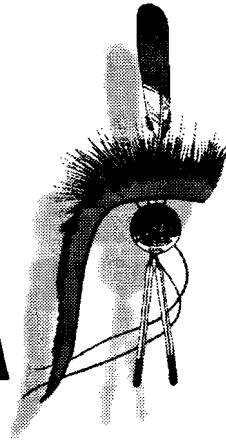


# KANZA

## SPIRIT 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



### Inside

• New 931st recruiter --  
salesman for Reserve  
Page 5

• Keep your little goblins  
safe this Halloween  
Page 8

• Reserve navigator has  
'The Write Stuff'  
Page 9

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

October 2000

## 931st ARG to add medical flight

### Twenty-person unit to provide 'in-house' medical care

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited  
*Kanza Spirit Editor*

Medical scrubs and stethoscopes will soon appear in the halls here among the scores of flight suits and BDUs as the 931<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Group prepares to add its newest addition to the unit -- the 931<sup>st</sup> Aerospace Medicine Flight. Five officers and 15 enlisted troops

are slated to make up the 931<sup>st</sup> AMF and should be able to provide a wide variety of medical services to McConnell's Kanza warriors: everything from flight physicals to dental checkups.

"This flight has been a long time coming, and we're extremely pleased to get our own medical personnel," said Col. Jim Bouska, 931<sup>st</sup> ARG commander.

Since the 931<sup>st</sup> ARG stood up at McConnell in 1995, Kansas reservists have received medical attention from the active duty doctors, nurses and technicians at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Medical Group on base. Although McConnell's active duty caregivers have worked long and hard to provide their reserve counterparts with the best possible treatment, cuts in 22<sup>nd</sup> MG manning and an increased workload over the past few years have prevented them from always being able to meet reservists' needs. From receiving periodic physicals and timely immunizations to having their



Staff Sgt. Jason Whited

### Total Force team

Members of McConnell Team Readiness pose with Gen. Mike Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff, at this year's Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award competition in Washington, D. C. The team, who created a one-of-its-kind chemical and biological decontamination system, went up against the best and brightest in the Air Force. Check Page 3 to see how they fared.

medical records properly maintained, McConnell reservists have sometimes had a difficult time obtaining the medical services they needed to either meet annual requirements or deploy as part of the Total Force.

Although many details remain to be hammered out -- such as where the 20 medical personnel will be housed or how the slots will be divided among Air Reserve Technicians and traditional reservists, one thing is for sure: as soon as unit recruiters can fill the slots there will finally be a "doctor in the house."

## Reserve officers to step up in rank

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited  
*Kanza Spirit Editor*

Six majors and two captains from the 931st Air Refueling Group found out Sept. 29 that there was a promotion and a raise in their future.

The newest 931st ARG lieutenant colonels are: Ray Kozak, Steve Kett, Clay Childs, John Woods, Ken Harris and James McCoy.

The newest 931st ARG captains are: Frank Ellis and Mark Myers.

### There IS a doctor in the house!

The 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight will include:

- Doctor for flight physicals
- Doctor for non-flight physicals
- Physician's assistant
- Optometrist
- Dentist
- Two medical admin troops
- Seven med techs
- Two lab techs
- Optometry assistant
- Two dental assistants
- Substance abuse program coordinator

# Congratulations and thank you

A few thoughts from your group commander

By Col. Jim Bouska  
931<sup>st</sup> ARG Commander

Since our last UTA, there have been some significant personnel changes. First Col. Ron Johnston departed the Air Reserve Technician ranks and has been approved to fill the Group's Deputy Commander position. For now, he is still the 18<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron commander, albeit as a trouger. Also, we have six new lieutenant colonels and two new captains:

#### Lieutenant Colonels

Clayton W. Childs -- Sept. 29, 2000

Kenneth W. Harris -- July 11, 2001

Steven L. Kett -- Sept. 29, 2000  
Raymond A. Kozak -- Sept. 29, 2000

James P. McCoy -- May 15, 2001

Jonathan B. Woods -- Oct. 1, 2000

#### Captains

Frank L. Ellis -- Sept. 29, 2000

Mark E. Myers -- Sept. 29, 2000

Congratulations to all!  
**Money matters**

The new fiscal year arrived with just a whimper. No continuing resolution this year, but no significant change from last year's budget.

You all did well last year with what we had including all the feast and famine cycles we had at the end of the fiscal year. Thanks.

**Col. Bouska goes to Washington**

Just a short note. Last week while in Washington, D.C. I had the privilege to visit with our congressional delegation from Kansas. Senators Roberts and Brownback and Congressman Tiahrt. All are very supportive of the military presence in Kansas and expressed interest and a willingness to help us here in the 931<sup>st</sup>.

From previous assignments, I found this very refreshing and enjoyed talking to them and their staffers. Also, these men are now official 931<sup>st</sup> ARG coin holders and subject to all the



Col. Jim Bouska  
rights and privileges thereof.

#### **Priority check**

It continues to be a busy time for all of us and as things get more and more hectic we need to do a priority check: Family -- Employer -- Reserves. I know this is quite a balancing act and sometime the scales swing from one extreme to the other, but invest your time in the priorities that count, and let us know how we can help. I would like to take this time to thank all the family members and employers who support us through out the year -- without each one of us giving up something, at sometime this program would never work. Thank You.

