

Lots of new beginnings

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SPIRIT

Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

Opp takes command of 931st ARG

Staff Sgt. David Brumley
931st ARG, Public Affairs

A new era began for the 931st Air Refueling Group when Col. Daniel Opp took command of the 931st from Col. Dean Despinoy in a ceremony held at the Emerald City Ballroom on September 18.

The ceremony also included Brig. Gen. Jon Gingerich, 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Tinker AFB, Okla., who administered the customary changing of the flags from the outgoing to the incoming commander.

Gingerich praised Despinoy for his leadership skills during his tenure as the 931st leader. "Command is something we relish," said Gingerich, "and under Colonel Despinoy's command, the 931st has seen many great challenges. Maintaining manning levels is critical and the 931st has achieved an excellent record of retention, and great credit goes to Col. Despinoy for doing that."

Gingerich then acknowledged the challenge that Col. Opp faces as the new commander. "These are big shoes to fill," said Gingerich, "but I know you will meet the challenge that faces you. While no commander is better than another, each one is unique in how they lead."

Col. Despinoy spoke about what he felt was an important factor in achieving the many different accomplishments over his two year tenure. "I don't think we can ever forget fun," said Despinoy. "That's

something that I've wanted to bring to this organization. You're more than one individual, you are members of the 931st ARG, and that makes you special."

Col. Opp concluded the ceremonial round of speeches talking about the joys of taking on the challenges of commanding the 931st. "I'm honored to be a commander," said Opp, "I re-member when I was first told of my selection I was on a natural high. Then reality set in of the incredible responsibilities that comes with this great position."

"What you do is important to this nation," said Opp as he addressed the members of the 931st in attendance. "You're the people who are there when the country calls, and my job is to support you."

Col. Opp comes to McConnell Air Force Base from Scott AFB, Ill., where he was the operations officer for the 73rd Airlift Squadron, one of two flying squadrons assigned to the 932nd Airlift Wing. The 73rd AS has an aeromedical airlift mission flying the C-9A Nightingale aircraft.

Col. Opp entered the Air Force in 1981 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He attended pilot training at Reese, AFB, Texas, and was assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Assigned to Detachment 2, 1401st Military Airlift Squadron, he flew both the T-39A



Brig. Gen. Jon Gingerich, 507th ARW, commander presents the group flag to Col. Daniel Opp signifying his assumption of command.

and C-12F aircraft and was an instructor and evaluator pilot during his nearly three years at Wright-Patterson.

Following C-5 initial qualification school, Col. Opp moved on to Dover AFB, Del., as a member of the 3rd Military Airlift Squadron. He separated from active-duty in 1988, joining the 326th Military Airlift Squadron, also at Dover AFB. During the next five years he served as the chief of training, chief of standardization and evaluation, chief pilot, and the assistant operations officer for the 326th.

In 1993, Col. Opp moved to Dobbins AFB, Ga., as chief of strategic airlift branch for 22nd Air Force. After a little more than two years at Dobbins AFB, he transferred to Scott AFB and took over as operations officer for the 73rd AS.

Col. Opp is a command pilot with over 7,000 flying hours in the T-41, T-37, T-38, CT-39A, C-12F, C-5A/B, and C-9A aircraft.

Lots of new beginnings

Col. Daniel E. Opp
931st ARG, Commander

Happy New Year!!!! Well, Happy Fiscal New Year that is. Along with Oct 1st come a lot of new beginnings.

The continuing resolution(s) and a new budget, the start of the AEF deployments, an aggressive flying timeline, annual deployments, ATSO exercises and inspections, ASEV's, and many more challenges for the 931st. When you look at all of them at once, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the magnitude of these challenges. Don't be! There is nothing here that you aren't prepared for or will be prepared for with a little planning and foresight.

Together, I am confident that we can tackle them one at a time with the outstanding results that you have enjoyed in the past. Another challenge is that of a

new commander. No two people are the same, so I can't guarantee that I'll do everything the way Colonel Despinoy did.

