right down to the smallest detail to insure that it will work," he said.

Before Sgt. Wagner joined the unit, active-duty personnel maintained the shop and there was a lack of continuity for the Group's aircrews. Every time the crews would come into Life Support, there would be someone different to try and help them.

Not that they weren't doing a good job, but they were mainly covering it during the weekends, Sgt. Wagner said. Now that the Group has its own life support specialist, aircrews have a familiar

face and the same point of contact to help resolve problems.

"I like to work with the aircrew to give them the best possible equipment and training," Sgt. Wagner said.

There is a new sense of ownership and pride, which has helped improve the life support shop. "Now that the aircrews know who to talk to, it is easier to resolve problems." Sgt. Wagner said.

Her expertise was validated when, for the first time, there were zero discrepancies noted for the life support shop during the last Standards Evaluation inspection.

When there was item shortages, for aircrew chemical defense and other needed life support equipment, Sgt. Wagner took action to correct these errors and developed training programs for aircrews such as chemical defense and helmet care.

"I try to tailor training to the crews and work with their schedules," Sgt. Wagner said.

Her rapport with the aircrews aided in her producing a chin strap modification for flying helmets, which was accepted by the Air Force suggestion program.

"We strive to give the crews the best equipment and it must be reliable," Sgt. Wagner said. "Their lives may depend upon it."



New anti-drug campaign

Air Force Reserve Command has launched its commandwide "True Blue" anti-drug campaign. In the past, anti-drug or anti-substance abuse efforts were negative and centered on disciplinary action, said Dr. Don Jenrette, the command's drug demand reduction program manager. The new True Blue initiative promotes healthy living, career-mind sets and career role models.

The focus of the AFRC Drug Demand Reduction Program will be enhancing readiness by eliminating substance abuse through prevention, education, community outreach and drug testing.

Beware Web site seeking deployment addresses

Airmen are being warned not to sign-up with private Internet sites requesting deployed location addresses to receive gift mail and packages. The sites may seem well intentioned, but they compromise operational security and force protection. Adversaries can access these sites and use available information to plan attacks against servicemembers, their families and their units. Airmen should report such sites to security officials.

Point mailings stopped

The Air Reserve Personnel Center is no longer mailing Air Force Form 526, Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Point Credit Summary, to Air Force Reservists. Reserve members had been receiving the form annually since October 1972. They must now use the virtual Military Personnel Flight to print a copy of their point credit information. Reservists should print their summary of points using the vMPF and maintain copies in their personal files in the same manner as leave and earnings statements and other important documents. Call Headquarters ARPC/DPPK toll free at **1-800-525-0102** for questions and concerns about credit of points. Access the vMPF by going to:

WWW.AFPC.RANDOLPH.AF.MIL/VS/

Update vRed annually

The 931st Military Personnel Flight is reminding Airmen they are required to update their virtual Record of Emergency Data annually. All Airmen are also required to review their vRED during in-processing and prior to all deployments. MPFs no longer maintains this data with personnel records. The vRED is accessed online at the Web address listed above.

GMVs for official use only

Active-duty officials at McConnell AFB are reminding Airmen that using a government motor vehicle for personal use is prohibited. Going to the commissary to "restock" the flight snack-bar or certain unit functions such as retirement ceremonies and recreational outings are examples of GMV misuse.

Airmen observing misuse are encouraged to contact the Vehicle Operations Dispatch office at **(316) 759-4051**. If possible, callers should obtain the vehicle registration number and when and where it was observed. Consult statutory law, Title 40 U.S.C. Section 491 and Air Force Instruction 24-301 for more guidance.

Yellowstone rentals available

The Mountain Home Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation office in Idaho is offering rentals minutes from Yellowstone National Park through their Yellowstone Country Trailer Program. Well-equipped trailers that include microwaves and refrigerators are available for \$72 and \$60 per night.

Call **(208) 828-6333** or DSN 728-6333 for reservations and/or more information. Reservations for August and September began June 1.

SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

Senior Airman Nabil Abdul-Kader is a Wichita, Kan., native who has been in the Air Force for 3 years.

Job Title: Engineering Assistant

Civilian job: Underground Utilities Locator at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan.

What I'm studying: Construction Science & Management at K-State

Favorite way to relax: Listen to music

What annoys me: Keep arguing even though you don't know what you're talking about

Most influential person in my life: My father. Nobody has pushed me to be a better person more than my father.