# Contacting IG easier than you might think

By Lt. Col. Ralph Rissmiller  
931<sup>st</sup> ARG Inspector General

Have you ever wanted to contact the Inspector General but were not sure about the best way to make it happen? Just about any way you can think of to make contact will work; obviously, some ways are better than others. The best way to make the initial contact is to call the IG office and make an appointment. The numbers are printed at the end of this article

and are displayed on IG posters in the work centers around the group. The IG telephone numbers, as well as the E-mail address, are also in the group directory. You can also call the 931<sup>st</sup> ARG headquarters section at Ext. 5443 and ask for an IG.

Once contact is made, we will schedule a meeting during which we will discuss your problem and decide the proper course of action. The IG is committed to investigating all complaints, even those submitted

anonymously.

In short, contact with the IG can be formal or informal. Any way you can initiate the contact will get the process started. Once the initial contact is made, we will work through the process together to help you resolve the issue.

Primary IG:

Lt. Col. Ralph Rissmiller  
759-3684/DSN 743-3684

Alternate IG:

Lt. Col. Steve Kett  
759-5853/DSN 743-5853

**KANZA**  
SPIRIT 931<sup>ST</sup> AIR REFUELING GROUP

Vol. 5, No. 10

Commander,  
931<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling  
Group

Col. James Bouska

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#### **Deadlines**

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#### **Legal info**

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All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

# McConnell civil engineer team faces off against best and brightest in Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited  
Kanza Spirit Editor

More than a year and a half of hard work paid off for a group of McConnell civil engineers when they were invited to Washington, D.C. to compete for this year's Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award.

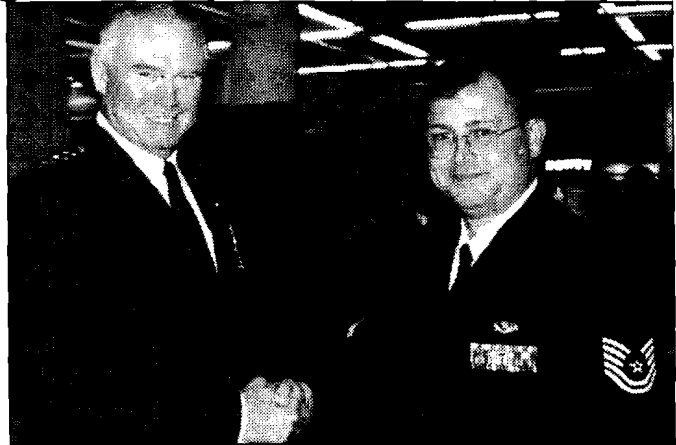
The team, nominated by both Air Force Reserve Command and Air Mobility Command for the contest, were invited to compete for the award because of their work on developing a sturdy, cost-effective Contamination and Control system designed to help troops decontaminate themselves in the event of a chemical or biological attack. Through 18 months of hard work and trying to think outside the box, the team (which was led by reservists and included Kansas Air National Guardsmen and active duty troops from McConnell) was able to build a

system that was lighter, more easily deployable, more durable and cheaper than anything else on the market.

The McConnell group was one of 21 teams from around the Air Force who were invited to come to the nation's capital and share their ideas with a panel of generals convened expressly to judge each team's presentation and pick five winners. Although McConnell's team missed winning by only one-tenth of one point, the participants said they feel nothing but pride in their accomplishments.

"We are number one," said Tech. Sgt. Morris Findley, who led McConnell Team Readiness throughout the creation of the CCA system and was one of three McConnell civil engineers to brief competition judges. "We built the best groundcrew CCA support equipment package in the Air Force, we were the first true total force team to go to the national level competition we were the first team to be sponsored by two (major commands) and from what I could tell, we were the first to actually submit something that had a direct impact on our wartime mission."

Col. Jim Bouska, 931<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Group Commander, accompanied the team in Washington and echoed Findley's comments. "Even though McConnell Team Readiness didn't bring home an award, I think it's safe to say the team are winners in everyone's book," he said. "This team has much to be proud of, and I know all of McConnell congratulates



photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Whited

**Gen. Mike Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Tech. Sgt. Morris Findley, McConnell's team leader, shake hands at this year's Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award competition.**

them on their hard work and superior performance."

Team members say although they were disappointed by the judges' decision, they plan on entering next year's competition and trying one more time for an award (each team project is eligible to enter two separate times). They said they plan on taking the next year to refine their presentation (already identified by contest officials as one of the

strongest in recent memory) and to continue to improve on their original CCA design.

"We believe we have a winner here," said Capt. Joe Wible, facilitator for the team and perhaps the team's most vocal cheerleader. "These guys have worked their tails off on this project, and I believe they'll ultimately be recognized at the highest levels for their innovation and effort."

## A team effort

Members of McConnell Team Readiness are:

### 931st ARG

Tech. Sgt. Morris Findley

Staff Sgt. John Bryan

Tech. Sgt. Dave Lumadue

Capt. Joe Wible

Staff Sgt. Vic Vaughan

Tech. Sgt. Melvin Veach

Maj. Kim Thompson

### 184th KANG

Senior Master Sgt.

