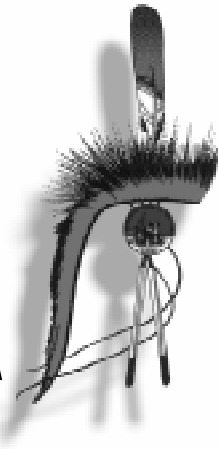


KANZA

SPIRIT

931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

July 2001

ATWIND: Get into it!

By Sam Parker

Air Mobility Command

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS)—The opportunity to win a dream vacation, a new car, cash... Can you get into it?

“Get Into It” is the theme of Air Mobility Command’s “ATWIND 2001,” Around the World In Ninety Days annual summer promotion. And that’s just what AMC Services wants people to do. The program seeks to heighten awareness of summer and on-going programs and services available on base and rewards people who participate. The program will run from June 1 through Aug. 31.

ATWIND is a virtual adventure around the world. The player’s “mission” is to travel from one landmark destination to another.

See ATWIND Page 7

931st members ace inspection

By Staff Sgt. David Brumley

931st ARG Public Affairs

Members of the 931st Air Refueling Group earned high marks during an Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection exercise held in Alpena, Mich. May 5-9.

The Inspector General Exercise, called an IGX, integrated more than 500 personnel in simulating a deployment to an operating base in Saudi Arabia.

Twenty-three reservists consisting of aircrews, intelligence, public affairs, chaplain, and PERSCO represented the 931st. They were required to demonstrate their ability to integrate with numerous units that comprised the 22nd Air Expeditionary Wing. McConnell’s own 22nd Air Refueling Wing was the lead unit and had leadership responsibility for the IGX.

“We had numerous problems to overcome,” said Maj. Randy Brink, a pilot with the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. “We had problems in getting food and water, but everybody kept their spirits up and overcame the adversities.” Brink, who also deployed with the 931st during Allied Force in 1999, says the unit has shown its excellence. “Two

years ago the 931st deployed into a wartime environment and this exercise proved we can do it again, and we are one of the best units out there.”

Brink was the leader of a three-person crew, along with 1st Lt. Suzanne Lushbaugh and Tech. Sgt. Art Shamburger, who were named as exceptional performers by the Air Mobility Command inspectors.

“I thought it was funny we were honored, because everyone else did the same outstanding job,” said Brink. “Everybody worked well, kept a good attitude and kept it serious. The mem-

bers of the 931st worked as a team.”

During the employment phase of the exercise, crews from the 18th ARS contributed to flying 16 air-refueling missions with 380,000 pounds of fuel offloaded.

The crews were graded as exceptional in preparation and demonstrating a proactive approach to mission planning and providing feedback to the mission planners and leadership.

Other aircrew members participating included Maj. Brian Bell, Maj. Jeff Young, Capt. Chris

See Inspection Page 7



Air Force Photo

Members of the 22nd Air Expeditionary Wing take a drink during a simulated chemical attack during the AMC Inspector General Exercise at Alpena Mich.



Sherrard talks to Senate

By Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard
Commander of Air Force Reserve Command

In an effort to retain our best and brightest, we need to reward our people through compensation and promotion and ensure they know their efforts are appreciated. We need to look after their families while they are deployed and reach out to their employers with our thanks for their support.

We need to ensure that there is open dialogue among reservists as well as communication with reservists and myself so we can do our job the best it can be done. More than ever, we need to continue to partner with Congress to ensure we maintain the strongest air force in the world.

In the Air Force Reserve Command, we put people first, emphasize readiness, and continue to seek balanced, time-phased modernization and infrastructure programs.

We are aggressively pursuing ways to better leverage the time of Air Force reservists. We are building a telecommuting program, restructuring our inspections program and reviewing ancillary training requirements. Finally, we continue to pursue the quality of life issues that are important to reservists. Our focus is on entitlements, improved lodging facilities, family services, reducing personnel turbulence and parity of benefits, regardless of length of orders.

While pay is only one reason people join the Reserve, it isn't why they stay. A number of intangibles, characterized as quality of life issues, are part of the decision process. Advances in Reserve quality of life are the re-

sult of congressional interest.