I can say that I don't plan on any immediate changes just for the sake of change. I have never believed in fixing something that wasn't broken, but that doesn't mean that the process can't be improved upon. Since I said that I won't fix what isn't broken, now would be a good time to announce that I will not be replacing CMSgt Mead as the Command Chief Master Sergeant. He volunteered to resign his position and I refused to accept it.

In closing, let me say thank you to those individuals responsible for the Change of Command. You did an outstanding job making sure everything went off without a hitch. I would also like to thank those who attended. All of you made my family and I feel welcomed. It was a pleasure meeting each of you and I look forward to getting to



know you better and working with you in the future.

What a ride! Four and a half years of memories

Col. Mario Goico
507th ARW, Vice Commander

On September 20th I was reassigned to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., as the vice-commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing. I really enjoyed my four and a half years with the 931st (what a ride!), and I'll miss each and every one of you and the good times we had together. As I think back, my time with the 931st was the most enjoyable in my Reserve, Air Force and Air Guard career.

I remember those early days in the Civil Engineering building in early 1995. We

didn't have anything except the concept of an associate KC-135 unit, the first and only one in the Air Force. We shared the facilities with CE and borrowed desks from day-to-day.

One of our first jobs was to hire aircrews and determine how to develop a proficient crew force. The 18th ARS grew gradually to become the largest KC-135 squadron in the Air Force, both in personnel and in the number of flying hours (about twice as large as anybody else that flies 135s). When we started everyone pitched-in and did whatever was needed. As more people were hired, we had a seamless transfer of duties

among us. Everyone's commitment to readiness resulted in our achieving operational capability and full mission ready status several months ahead of schedule.

Then we finally arrived when we moved into building 1218; it felt like a palace. A year and a half later the new building was completed and it's one of the best facilities available to any unit (this is really a palace). We started flying at the end of April 1995, and by the end of June we had gone to South Korea three times. That was just the beginning of many operations and deployments. We participated in the

See *ride*, page 5

Kanza Spirit

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931st Commander
Col. Daniel Opp

Chief, Public Affairs
Maj. Dave Fruck

NCOIC, Public Affairs
Vacant

Editor
Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. David Brumley



Spirit Spotlight

**Staff Sgt. Lloyd E. Robinson,
Information Manager, 931st OSF**

From: *Herington, Kansas*

Civilian Position:

Favorite Food: *Anything Hot
(Pizza and Chili)*

Favorite Music: *R & B and
Country and Rock*

Favorite Movie: *"Twister"*

Hobbies: *All types of sports
and drawing*

Ideal Vacation: *A two-week
trip to the Bahamas family*

Best Way to Relax: *Running
and Reading*

Pet Peeve: *People who don't
put things back where they
belong and don't return
things they borrowed*



Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

What would you do with \$1
Million: *Invest, buy a new
home, open a very large savings
account for both children, buy
fiancee a huge diamond ring.*

Personnel News

Military Personnel Flight Hours

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

Monday - Friday 0730 - 1600

Saturday - UTA 0800 - 1600

Sunday - UTA 1000 - 1600

OUTPROCESSING HOURS

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 (Ms Sharon Thayer) is only open for business on Saturdays from 0730 to 1300 hours. Thinking ahead can insure you do not have to come out during the week to finish your out processing. For further information contact TSgt Anick Wallace in Relocations at X-3665.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC)

We will resume our normal schedule of monthly meetings beginning in November. Anyone wishing to have an issue addressed to the council may forward it to the council through their unit representative. Commanders and First Sergeants are always welcome to attend.

See Personnel, page 4

Refer a Friend

There are positions available within the 931st ARG. Help your unit recruit by providing them a name of a friend or have them contact Tech. Sgt. David McCormick at 652-4350, Master Sgt. Terry Gosh at 652-3766, or one of their area recruiters listed below.

Tinker AFB, OK

Master Sgt. Victor Bradford (405) 739-2980

Technical Sgt. Rhonda Nolan (405) 734-5331

Lawton, OK

Technical Sgt. Nathan Bickle (405) 357-2784

Sheppard AFB, TX

Master Sgt. Larry Giles (817) 6763382

Midwest City, OK

Master Sgt. Linda Smith (405) 733-9403

Staff Sgt. William Thompson



UTA Schedule

Oct. 16-17

Nov. 6-7

Dec. 5-6

Chapel Service

UTA Sundays, 0745-0815

Bldg. 850, upstairs conference room

Maj. Charles Peters, Chaplain

Everyone is Welcome!