Bob Homan

### 22nd ARW

Staff Sgt. Hector Andrade

Staff Sgt. Rick Williams

Staff Sgt. Jim Vause

Scott Stephens



**Senior Master Sgt. Bob Homan, Staff Sgt. Hector Andrade and Tech. Sgt. Morris Findley set up the team's display booth at this year's CSTE competition.**



# Around the Air Force



Tech. Sgt. Lance Cheung

## Golden State warriors

California Air National Guard pararescuemen of the 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Federal Airfield, Ca. jump from one of their HH-60G Pave Hawks and plunge into the chilly waters outside the Golden Gate Bridge. Some members of the 129th provided technical assistance for the production of the movie "The Perfect Storm."

## Revised commissary card reflects authorized visits

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — A revised version of the Department of Defense's DD Form 2529, Reserve Component Commissary Privilege Card, goes into effect Jan. 1.

The revised card contains 24 blocks to record the dates of 24 authorized visits. The current card, which becomes obsolete Dec. 31, has 12 blocks. Two copies of the current card have to be issued to record a year's visits.

The fiscal year 1999 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed by the

president Oct. 17, 1998, changed the entitlement from 12 visits per year to 24 for reservists in the Selected Reserve and reserve retirees younger than 60.

Air Force Reserve Command officials at Robins said unit reservists should receive the new cards during their December unit training assemblies. (Courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

## Preserving Hispanic heritage

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. -- Maintaining a strong emphasis on education and ensuring children remain bilingual to preserve their

heritage were two key thoughts of retired Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Parsons during a Hispanic Heritage luncheon here.

A member of the Governor's Committee for Hispanic Affairs, Parsons, who spent most of his 28-year Air Force career in recruiting and supply, currently works as a district sales manager for a financial company.

Parsons cites four essentials in rearing children to honor their heritage, "We need to teach them about the supreme being; provide them love and security at home; ensure they carry a last name that they can be proud of and give them a good education."

Defined by Parsons, Hispanics are those people from Spain, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Latin and Central America. Hispanic is not a race, but an ethnicity according to Parsons.

Hispanics soon will make up the largest minority group in the United States. "According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics comprised approximately 10.3 percent of the population in 1995, and today they already comprise 11.8 percent. In five years, Hispanics have grown from 27 million to 32 million people."

Master Sgt. Edison Velez Jr., organizer of the luncheon and a loadmaster in the 14th Airlift Squadron, explains that these events help people to better understand their culture and heritage. "For my 22 years in the Air Force, I've always been involved in these types of

events. We need to share our cultural experience with others to show our diversity and how we contribute to society."

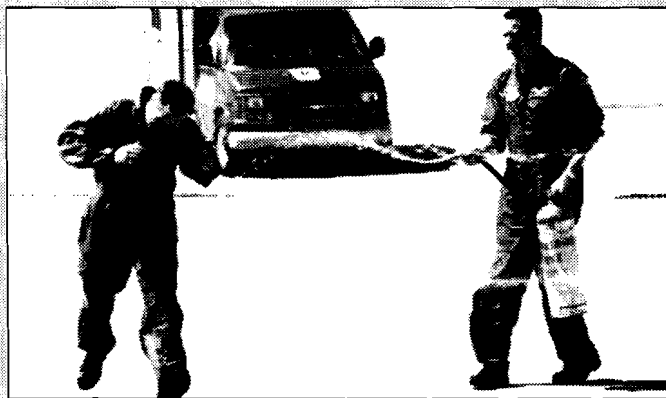
Parsons worries that more and more Hispanic families will abandon teaching Spanish to their children and said that is a tragic mistake. Citing an old proverb on the importance of teaching children to be bilingual, "success speaks many languages," he also said that bilingual ability allows young children to stay better attuned to their heritage and may even make them more employable.

"As Hispanics, we have strong cultural ties and prefer to speak in our own language, just like any other group of people. We prefer to do business with people we have something in common with, but many of our children have not learned Spanish. We need to look at the opportunities that are being lost." (Courtesy of Air Mobility Command News Service)

## Air Force Link gets new look

Air Force Link, the online home of the Air Force, has a new look and a new format.

Visitors to [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) can now access not only the latest Air Force news at the site, but also stay on top of national news, their favorite sports teams and even local weather forecasts. By selecting Air Force Link as their homepage, web surfers can customize the site in a number of different ways to suit their individual needs.



Maj. Clint Burpo

## Grand finale

Maj. Rick Sabatino, 18th Air Refueling Squadron, gets hoisted down by Capt. Frank Ellis, 18th ARS, after his "final flight," Sept. 14. Although Sabatino is leaving the 18th ARS, he isn't leaving the 931st Air Refueling Group. Sabatino is now headed for the 931st Intel Flight.

## Services work to boost number of Hispanic recruits

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen Rhem

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — As America becomes more diverse, the military services are working hard to keep pace and offer opportunities for everyone.

The services are working particularly hard to increase the number of Hispanic recruits. The Army, for instance, added more than \$10 million to its recruiting budget this year for advertising aimed at Hispanic audiences, said Army Maj. Kathleen Johnson, chief of the Army Recruiting Command's Local Advertising and Promotions Division at Fort Knox, Ky.

