

KANZA SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JASON SCHAAP



Civil Engineer Squadron's Senior Master Sgt. Tamera Askren (right), Staff Sgt. Megan Durkee (center) and family member Angelique Ordoyne untangle ropes while setting up tents for the Special Olympics State Summer Games in Wichita, Kan., last month. (Below) Group volunteers help at the Special Olympics dance.

Volunteers help Special Olympics

Group volunteers supported the Special Olympics State Summer Games for the tenth year in a row last month. Airmen and family members from the Civil Engineer Squadron helped set up tents for the events at Wichita State University, a job they've been doing since the 931st stood up in 1995.

Group volunteers also helped support the annual dance that accompanies the Games. Val Hood, 931st budget analyst, has been volunteering for the dance for the last several years. "It's always a fun time," Ms. Hood said. "The athletes real-

ly love to dance." More than 500,000 volunteers support 1.7 million athletes worldwide.

Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.



COURTESY PHOTO

For a closer look at one of the athletes who competes in the games supported by the 931st...

...see the related story on page 4

Group members to recertify BAH

Airmen from the 931st ARG should expect to recertify their Basic Allowance for Housing qualification by the end of the July unit training assembly. Reserve members are required to recertify their BAH every three years.

The Group's orderly rooms are scheduled to have the recertification form, Air Force Form 987, available and will be where Airmen should turn completed forms back in.

Group members have married, divorced, gained dependents or had another change in status affecting their BAH will need to attach a copy of the supporting documentation to AF Form 987.

Members on a long tour away from home station can contact the local orderly room or finance office at their temporary duty location to obtain the form. The form can be faxed to the orderly room at their unit. If the form is not available, members can contact their unit orderly room to have a form faxed.

Deployed members are required to recertify their BAH when they return. Recertification ensures members are receiving accurate BAH entitlements. Action can be taken to suspend BAH entitlement to members who fail to recertify by the suspense date.

Call (316) 759-4633/3629 for more information.

**Commander,
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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.

Airmen, Spiritual Strength and Core Values

Editor's Note: The following sight picture from Gen. Jumper best expresses the points Col. Karl J. Hurdle, 931st ARG Commander, wanted Group members to read about this month. Col. Hurdle's monthly column is scheduled to return next issue.

GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER
AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF

Our lives changed when we took the oath to defend our nation and put on the uniform of an Airman. But what was that change? Was it merely symbols – uniform, rank, and badges? No, it was a transformation from whoever we were to someone vested in higher order values, a transformation into a part of something bigger than ourselves. We come from all walks of life, from every part of our Nation. We are different people from diverse backgrounds and with our diversity we bring different sets of values. We have different hopes and aspirations, different goals and different beliefs. It is perhaps our Nation's greatest strength that, since its founding, we can stand shouldertoshoulder with people of different origins and beliefs for a single purpose – to serve.

As part of our service in the United States

Air Force we are expected to embrace its Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. These Values are a guide that binds us together, even as we fight for the right to be different in so many other ways. We use the word "Core" because we expect these values to be fundamental to our service, to guide our commitment to our country and our mission, and to serve as a test for the decisions we make in both our personal and professional lives. Our commitment to our Core Values means that they are more than just words posted on a wall or recited by rote. They reside in the front row of our daily lives to help us wrestle with our toughest decisions and to guide us on our path of service as Airmen.

At our Air Force Academy, we have experienced issues with expressions of religious beliefs and with perceptions that one set of beliefs is favored over others. Remember Service Before Self. Religion is intensely personal and disagreements can detract from the teamwork necessary for Air Force units. In particular, sharing personal beliefs in a professional setting,

one where leaders are performing their duties in a chain of command or in a superior-subordinate relationship, can easily become improper influence about personal matters. Furthermore, it can be resented. A friend of mine recently expressed it this way: "The core task of every leader in the profession of arms is uniting his or her people into a strong team, with levels of trust and commitment so high the unit keeps working well even under extreme pressure. Everyone in a unit contributes to that task." Anything that detracts from that teamwork ultimately detracts from the mission.