A number of recent initiatives have lightened the burden a reservist carries. In 1999, medical care for members who are injured while on inactive duty was clarified and extended in the fiscal year 2000 authorization bill. Coverage under dental plans was expanded, and the secretary of Defense was given the authority to waive TRICARE deductibles for dependents of members called to active duty for less than one year. The positive effect these measures has on the Air Force Reserve is enormous. It provides peace of mind to our members to know they and their families will have access to health care when they need it most.

This past year demonstrated that the health care provided for our reservists has cleared some major hurdles, but still has a few to go. I know that health care issues have been the subject of several hearings this year. We appreciate the Congress' continued interest in the welfare of our members.

Retention

While we continue to meet our overall Air Force Reserve Command retention goal of 82 percent, the strong economy had a significant impact on our ability to retain personnel, particularly in critical skills.

The economy will undoubtedly continue to challenge us in attracting and retaining the skilled professionals we need, so we must find new ways to strengthen our retention rates particularly for full-time pilots and second-term enlisted personnel.

While overall officer retention rates are healthy, the current pi-



Maj. Gen. James Sherrard

lot retention rates do not reflect the projected, escalating attrition rates that will challenge all Air Force components. Historically, pilots stayed until retirement, but recent indicators reveal an increase in the number of air reserve technician pilots who are leaving early. As with the active component, increased hiring by major airlines, high operations tempo, and better civilian pay and working conditions are hurting pilot retention.

AFRC predicts a pilot shortfall of 325 for fiscal year 2002 based on a 35 percent active-duty pilot recruitment rate. A Rated Management Task Force has been formed to study this issue and develop a Total Force approach to solve it.

We hope some of the pay incentives and other enhancements will help us solve this problem. These enhancements include improvements in scheduling predictability, which the Expeditionary Aerospace Force provides, an increased use of telecommuting to better manage ancillary training requirements, protection of current benefits and increased parity of benefits.

See Sherrard Page 8



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**Commander,
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Around the Air Force



Chief of Air Force Reserve pins on 3rd star

WASHINGTON— The chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command received his third star during a ceremony June 5 at the Pentagon.

This is not only a promotion for Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III but also elevates his dual-hatted position from a major general to a lieutenant general billet.

The change helps lessen the disparity in rank between Sherrard's position and that of other major command commanders because most of them are four-star generals. It also affords the position, in the role of chief of Air Force Reserve, coequal status with Air Staff deputy chiefs of staff, of which he is a statutory member.

"This elevation to a third star is recognition of the demonstrated potential for greater service and capability of the men and women of the Air Force Re-

serve — that's what this is all about," Sherrard said. "In reality, it's what we have already been doing, so evident in their day-to-day activities providing services and experience that are crucial to the Air Force's ability to meet its worldwide commitments."

The services agreed that the responsibilities of their respective reserve chiefs dictated a higher rank, but the authority to upgrade the two-star positions had to come from Congress.

AFRC alone has more than 74,000 military members, flies more than 400 unit aircraft and operates hundreds more aircraft through associate programs with the active force, providing the Air Force with 20 percent of its capability.

In the fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress approved upgrading the reserve component posi-

tions, but the promotions had to come from active-duty, three-star authorizations.

However, with the enactment of the FY 2001 NDAA, Congress increased the limit on the number of officers who can serve on

active duty above the grade of O-8. At the same time, Congress directed the Department of Defense to promote the chief of Air Force Reserve and the five other reserve bosses within 12 months.

(AFRC News Service)



U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan (left) and Marsha Sherrard pin a third star on newly promoted Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III during a Pentagon courtyard ceremony, Washington, D.C., June 5, 2001.

Reserve offers high-year-of-tenure extensions

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Reservists with a high-year-of-tenure date between June 1, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2002, may request an extension of their enlistment in the Selected Reserve.

Unit reservists, including Active Guard and Reserve members, have until Aug. 31, 2001, to obtain their wing commander's recommendation. Individual mobilization augmentees have 30 days from the date of notification to

apply for an extension.

Military personnel officials here said Air Force Reserve Command is offering the temporary exception to policy so it can attain mission and end-strength objectives. Members cannot extend beyond their 60th birthday.