All the services are targeting advertising to markets with high Hispanic populations. They're running ads in Spanish and English in publications with high

Hispanic readership, as well as running Spanish ads on several major Spanish-speaking television networks in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Military recruiting representatives noted the Spanish-language ads aren't necessarily targeting the potential recruits, most of whom have fine English skills. Rather, they're intended for family members and educators who influence young peoples' decisions to join the military.

The services' efforts are paying off in numbers and increased diversity of the force. The Navy and Marine Corps lead the pack. So far in fiscal 2000, 15.5 percent and 14.9 percent of their recruits, respectively, have been Hispanic. Hispanics have totaled 10.6 percent of this year's Army recruits and 7.4 percent of Air Force recruits.

## Newest 931st recruiter fired up about Reserve

By Staff Sgt. Jason Whited  
*Kanza Spirit Editor*

Go through all the AFSCs you've ever heard of, and try to think of the most unusual one you can -- a really obscure one like precision measurement specialist or DV flight attendant. It's a safe bet that "salesman" is nowhere in that list. Come on, think about it. Have you ever heard someone say, "I work as an Air Force salesman"? Of course not.

However, that's exactly what Staff Sgt. Pat Johnson says he does every day.

Johnson, the newest 931st Air Refueling Group recruiter, says he sees himself playing the role of a salesman as he travels the state, convincing people to join the Air Force Reserve. And, like any salesman, his days are long -- filled with meetings with prospective "clients," visits to high schools and businesses and an endless number of so-called "cold calls" (when Johnson goes through a list of names and phone numbers, calling everyone on the list in his hunt for potential bluesuiters).

The days are long, usually beginning around 5 a.m. and lasting until 7 or 8 p.m., but Johnson says he loves every minute of it. "I'm fired up," he says as he takes a quick break in his office. Surrounded by plaques that tell the story of his 12-year active duty career and civilian awards he earned when he worked in the private sector in insurance, Johnson says he relishes the opportunity to talk up the Reserve and present it as a great way of life. "I love being



Staff Sgt. Pat Johnson

able to connect with people and talk to them about what could be a great opportunity for them," he says. "It's a big job, but I enjoy it.

Johnson, who comes to recruiting from the personnel world, has only been on the job since late August, but he's already scored "kills" for the unit (signed up new airmen for service in the 931st ARG). His first kill was a maintenance troop, and Johnson is now hard at work on filling 15 medical slots for the group's newest unit -- the 931st Aerospace Medicine Flight.

Although he's new to recruiting, Johnson says he isn't intimidated by the prospect of having a quota of new airmen to recruit each month -- he's having too much fun to worry. "It's a big job, but I'm a people person -- I like being here and the relationship I'm developing with this community."

**Editor's note:** If you know anyone who is considering joining the military, have them contact Johnson at Ext. 4350 or Master Sgt. Dave McCormick at Ext. 3766.

From patrolling the flightline to working the main gate, 931st Security Forces troops do it all. Take a few minutes to get acquainted with McConnell's



Staff Sgt. Dave Brumley

Members of the 931st Security Forces Flight strike a pose. From left to right: Senior Airman Brad Fields, Senior Airman James Sanders, Airman 1st Class Ryan Cooper, Tech. Sgt. Wesley Miller, Staff Sgt. Scott Edwards, Senior Airman Keith Welch, Master Sgt. Charlie Smith (kneeling with guidon), Tech. Sgt. Jon Wattenburger, Tech. Sgt. Don Ellis and Staff Sgt. Brandon Mildren.



Staff Sgt. Dave

Senior Airman Brad Fields helps a fellow reservist during an M-16 rifle qualification class.

By Staff Sgt. J.  
Kanza Spirit

The Total Force  
idea at McConnell  
reservists, Guard  
duty troops have  
side on thousands  
and McConnell  
each day that  
force in which  
can work together  
makes sense in  
Air Force.

The 18th  
Squadron, the  
Generation Sky  
931st Civil Engineer  
have proven they  
works, as has  
throughout the  
Group. The  
Kansas reservists  
they're ready  
with their com



# Top Cops

ll.  
nell's...

Jason Whited  
Editor

Force is not a new  
concept. For years,  
wards and active  
have served side by  
sands of missions,  
nell men prove  
the idea of an air  
ch all three groups  
together seamlessly  
and is good for the

Air Refueling  
the 931st Aircraft  
Squadron and the  
Engineering Squadron  
in the Total Force  
have their offices  
the 931st Air Refueling  
the latest group of  
services to show  
y and able to work  
counterparts "on the

other side of the fence" is the  
931st Security Forces Flight.