What I'm listening to: Audio Slave

What I'm reading: The DaVinci Code

If I won \$1 million, I would: Put it in a high return investment and live off of the interest



Civil Engineer Squadron

Crane Training



COURTESY PHOTO

Tech. Sgt. Jay Agnew maneuvers through a certification course designed by the Crane Inspection and Certification Bureau. The 931st Civil Engineer Squadron sent Sgt. Agnew, Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Lough, Tech. Sgt. Beau Michaelson and Tech. Sgt. Christopher Devoid to the course at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., in accordance with a new requirement for crane operation in the Air Force. Qualified engineers who can operate large cranes are a frequent need in locations where CE squadrons are sent.

Welcome Newcomers

LtCol James Allman
18th Air Refueling Squadron

LtCol David Henderson
18th Air Refueling Squadron

SSgt Michael Abbey
Headquarters

SSgt Dale Pratt
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SSgt David Vogel
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SrA Adam Keeter
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SrA Matthew Spencer
Civil Engineer Squadron

A1C David Johnson
Military Support Flight

Cops train for desert deployment from page 1



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the 931st's Security Forces break for a Kodak moment at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev., where they participated in a two-week predeployment training exercise. Pictured (clockwise from top left) is Senior Airman Jared Arrington, Master Sgt. Gary White, Staff Sgt. Tyrel Askren, Senior Airmen Luke Mahoney, Senior Airmen Patrick Strange and Senior Airman Ryan Jarboe. All six Airmen volunteered to deploy in late August for six months to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq,

member, said. "It was adventurous; we got to travel across miles of desert.

The training's desert environment is intentional. It helps recreate realistic combat conditions based on current deployment locations, intelligence trends and threat assessments.

"It's real good training," Master Sgt. Gary White, 931st Security Forces

chief, said. "It was better than I expected. We did everything from pop-up targets to night fire. It's like the Army's training."

Airmen from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., also joined the 931st Airmen for Silver Flag Alpha. The same Airmen are scheduled to deploy with the 931st Airmen in late August to form a Security Forces squad. Sgt. White said his troops

feel better about the deployment now that they completed the desert training in Nevada. "I'm definitely more confident in my abilities," Airman Jarboe said about the preparation for the six-month deployment he and his 931st comrades volunteered for. They're scheduled to help secure Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, located approximately 150 miles north of Baghdad.

WICHITA WEEKEND

Big Dog's Tornado Rally

June 11 & 12 — Big Dog Motorcycles is slated to present the first-ever Tornado Rally, the only national motorcycle rally in the Midwest. A large variety of events and attractions are scheduled in and around the Big Dog factory headquarters in downtown Wichita throughout the two-day event. For more information, go online to:

www.tornadorally.com

Motorcycle Flix

June 10 — In honor of the annual Tornado Rally, the Orpheum Film Series presents a pair of motorcycle classics, "Easy Rider" and "Hell's Angels On Wheels." Tickets are just \$4 for military members. Shows begin 7:30 p.m. Call (316) 263-0884 for more information or go online to:

www.wichitaorpheum.com

All Star Sports Night

June 10 — All Star Sports Entertainment in east Wichita has 13 new rides for this annual event open to servicemembers. \$15 admission includes pizza and unlimited access to rides for young and old. Children too small for rides admitted for free. Contact Chief Master Sgt. Stephenson at (316) 759-6413 or any Group chief for tickets.

Wranglers' McConnell Night

June 11 — The Wichita Wranglers host the Tulsa Drillers and salute the men and women of McConnell AFB and the U. S. Armed Forces. Pre-game show and post-game fireworks scheduled with 7 p.m. game start. Tickets are scheduled to be available at the McConnell AFB ticket office. Call (316) 759-6007 for availability.

Aviator Football

June 11 — Watch the 931st ARG's own Freddie Kincaid and his Wichita Aviators-teammates take on the Missouri Minute-men. Game scheduled to start 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum. Call Select-A-Seat at (800) 362-3247 for ticket and event information, or go online to:

www.selectaseat.com

Phantom

June 10 & 11 — An exciting new spin of the Phantom of the Opera by Maury Yeston and Arthur Kopit popular with audiences and critics. Presented by the Music Theatre of Wichita at the Century II Concert Hall. Shows begin 8 p.m. Call (316) 265-3107 for ticket information, or go online to:

www.musictheatreofwichita.org

At the Movies



THE INTERPRETER

FRIDAY, JUNE 10 7pm
1 hr. 58 min. Sean Penn is a federal agent in charge of keeping Nicole Kidman, a U.N. interpreter, safe from the same people she believes are plotting to assassinate an African head of state.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violence, some sexual content and brief strong language



HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

SATURDAY, JUNE 11 7pm
1 hr. 43 min. A man escapes the destruction of Earth by hitchhiking a ride on an alien spacecraft and discovers everything he needs to know is found in one instructional book.

MPAA Rating: PG for thematic elements, action and mild language

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

McConnell Movie Line – (316) 759-4181

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