What does this mean about how leaders should approach spiritual strength? Spiritual strength is an integral part of leadership. Our greatest leaders are able to elevate the human spirit and inspire extraordinary performance. Spiritual strength drives us to make sacrifices for others, for our Nation, and for the greater good. For some, a commitment to a specific religious faith is a source for that spiritual strength, but not for all. For some, it is their heritage and the experience of a community of people within our human family. For others, it is the way they were touched as individuals by a family member, teacher, or leader's work of faith or charity.

As we stress our Core Value of Service Before Self, we see spiritual strength as its foundation, whether or not an individual sees himself or herself as religious.

Faith and religious freedom were fundamental to the founding of this Nation. Chaplains are part of our profession of arms and have a unique charter: to minister to those who share their specific faith, to facilitate ministry to those of other faiths, and to care for all – including those whose spiritual strength does not come from religious belief. Our chaplains should set the example for mutual respect among different faiths and beliefs. Service Before Self.

There will be more specific guidance about expressions of personal religious beliefs. This guidance will emphasize mutual respect and the wingman culture fundamental to all Airmen. The expression of personal preferences to subordinates, especially in a professional setting or at mandatory events, is inappropriate. More importantly, we should always be guided by our Core Values. That's what makes us the superb Airmen that we are.



Air Force Chief of Staff John P. Jumper speaks at a town hall meeting at the AF Academy, Colo.

Air Force finalizes new utility uniforms

TECH. SGT. DAVID JABLONSKI
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Blue and green tiger stripes are out; the digitized pattern with subdued green, tan, blue and gray is in. After reviewing more than 150,000 bits of feedback throughout the initial seven-month wear test of the proposed utility uniform, Air Force leaders recently decided to eliminate the original colors scheme and conduct a limited field test of the new pattern. Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June.

"The sole purpose of the test will be to see if we can add any features to the uniform to make it a better uniform in the field and to determine if the new colors (and) pattern provide camouflage protection they need in the field," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Airmen who participated in the initial wear test stopped wearing the more vibrant blue-green uniform March 1. The original wear test involved more than 700 Airmen at 32 bases worldwide who kept detailed daily logs annotating likes, dis-

likes and wash-and-wear problems. They also completed three surveys.

"Throughout the test, Air Force leaders actively solicited feedback from testers and observers alike to ensure this uniform developed into one that fit the needs of today's Airmen," Sergeant Athnos said. "There were several avenues for feedback, ensuring that the (Air Force) chief of staff had realistic facts when making the final decision on the uniform," she said.

Those avenues included a survey sent to 45,000 Airmen, a Web site and direct e-mail to the uniform board.

"Some comments were positive, some were negative -- all of them were provided directly to the chief of staff,"

Sergeant Athnos said.

The uniform is scheduled to be procured in mid-2005, officials said. Airmen can expect to purchase the uniform sometime in fiscal 2007.

The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years.



Reservists need to register employer information

Time is running out for about 15,000 Air Force reservists in the Selected Reserve to comply with a Department of Defense directive.

Oct. 31 is the deadline for reservists who are paid for training to register information about their civilian place of employment. Some 60,000 of these Airmen, roughly 80 percent of the force, provided that information as of May.

The Civilian Employment Information Program is the first mandatory disclosure by members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve of their civilian employers into a common database. The CEI program began in March 2004.

Reservists are being urged to register online as soon as possible by going to www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm and clicking on Civilian Employment Info Program. An air reserve component Website is in development to streamline this

process even more.

After clicking on the Web site, reservists enter their employment status, employer's name, mailing address, civilian job title and total number of years in their current civilian occupation.

Unlike previous military service efforts to voluntarily gather employer data, the CEI program is mandatory. Reservists who knowingly fail or refuse to provide their employment-related information, or provide false information, may be subject to administrative action. If on duty, they could face punishment for dereliction of duty under Article 92 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

DOD started the CEI program to obey three federal laws and requires reservists to update or revalidate their CEI information annually. (AFRC News Service)

www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm

SPECIAL OLYMPIAN

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY TECH. SGT. JASON SCHAAP



Special Olympics medals hang in a dense mass from a cork board on the wall of Chris' bedroom.



Chris Leon plays softball with his Special Olympics team, the Air Capital Flyers. (Above) Chris looks out the front window of his home while waiting for a friend to pick him up for lunch.