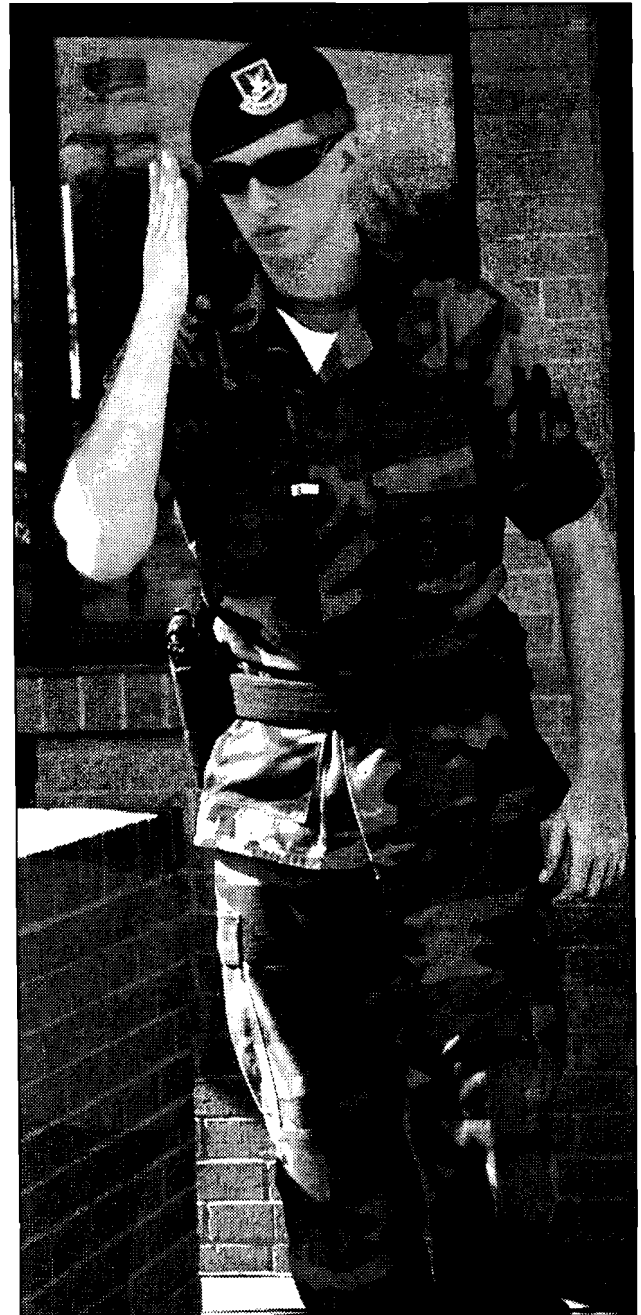
For about the last year, these  
Kanza cops have been stepping  
up to the plate and helping out  
their active duty brethren in jobs  
ranging from aircraft security to  
force protection to road patrol.

"Basically, we do it all," said  
Master Sgt. Charlie Smith, chief  
of 931st security forces. "From  
the flightline to the main gate,  
we're there with the active duty."  
Smith, who leads this small but  
confident and determined band  
of hard chargers, said his men  
are often called upon to fill in the  
gaps that the active duty cops  
on McConnell are sometimes left  
with because of TDY, illness or  
other shortages. Like the  
minutemen of colonial times,  
these troops are always on "go,"  
and they like it that way. So do  
the active duty cops.

"These guys just slide right  
in," said Tech Sgt. Walt DeClue,  
who is in charge of training for  
McConnell's 22nd Security  
Forces Squadron. "We really  
work hand in hand - they're a  
great asset to us."

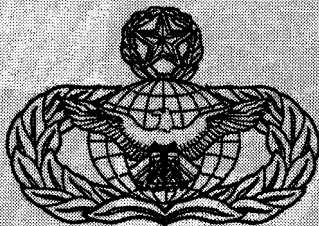
Although only 10 strong,  
Smith added that officials at the  
4th Air Force are looking to grow  
the squadron - perhaps adding  
more cops for so-called Raven  
missions (in which cops provide  
security and force protection in  
the most remote corners of the  
world). Whatever the future  
holds for these Kanza cops,  
Smith said he's proud of the work  
his flight does and proud of the  
sacrifices they make. So are we.

From the men and women of  
the 931st Air Refueling Group to  
the men of the 931st Security  
Forces Squadron, we say "thank  
you."



Staff Sgt. Jason Whited

Airman 1st Class Ryan Cooper works McConnell's main gate.



### Kanza cops

Cops from the 931st Security Forces Flight perform a variety of  
jobs, including:

- Aircraft security
- Anti-terrorism
- Force protection
- filling AEF slots
- Road patrol

• Combat arms training for McConnell reservists

ave Bailey  
servic

## Halloween safety tips for your little goblins

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Lorenz  
931st Mission Support Flight

With Halloween fast approaching I wanted to take a moment to remind you of some safety pointers to keep your little ghosts and goblins safe.

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.

- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.

- Plan and review with your children the route and behavior which is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when revelers must return home.

Remind kids to:

- Only go to homes with porch lights on.

- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.

- Never cut across yards or use alleys.

- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.

- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway or alley.

- Never consume food items or drinks that may be offered.

- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an Adult at home.

## Fall provides prime time hunting -- make sure your trip is a safe one

By Maj. Willie Eaton  
931st AGS Commander

In November of last year a gentleman from the 931st accompanied me on a deer hunting trip. I knew he was a novice to hunting but because his best friends did not ask him to go, I felt sorry for him and invited him to go with me. This individual was a recent graduate of the "Kansas Parks and Wildlife Hunter Education Program," but I knew that did not make him a professional.

We made all the necessary plans and after work we were off to Smokey Hill. The afternoon was fairly uneventful. We

arrived where I wanted to hunt. I started to get a little concerned when I had to help him load his gun, but I dismissed it thinking, "It must have been the model he was not familiar with." I recommended some good places to him but he said "If you don't mind I will just stick with you." I agreed, and we were off.