Reservists with a previous extension may request an additional two years not to exceed a combined total of five years or age 60. Those who request an extension for the first time may

ask for up to three years if the extension does not take them past their 60th birthday.

If the Reserve filled a position before June 1, 2001, because of an anticipated vacancy created by a HYT date, the replacement and the reservist eligible for the extension can occupy the same position during the extension period. The replacement is not eligible for promotion until the promotion cycle after the extended reservist actually leaves

the position. The extended reservist, who is considered an overage, is not eligible for promotion. Air reserve technicians who decide to retire from civil service will have their HYT extension terminated when they leave their civil service position.

The Reserve began phasing in its HYT program Jan. 1, 1989. Military personnel flights have more information about HYT extensions.

(AFRC News Service)



SPOUSE FLIGHT



Spouses of 931st Air Refueling Group members had an opportunity to see the unit's mission first-hand June 9 during the UTA. An orientation flight allowed spouses to fly along as KC-135R crews conducted a refueling training mission for F-16s.

AT THE FAMILY DAY PICNIC!



Hundreds of families enjoyed food, fun and a look at the animal residents of the Wichita Zoo, June 10 during the family day picnic.



AIR SHOW



More than 50,000 people attended the annual McConnell Air Show June 16-17. In addition to the static displays of aircraft, visitors saw many aircraft in action including a reenactment of a Pearl Harbor attack by TORA! TORA! TORA!



Spirit Shorts

Need to outprocess?

If you, or someone you know, needs to out process for TDY, reassignment or retirement, keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay Office (Traci or Dee) is only open for business on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thinking ahead can ensure you don't have to come out during the week to finish your out-processing. For further information contact Tech. Sgt. Anick Wallace in Relocations at Ext. 3665.

Phone access codes change

In order to standardize access numbers across the Air Force, all installations are changing DSN and off-base access codes. Effective July 30, McConnell's DSN access code will be "94" and the off-base access code will be "99."

Update emergency, insurance data

Reservists are asked to check their Emergency Data Card (DD Form 93) and their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance form at least once a year. The DD Form 93 is used to notify your next of kin, in a timely manner, if anything happens to you. The SGLI form is a legal document used to pay your beneficiaries in the event of your death. For more information, call Customer Service, at Ext. 3458.

MPF Training

MSgt Kasl will provide training for all 3As and 3Cs on Saturday of the UTA. The location is Bldg. 850, Rm. 217 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Airman Leadership School

SrA with 48 months time in service are eligible to attend. Interested members may contact Group Training for further information. The LAST date for this fiscal year is: Sept. 18-Oct. 19.

NCO Leadership

The Group Training Office has received class dates from both Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and Ft. Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas.

Interested staff and tech sergeants may contact Group Training for specifics.

Senior NCO Leadership

Remaining Fiscal Year 2001 dates are:

Sept. 22 and 23 at Scott

Dec. 15 and 16 at Kelly

There are four slots per class available.

Movin' On Up

Congratulations to the following members for completing Professional Military Education or formal technical training.

Senior Airman Michelle Richards, Mission Support Flight, completed Airman Leadership School in residence.

Senior Airman Nathan Parks, 18th Air Refueling Squadron and **Senior Airman Benjamin Ashment**, 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron, completed ALS, course 01.

The following recently completed or will soon complete formal training:

Staff Sgt. Nathan Brown, 931st

AGS, Hydraulic 7-level school. **Staff Sgt. Chris Crosser**, 931st AGS, Avionics 7-level school. **Staff Sgt. Paula Hearn**, 931st AGS, Avionics 7-level school. **Airman 1st Class Darin Moyer**, 931st AGS, JETS 3-level school. **Maj. Esteban Ramirez**, 18th ARS, Initial KC-135 Co-pilot training. **Staff Sgt. Cynthia Sabatino**, MSF, Information Management 7-level school. **Maj. John Stansfield**, 18th ARS, Initial KC-135 pilot training. **Staff Sgt. Johnny Stephenson**, 931st Operations Support Flight, Information Management 7-level school. **Airman 1st Class Linda Sutter**, 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight, Health Services Management 3-level school. **Staff Sgt. Steven Tracy**, 931st Civil Engineering Squadron, Civil Engineers 7-level school. **Maj. Tsuyoshi Tung**, 18th ARS, Instructor Pilot training. **Staff Sgt. William Westpfahl**, 931st

CES, Civil Engineers 7-level school.