Wake up and run. Two-miles, then breakfast. Get the paper. More chores. Then it's right back outside. Mountain bike. Shoot hoops. Price Is Right. Showcase Showdown. Off to swim lessons. Lunch. KFC, with a girlfriend. Make a cake, from start to finish. Hobby Lobby: buy a poster frame. Frame it. Hang it. Conduct the Star-Spangled Banner. America the Beautiful. Dance. Kelly Clarkson. Dinner with Mom, Little Sis'. Dad's working late. Across town to softball practice. Run, throw, hit. Laugh. Smile. Sundown.

A typical American, summer day. A busy day, even with the energy of a 14 year old. But Chris Leon isn't your typical teenager. He's special. He's a Special Olympian.

Chris is one of 1.7 million athletes with intellectual disabilities who compete through Special Olympics. He was born with Down Syndrome, a genetic disorder that slows his mental and physical development. But it has not slowed his desire.

Chris' room is littered with awards, mementos and further tes-



Chris shops with his mother, Pat, at a crafts store for a frame to put around a poster he want to hang on his bedroom wall. Pat gave up her broadcasting career when Chris was born so she could be home to help him fight the effects of Down Syndrome.

tament to a more-than-active childhood. Special Olympic medals hang in a dense mass on a bulletin board. A few of them were recently hung, earned at the recent State Summer Games, an annual event 931st Air Refueling Group members regularly volunteer to support.

Chris got involved with Special Olympics when he was 8, the minimum age for participating. His mother, Pat, remembers all the work it took to get Chris ready to compete.

She remembers taking her newborn son to see an occupational therapist, a physical therapist and speech therapist when he was just one month old. She remembers her baby boy, stricken with the low muscle tone and poor motor skills of Down Syndrome, lying limp, his lifeless limbs without the means to support themselves. She remembers how, when he was 3, Chris would rather sit and watch the neighborhood kids play basketball or ride bikes.

"Chris never wanted to go out and play," she said. "He really had to work at learning to walk and run and jump. So to him, 'play' was actually work."

Pat (her name an appropriate, shortened version of the virtue "patience"), never gave in. She gave up a broadcasting career to stay home. She was determined to be with Chris every step of the way, to not let Down Syndrome defeat her son.

"Although he's always been extremely social, I had to encourage Chris to get up and physically play; I felt like I was making him," Pat remembered. "The change really came with Special Olympics." Chris joined the Air Capital Flyers, a Special Olympics team, when they formed four years ago.

His schedule with the Flyers is much more than an annual summer meet. June and July is softball season. Followed by soccer in August and September. Bowling and volleyball season is October and November (he plays both). Basketball

is December through March and then swimming and track until June.

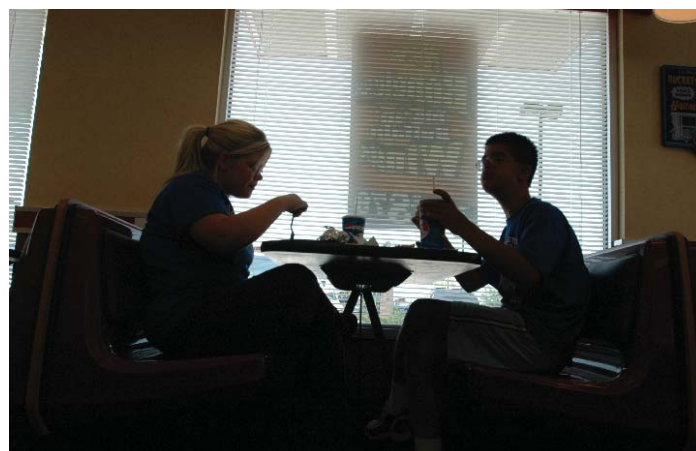
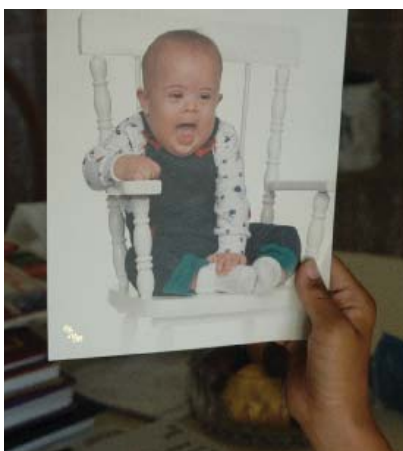
Regardless of the sport, Chris is excited to jump in the family minivan and head to practice or a game, Pat said. He's excited about life. He's excited about going back to his public high school to start ninth grade. "Everybody (there) knows Chris," Pat said with a smile of pride. "He fits right in."