When we arrived at that secluded spot where I knew the monster buck frequented, we sat down and waited. I knew from the moment we sat down we were never going to see anything, much less a monster buck. My hunting partner talked so much

See HUNT, Page 11

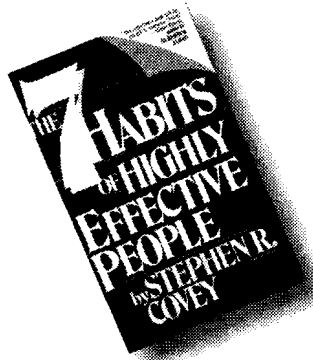
### Hunting Safety Tips

- Treat every gun as if it's loaded
- Always control the gun's muzzle
- Guns not in use should be stored unloaded with the actions open
- Never aim at anything you don't want to shoot
- Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger
- Never shoot at water or a flat, hard surface
- Never handle a gun after you've been drinking
- Wear bright orange hunting clothes

# THE 7 HABITS

## OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

### WORKSHOP



Maybe you've heard about the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Now, you have a chance to learn how to implement these 7 habits in your life by attending a workshop based on the famous book. The 7 Habits workshop is a dynamic training session for personal and professional effectiveness. You'll learn about how to transform your life, becoming more productive, learning how to really develop and nurture key relationships, develop strong team unity and balance your life.

The workshop will consist of interactive exercises, case studies and video segments designed to help you learn from the experience of other participants. Your seat is reserved. Call Master Sgt. Pam Summers at Ext. 5423 to RSVP.

Oct. 14, 15  
Saturday and Sunday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Location TBD

Oct. 23-26  
Monday-Thursday  
8 a.m. to noon  
Location TBD





Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Jason Whited  
*Kanza Spirit Editor*

Each of us has a different way to relax after work, something we do that helps us put away the stress of the day and just relax. Something to help us blow off steam.

Some of us hit the gym, pumping iron to help us get rid of all that pent up stress. Some prefer more cerebral pursuits such as reading or sketching to help us ease out from under the anxiety that the office can create. Some of us even prefer to come home, put up our feet and "veg out" in front of the television to relax.

For one McConnell reservist, however, relaxation doesn't mean pumping iron, reading books or even turning into a couch potato -- it means whiling away the hours in his workshop using nothing more than some raw materials, a few tools and his creativity to make -- writing pens. Dozens of them.

Lt. Col. John Woods, 931<sup>st</sup> Operations Support Flight Chief of Current Operations, said he's always had a creative side (for years, he's "toyed around with woodworking and gardening"), but he added he knew he really hit on something when he started making pens about a year and a half ago. "It was very relaxing to just come home, close the door, turn on the radio and grind some out," he said. "From the start it was a lot of fun."

This Kanza craftsman has made more than 50 pens (along with a few letter openers and key chains) since he found out he had "the write stuff" and said he has no plans to slow down. Even though his three boys sometimes make it "tough" to find time to hit the workshop, Woods said he "loves the creativity" and tries



## Reserve navigator expresses himself through unique hobby

to find time for pen making whenever he can.

Woods said he takes part in this hobby for himself, but all this work hasn't gone unnoticed. Co-workers and friends around the 931<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Group have seen the blue marbled pens Woods uses and have put in their own custom orders with him. "I've sold a few of them," he says, smiling. "Although I

mainly have made them as gifts."

People who aren't particularly good with their hands might assume that handcrafting a pen is extremely difficult -- something akin to medieval labor -- like making parchment or sewing your own clothes. Not so, according to Woods. In fact, he explained, the whole process takes just under an hour.

Woods said all the materials

he buys are easy to work with -- from the blocks of multi-colored polyester rosin he carves into the bodies of the pens to the mechanical guts. "I just put 'em together," Woods modestly said.

In reality, it's a bit more complicated than that.

The first step is to take a block of rosin (Woods buys them in a variety of colors and patterns) and then cut and shape it to the desired thickness. Next, Woods bores out the inside of the block, ensuring there's enough room to squeeze in the mechanism that actually makes the object a pen. After he glues in the mechanical parts, Woods usually lets the pens dry overnight. The next day, he completes the assembly of all the pieces, polishes the whole thing up and voila -- a brand new pen. Simple as that, he added.

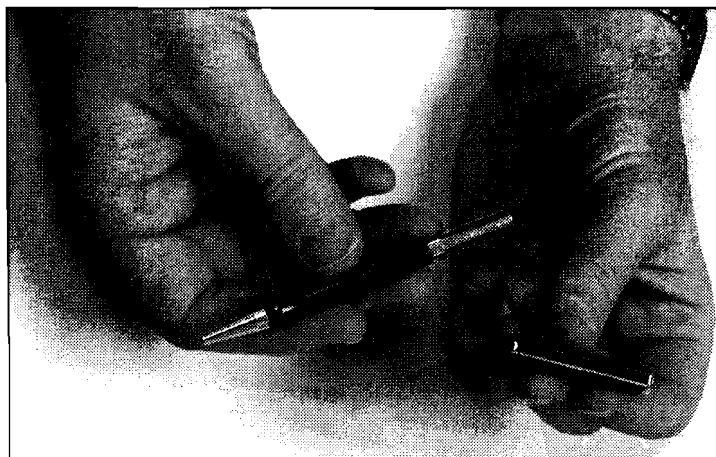
Yeah, right.