Group Annual Fitness Walk

The next fitness walk will be held on Saturday, 21 Jul 01, at 0800 at the track by CE.

Monitors, if any of your members are walking, be sure there is someone there to record their times.

Human Resource Development Council

Did you know that your HRDC has purchased an extensive lending library on a wide variety of topics?

Group training has a detailed book previewing all the topics available in video, audiocassette, or book format.

Please stop by and take advantage of the wealth of information available to you!

Active-duty retirees welcome to join Air Force Reserve

WASHINGTON—The Air Force Reserve is offering active-duty military retirees the opportunity to return to military service.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2001 added Section 12741 to Chapter 1223, Title 10 USC, which permits retired active-component service members who later serve in the Air Force Reserve to elect retirement as members of the retired reserve.

In addition to helping Air Force Reserve Command fill a critical need, active-duty retirees will receive several benefits for continued military service as reservists.

These incentives include:

- Increased retirement income by earning points and/or pay while serving;
- Promotion opportunity to a higher grade and retirement in that grade;
- Renewed esprit de corps and camaraderie enjoyed on active duty; and

If promoted, members may elect reserve retirement pay in the higher grade at age 60.

Even if not promoted, they may request recomputation of their retired pay due to reserve participation.

Interested people who believe they qualify for the program may contact the nearest Air Force Reserve recruiter for details.

(AFRC News Service)



Missile intercept test successful

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization successfully completed a test involving a planned intercept of an intercontinental ballistic missile target July 15.

This test took place over the central Pacific Ocean. A modified Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile target vehicle was launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., at 10:40 p.m. EDT, July 14 and a prototype interceptor was launched approximately 20 minutes later and 4,800 miles away from the Ronald Reagan Missile Site Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

The intercept took place approximately 10 minutes after the interceptor was launched, at an altitude in excess of 140 miles above the earth, and during the midcourse phase of the target warhead's flight.

The test successfully demonstrated for a second time exoatmospheric kill vehicle flight performance and "hit to kill" technology to intercept and destroy a long-range ballistic missile target.

Defense News

Inspection

Continued from Page 1

Cullen, Capt. Tim McGuire, Capt. Mike Gibbons, Capt. Mark Myers, 1st Lt. Chris Lytle, 1st Lt. Mike Kleespie, Master Sgt. John Wallman, Master Sgt. Mark McGougan, Tech Sgt. Jim Yokom and Staff Sgt. Roger Horton.

One final 18th ARS member participating was actually a part of the 22nd ARW leadership package. Lt. Col. Ray Kozak was a part of the squadron operations center (SOC) staff.

"The EORI was a great example of total force teamwork," said Kozak. "The IG's comment that exceptional preparation of crews was evident throughout the inspection, is a well deserved compliment to our squadron."

In addition to aircrews, the 931st performed and passed AMC standards in other areas. The group intelligence office was led by 1st Lt. Glenda Norris and supported by Master Sgt. Eloise Hunter and Staff Sgt. Johnny Yelverton.

They were recognized as having a heightened situational awareness, providing thorough analysis and expert recommendations to the wing and squadron operations centers.

Master Sgt. Corrina Seitz and Tech. Sergeant Anick Wallace

were key members of the PERSCO function at Alpena. Their key task during the exercise was accountability of all deployed personnel.

Completing the 931st presence during the IGX were two staff officers. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chuck Peters was the lead chaplain for the exercise and the inspectors highlighted his demonstrated preparation for leadership and mentioned he spurred his team to provide a cohesive and seamless ministry.

Maj. Dave Fruck was the public affairs officer, producing a daily newsletter and working with media representatives.

"I'm extremely proud of our

IGX participants," said Col. Jim Bouska, 931st ARG commander. "They showed the AMC inspectors that our unit is trained and ready to perform our wartime mission. I also want to thank everyone for the time and effort needed before, during and after the inspection."

The exercise simulated the rigors of a wartime environment including deployment, employment, mission support, and ability of refueling forces to survive and operate while refueling combat aircraft.

The exercise was comprised of personnel from 24 AMC and AMC gained Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units.