Chris loves music. Pop music. American Idol is as big an event for him as his classmates. Chris hands CDs to Pat in the minivan and yells, "Kick it Mom, kick it."

"It's funny," Pat said. "He's up on the latest music on MTV yet he still believes in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny." Chris' capacity for contradiction isn't limited to pop culture and egg-toting rabbits, Pat has noticed. "He's afraid of bikes and stairs yet he'll ride the wildest rollercoaster he can find," she said.

Chris can

continued on page 7



(Left) Chris holds up his baby picture from when he was 2 years old. (Center) Kaitlin Snyder, a girl who graduated the public school Chris goes to, sits with Chris for lunch at a restaurant near his home. Kaitlin, who Chris likes to call "his girlfriend," met Chris before she graduated and was inspired by him to study Special Education in college. (Right) Chris rides a full-size mountain bike equipped with large training wheels specially ordered off the Internet.

SPIRIT SHORTS

Health Assessment required

The 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight is reminding Group members they are required to complete the Reserve Component Preventative Health Risk Assessment questionnaire within the six months before their birth month. The questionnaire can be completed on any computer with Internet access by going to the below Web site.

At the site, click on the RCPHA logo and a link to the questionnaire will appear. Date of rank is also needed to enter the site. Once completed, information is sent to AMF and an examination is scheduled. Contact AMF at (316) 759-3379 for more information. The HRA Web address is:
[HTTPS://WWW.WBITS.AFRC.AF.MIL](https://www.wbits.afrc.af.mil)

Quarterly award packages due

The quarterly award nomination packages for April 1 through June 30 are due to be delivered to the 931st command chief's office by 10 a.m. on the Saturday of the July unit training assembly (July 16). Although it's not required, it's recommended packages are delivered in two-part folders with four copies of the nomination form (AF IMT Form 1206) and four blank copies of the score sheet (Attachment 4).

First sergeant opening

Applications are being accepted for a first sergeant position within the 931st ARG through the close of business Aug. 15. Master and senior master sergeants are eligible to apply, as well as technical sergeants who have completed the noncommissioned officer academy and are eligible for promotion. An ability to speak distinctly, a minimum fitness score of 75 and exceptional leadership skills are among the other needed qualifications.

Contact Master Sgt. Debroada Cornelius at (316) 759-3587 for application procedures and more information.

Free counseling

Air Force OneSource is making free counseling services available to help Airmen and their families deal with marital and relationship problems, deployment or redeployment stress, grief and other non-clinical issues. Any active-duty Airman, reservist or guardsman or their immediate family members can access the service. Counseling and other OneSource information is available anytime by phone in the United States at (800) 707-5784, internationally at (800) 7075-7844 or online at:

WWW.AIRFORCEONESOURCE.COM

DOD launches sexual assault prevention Web site

Servicemembers who are victims of sexual assault or who need information on the Defense Department policy on preventing sexual assaults can find the information at a new Web site.

The site has links to all the services' Web sites related to the sexual assault issue. It spells out what people can do if they are victims of sexual assault. If a commander or a first sergeant has questions, the site should provide the answers, but if not, they can send an e-mail via the site to a Joint Task Force member. The Web address for the new site is:

WWW.SAPR.MIL

Free admission to Derby waterpark

Military identification card holders and immediate family members can visit the Derby Rock River Rapids waterpark in Derby, Kan., for free July 29 from 12:30 to 8 p.m. Family members without military ID cards must be accompanied by a parent or sibling with military ID. Free admission will be available via the park's pass gate, eliminating the need to stand in line at the main entrance.

— SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT —

Senior Airman Kevin Taylor is a Tulsa, Okla., native who has been in the Air Force for 1 year.

Job Title: Jet Engine Maintainer

What I'm studying: Biosystems Engineering at Oklahoma State University

Favorite way to relax: Basketball, building model airplanes, and weightlifting

What annoys me: Lying and slow driving

Most influential person in my life: My mother. She is a single parent who has given my brother and I everything we've needed while holding a successful job.