If this whole Air Force gig doesn't work out for him, Woods (who has been in uniform almost 20 years) said he has no plans to punch out of the Air Force and give the Bic and Cross pen companies a run for their money...this hobby is all about relaxation and just doing it "for the fun of it." He doesn't have a web site, he doesn't have an 800 number for rush delivery and he doesn't mail out glossy catalogs full of his shiny creations -- he's just a guy who is quietly enjoying a unique hobby.

A guy who is doing it more for himself than for any personal gain.

Sitting in his office, Woods opens up a large case filled with pens of various sizes and colors. As he picks up several of them, a smile crosses his face and tells the real story of why and how he started all this in the first place.

"I guess this is just the creative side of me wanting to get out," he says.



Lt. Col. John Woods has been making writing pens for about a year and a half.

# Spirit Shorts

## Hails and farewells

The 931st Air Refueling Group says hello to its newest members: Quentin Aldrich, budget analyst with the Financial Management Office; Senior Airman Randall Salmons, 931st Mission Support Flight; Capt. Michael Ferreira, 18th Air Refueling Squadron; and Capt. Richard Belanger, 18th ARS.

## Big brains

The following reservists recently completed Professional Military Education: **Staff Sgt. Brandon Milton**, 931st Mission Support Flight, graduated from Airman Leadership School in residence; **Senior Airman Chris Coleman**, 931st Civil Engineering Squadron, completed Airman Leadership School; **Tech. Sgt. Debra Lee**, 18th Air Refueling Squadron completed the NCO Academy (course 6); **Tech. Sgt. Ray Lewis**, 18th ARS, completed the NCO Academy; and **Master Sgt. John Boulett**, 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron, completed the Senior NCO Academy (course 8)

The following reservists recently completed formal training: **Master Sgt. Donna Lorenz**, 931st ARG, completed the Logistics Plans 7-level course; **Master Sgt. Eric Peel**, 931st AGS, completed the Hydraulics 7-level course; **Tech. Sgt. Christine Lewis**, 18th ARS, completed the Instructor Boom Operator course; **Tech. Sgt. Darren Demel**, 18th ARS, completed the Boom Operator 3-level course; **Staff Sgt. Amber Kamm**, 18th ARS, completed the Boom Operator 3-level course; and **Senior Airman Erin Hubbard**, 931st Civil Engineering Squadron, completed the

Electrical Systems 3-level course.

## Movin' on up!

**Tech. Sgt. Debroada Cornelius** is retraining from traffic management to personnel; **Staff Sgt. Susan Anderson** is leaving the security forces to move into intel; and **Staff Sgt. Michael Brunin** is moving from his job as a crew chief to jets.

## Retirement

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Minard is scheduled to retire at the October commander's call on the UTA Sunday (Oct. 15).

Please take time after the ceremony to thank him for his 32 years of service.

## Annual awards packages

Nominations for the Airman/NCO/Senior NCO of the Year are due by Nov. 1.

The board will be held during the December UTA. Only previous quarterly award winners are eligible for the nomination.

Nomination procedures and other helpful info can be found in 931 ARGI 36-2801 and 931 ARGI 36-2805 or by contacting the MPF.

## Military Personnel Flight hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are as follows:

Monday through Friday -- 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 UTA Saturdays -- 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 UTA Sundays -- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Upcoming UTAs

November -- 4, 5  
 December -- 9, 10  
 2001  
 January -- 6, 7

# Spirit Spotlight

## 1st Lt. Travis Clark 18th Air Refueling Squadron

This month's Spotlight selectee comes to us from the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. This Fairbanks, Alaska native has been in the military since 1991 and spends his days working with his fellow reservists in the scheduling office.

**Job title:**  
Pilot scheduler

**What I'm reading now:**  
The classics -- Wuthering Heights, Les Misérables and the Phantom of the Opera

**What I'm listening to now:**  
I am the real Slim Shady

**Favorite way to relax:**  
Going home and playing ball with my two dogs. To me, watching them romp and play is the best way to relax.

**Easiest way to annoy me:**  
Extremely tough to do. But if you had to...ah, heck! It's just plain tough to do.

**Most influential person in my life:**  
My father; he always put his needs and wants second when it came to family. I've always respected what he has accomplished and how talented he is in many areas.

**If I won \$1 million, I would:**  
Invest it for a year. Take the earned interest and retire from work. Life's too short to work your butt off. If you have the means to live life a little better...then just do it.



February -- 3, 4  
 March -- 10, 11  
 April -- 7, 8  
 May -- 5, 6  
 June -- 9, 10  
 July -- 21, 22  
 August -- 18, 19  
 September -- 22, 23

**Need to outprocess?**  
If you, or any unit member you

know, needs to out process for TDY, reassignment or retirement, please keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay section is only open for business on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thinking ahead can ensure you do not have to come out during the week to finish all that boring outprocessing stuff. You

# Spirit Shorts

can get it done during the UTA!  
For more information, call Relocations at Ext. 3665.

## NCO Leadership Development Program

We have received class dates from both Tinker & Ft. Worth Joint Reserve Base (Carswell). Interested staffs and techs may contact Group Training for specifics.