Maj. David Fruck
Capt. Mark Myers and 1st Lt. Chris Lytle get a weather briefing from Capt. William Wood during the AMC Inspection at Alpena, Mich.

ATWIND

Continued from Page 1

Players earn travel miles every time they participate in an ATWIND event.

Participants must register to play and log their miles. This can be done either by calling ATWIND's toll-free number at 1-888-597-9960 or logging on to the ATWIND Web site at www.atwind.com. Players work

their way around the world by earning miles to get to five destinations. Upon reaching a specific destination, they are then entered into the drawing for the grand prize for that destination. More participation equals more game pieces and more miles toward more prizes.

Director of AMC Services, Col. Terry Mayer, said ATWIND has been "enormously successful" over the past two

years. Successful may be an understatement, considering last year's ATWIND had almost 50,000 participants, 279,000 Web site visits, 65,000 calls to the ATWIND toll-free number and more than 750,000 game pieces played. Services awarded almost 4,000 prizes, including two Ford vehicles, vacation trips and cash.

ATWIND reaches all 12 major AMC installations as well as AMC-affiliated Guard, Reserve,

en route and tenant units worldwide.

ATWIND will also reach Air Force Space Command bases this year.

ATWIND will also feature a base-to-base competition. AMC will have \$100,000 in cash incentive awards for bases accomplishing their ATWIND mission of increasing participation in the program by five percent or more.



Sherrard

Continued from Page 2

These enhancements should also positively affect retention of first-term airmen. In fiscal year 2000, our retention rate in this category remained equal to our fiscal year 1999 rate, probably due to operations tempo concerns. We believe our plan to relieve some of the turbulence associated with OPTEMPO should turn the trend upward. In the future, we will continue to focus on achieving an equitable parity of pay and benefits, as well as some other important initiatives.

In sum, the matter of recruiting and retention is the issue of greatest concern to me, and we are taking positive steps to improve it as I lead the Air Force Reserve in this new millennium.

Modernization

One of Air Force Reserve Command's most challenging modernization issues concerns our unit-equipped KC-135s.

Five of our seven air refueling squadrons are equipped with the KC-135R, while the remaining two squadrons are equipped with KC-135E's. The KC-135E, commonly referred to as the E-model, has engines that were recovered from retiring airliners.

This conversion, which was accomplished in the early- to mid-1980s, was intended as an interim solution to provide im-

provement in capability while awaiting conversion to the R-model with its new, high-bypass, turbofan engines and other modifications. We continue to look for support to modernize our remaining KC-135E fleet.

In the early 1980s as an initiative to improve readiness in the reserve components, Congress provided funding through an appropriation called the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation. Public laws and legislative language provided that NGREA would be intended to enhance readiness and combat capability, and resolve the modernization issues of the reserve forces.

AFRC quickly put it into use as the primary source for modernizing its fleet of aircraft. It procured new weapon systems, as well as miscellaneous and special operations equipment. With NGREA, the Reserve was able to fix many shortcomings in many operational aspects.

However, several years ago, the Department of Defense initiated a shift in equipping philosophy by encouraging the services to be more responsive in funding the equipment needs of its reserve components. This requires the Air Force to be more cognizant in the budget process by providing the necessary equipment and modernization funding for the Reserve and Guard.

As the implementation of this initiative took place, NGREA levels declined as planned from as high as \$362 million in 1992 to as low as \$5 million in fiscal year 2001.

Avoid accidental poisoning

By TSgt. Roxanne Howard

931st OSF

Poisoning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. (car crashes are No. 1 and falls are No. 2)

The following are guidelines for preventing poisoning:

- Read labels before using any chemical product, and follow directions carefully.
- Try to keep all household products in their original containers; never store them in food or beverage containers. (There are many cases of children drinking solvents stored in soft-drink bottles.)
- Safely get rid of old medicines by flushing them down the toilet.
- Always turn on the light when taking or applying medicine; or when giving medicine to someone else.
- If children live in or visit your home never call medicine "candy."
- Don't take your medicine in front of children (They would think it is o.k. to take your medicine)

To find out more about preventing poisoning, The Hope Heart Institute book can provide information, or check with your local clinic or hospital.

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