What I'm listening to: Ludacris

What I'm reading: Wolfen

If I won \$1 million, I would: Pay off loans, help my mom and save the rest



Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Special Olympian from page 4



Chris Leon puts his hand to his heart as he sings along with the Star-Spangled Banner on his way to swimming lessons. Chris loves the American flag and likes to carry one everywhere he goes. (Below) Chris decorates a cake with flags.

mix, bake and decorate a cake by himself but Pat still helps him tie his shoes. He's overcome many of the obstacles Down Syndrome has thrown at him but he's maintained much of the innocence already lost in his peers. The kid is still left in the heart of Chris Leon.

The kid that waves back at the TV when game show hosts and contestants wave goodbye. The kid that keeps a stack of hand-size American flags in his room and carries one wherever he goes. The kid that wears work gloves and pretends he's conducting the orchestra playing on his bedroom CD player. Chris is the kid that turns a handshake from a stranger into an introductory hug.



He's the persona that makes 931st members and 500,000 other people understand why it's so important to support the athletes of Special Olympics, all of whom share an oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Chris is both. He's a winner and he's courageous. He's truly a Special Olympian.

Welcome Newcomers

TSgt Matthew Ziegelbein
18th Air Refueling Squadron

SrA Lewis Ayers
Aerospace Medicine Flight

Promotions

MSgt Edwin Espinoza
18th Air Refueling Squadron

SSgt Jared Arrington
Military Support Flight

SSgt Megan Durkee
Civil Engineer Squadron

SSgt Jonathan Thyng
Operations Support Flight

SSgt Jason Wesche
18th Air Refueling Squadron

SrA Jennifer Huston
Headquarters

SrA Ryan Larson
Civil Engineer Squadron

SrA David Seeman
18th Air Refueling Squadron

SSgt Cory Smith
Military Support Flight

Special Cause

Family members of the the 931st ARG pause for moment while preparing for the start of an annual dance that accompanies the Special Olympics State Summer Games in Wichita, Kan. Members of the 931st have regularly helped support the annual games in Wichita since the Group was formed in 1995.



COURTESY PHOTO

WICHITA WEEKEND

Wranglers' Bash

June 15-16 — Watch the Wichita Wranglers host the Frisco Rough Riders and enjoy a Friday Night Bash with live music and food and drink specials. Gates open 5 p.m. The Wranglers host the Rough Riders again Saturday with post-game fireworks to celebrate the city of Wichita's birthday. Games begin 7 p.m. Call (800) 677-4824 for tickets or go online to:

www.wichitawranglers.com

Cosmic Bowling

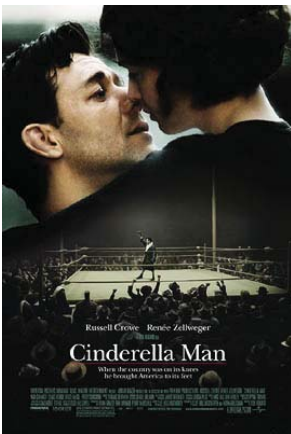
June 15-16 — Pay just \$1.75 per game or \$10 for the night every Friday and Saturday at Tornado Alley, McConnell AFB's bowling alley located inside the Robert J. Dole Community Center. Enjoy a cosmic atmosphere with neon and disco lighting from 7 to 11 p.m.

Call (316) 759-6187 for more information.

Social Security

June 15-16 — A feel-good, hilarious Broadway hit about an 83 year-old "Cinderella" still looking for Prince Charming at the Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre. From the same writer of Blazing Saddles, Honeymoon in Vegas and The Freshman. Doors open 5:45 p.m., buffet dinner begins 6 p.m., and show starts 7:30 p.m. Call (316) 681-1566 for tickets and more information.

At the Movies



CINDERELLA MAN

FRIDAY, JULY 15 7pm
2 hrs. 58 min. Based on a true story, Russell Crowe stars as a man who starts boxing to earn money to feed his family in Depression-era New York. He gains fame and eventually earns a fight with the champ.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for intense boxing violence and some language



KICKING & SCREAMING

SATURDAY, JULY 16 7pm
1 hr. 36 min. As the coach of his son's soccer team, Will Ferrell and an opposing coach, his own overly competitive father, go to extremes to win the league championship.

MPAA Rating: PG for thematic elements, language and some crude humor

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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