## SNCO Leadership Development Program

We have the following slots for fiscal 2001:  
Dec. 16, 17 at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.  
Mar. 24, 25, 2001  
June 23, 24, 2001  
Sept. 22, 23, 2001  
Dec. 15, 16, 2001  
For Senior NCO Academy in residence slots, the selection

board will meet in November for class dates.

## 931st family member shines at military academy

Congratulations to Jason Simmons, son of Jerry Smith, 931st ARG computer guru, on making the spring semester Dean's List at the U. S. Military Academy at Westpoint, N. Y.  
Good on ya, Jason!

## Computer help desk

Having computer problems while on duty? Call Tech. Sgt. Anna Kasl, one of the other 931st ARG computer gurus, at Ext. 4017.

## Baby photos

If you have funny baby photos of yourself or if you know how you can snatch some from your military co-workers, we'd love to use them for an upcoming feature. Call PA at Ext. 3616.



## Globe Trotters

There can be little doubt that Kansas reservists are doing their part to protect the United States of America and its interests. Just take a look at where some of our fellow Kanza warriors are pulling temporary duty.

| Location       | Projected length of TDY |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| United Kingdom | Four months             |
| Alaska         | two weeks               |

While our fighting men and women are deployed, you can do your part back home by periodically checking in on their families. If a family member of a deployed troop has a special need, let someone know. Remember, we're all part of the same family!

Also, check in on our deployed airmen from time to time. Even a simple postcard or e-mail can make someone's day and help their TDY pass more smoothly.

Let's take care of each other!

## HUNT, Continued from Page 8

and so loud I am surprised we were not asked to leave by hunters who were three miles away from us. I became even more disappointed when he asked to come back with me the next day.

Reluctantly, I picked him up the next day and proceeded back to Smokey Hill. We were joined by a few others from the 931<sup>st</sup>, and the day looked fairly promising (It looked promising because I thought I could push this person off on someone else). We decided to hunt a large creek with a couple of people walking the creek and a few others at the opposite end still hunting. We decided to pair this novice to someone with some experience for the drive, and of course I recommended Jerry Schmid. Jerry was a 40-year-old veteran from the deer fields and one of my best friends. I knew he would not hold it against me for shirking off my responsibility on someone else. The drive was on its way. Myself, Keith, and Danny Kontz, started the one mile drive to the still hunters (one of them being the mystery man and the other

being Jerry Schmid). We were about 100 yards from the end of the creek when we heard several shots. We walked up on the mystery man who was obviously very excited. Did you get anything? We asked the man. He proceeded to tell us how these deer were running right for him, then they passed him, then he swung around and started shooting.

The object to any type of hunting is knowing where the other hunters are. If you don't know don't shoot. We asked him, "Where is Jerry?" The blank look on his face made us all nervous. "I don't know" he replied.

"Where did you last see him?"

He then turned in the same direction that he had shot and said "back there somewhere". Boy was I glad to see Jerry.

The point I am trying to make is fall is fast approaching and many of you will take to the fields to hunt your favorite quarry. Know who you are hunting with and what you're shooting at. Remember, hunting is a privilege not a right.

Have a safe and productive hunt.

**The Glass Menagerie**

Through Oct. 29, Kechi Playhouse. N. Oliver & 61st, Kechi, 744-2152.

**Haunted Island**

Oct 13-14, OJ Watson Park, 3055 S Lawrence Rd., 529-9940. Sponsored by Wichita Parks & Recreation, proceeds go to persons with developmental disabilities. \$10/person, \$2 off coupon at Quik Trips. Call Watson Park for special discounts. 10/13-18 7-11pm, 10/29-31 6-10pm

**African American Advisory Commission Expo**

Oct 14, Century II Convention Hall & Meeting Rooms, 225 W Douglas, (785) 296-4874-Jamaine Abidogun. 8am-9pm.

**Classics Concert**

Oct 14-15, Wichita State University, Wichita Symphony Orchestra at Century II, 225 W Douglas, 267-5259. Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm, \$



Maj. David Fruck

**Meeting of the minds**

Kansas Representative Todd Tiahrt chats with Col. Jim Bouska, 931st Air Refueling Group Commander, recently in Tiahrt's Washington, D. C. office as Maj. Margie McGregor, Air Force Reserve advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force's Legislative Liaison Office, looks on. Bouska was in Washington Sept. 25 - 27 on an official visit.

**Stroll Back in Time**

Oct 14-15, The Historic Midtown Citizens Assn., 11th & Broadway, 264-9400. Five turn-

of-the-century homes featured in the 12th & 13th blocks of N Emporia. Tour takes 1-1 1/2 hours to complete, tickets cost, \$7.

**Flick picks**

The following movies will be showing at the base theater during the October UTA:

**Friday**

"Gone in 60 Seconds" (PG-13)

**Saturday**

"What Lies Beneath" (PG-13)

**Cost**

Adults \$2

Children \$1.50

**Other area theaters:**

Cinemas East 6: 684-2805

Towne East 4: 685-1121

Towne East 2: 681-2717

Cinemas West: 729-5665

Towne West 5: 945-5093

Norhtrock 14: 636-5432

Northrock 6: 636-5431

Palace: 721-7949

Premier Palace: 691-9700

Warren Theater: 721-9545

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