NEWCOMERS



Top photo: Senior Airman Jason Simmers, 931st CES; Senior Airman Ronald Clark, 931st AGS.

Bottom photo: Senior Airman William Gass, 931st MSF; Staff Sgt. Mather Myers, 931st AGS.

Photo on right: Captain Mike Gibbons, 18th ARS.



Photos by Staff Sgt. David Brumley

Personnel *continued from page 3*

MPF IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The MPF is closed each Sunday of the UTA from 0730 – 1000 for In-House training. Classes are held in the TNET room (217), and all administrative personnel (3A0X1 and 3S0X1) are welcome to attend.

SENIOR NCOLDP

Applications are still being taken for the December 18 & 19 class at Mc Cord AFB, WA. We have 4 quotas. Suspense to DPMT is 5 Nov 99. All E-7s through E-9s, who have not attended an Academy in residence are welcome to attend. Interested members need to provide their name, rank, ssn, organization, home and work phone numbers, and their home address. Attendees must have their commanders endorsement. Questions may be directed to Group Training at ext 5423 or 6082.

NCO ACADEMY DATES

NCO Academy slots/dates for FY'00 are here!! Interested Staff Sgts. with 8 years time in service and Technical Sgts. may contact Group Training for specific dates/location as well as application procedures.

AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

We have received our quotas for FY00. Senior Airman with 4 years time in service are eligible to attend. Class sates available are April 11 to May 12 00; May 30 to June 30 00; and July 25 to August 25 00. Contact Group Training for further information.

CCAF GRADUATION

Technical Sgt. Mark Allen, AGS; Technical Sgt. Clarence Blakely, OSF; and Staff Sgt Hugo Hurtado, ARG have recently completed their Associate Degrees through CCAF.

SGLI UPDATES

Effective June 1 99, the Office of Servicemembers; Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) no longer mails the beneficiary a check for the amount of the insurance proceeds. A Prudential Alliance account has become the standard method of payment for all SGLI claims with a few exceptions. A Prudential Alliance account is a personalized interest-bearing account for beneficiaries of group life insurance proceeds of \$5,000 or more. The beneficiary can withdraw all or part of the proceeds immediately or leave the funds in the account to earn interest from the date the alliance account is opened. If you have any questions, please contact Technical Sgt. Witherspoon at 1-800-433-0048.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DD FORM 93

The DD Form 93 provides information on the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), Secondary Next of Kin (SNOK), and other persons to notify in case of death, injury, or an emergency. This form also serves as the official document required by law for designating beneficiaries for death gratuity pay and unpaid pay and allowances.

VA HOME LOAN INFORMATION

Reserve and Guard members activated on or after 2 Aug 90 who served 90 days are eligible for VA home loans. Members of the selected reserve, including National Guard, who are not otherwise eligible, and who have completed 6 years of service and are still serving may be eligible. The expanded eligibility for reserve and guard individuals will expire on October 28, 1999. The VA regional office may assist with eligibility questions.

Reservists attend Allied Force event

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – Members of the team who rescued the pilot of the F-117 Stealth fighter that crashed during the Kosovo war were among those honored at a ceremony here Sept. 15.

Staff Sgt. Eric Giacchino, leader of the pararescuemen who saved the pilot, was one of about 140 members of the Total Force selected to attend Operation Allied Force Appreciation Day ceremonies. They represented the thousands of rank and file Air Force people who supported the air campaign restoring peace and stability to Kosovo.

A traditional reservist with Air Force Reserve Command's 939th Rescue Wing, Portland International Airport, Ore., Giacchino is a fire fighter and paramedic in Vancouver, Wash. He worked 45 days as a volunteer, and then was called up for

an additional 72 days under the Presidential Selected Re-serve Call-up.

Hosted by Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan, the ceremony at Andrews included a pre-sentation honoring the two special operations teams who rescued downed aviators during the air campaign. Highlight of the Appreciation Day ceremonies was the award of the Silver Star for gallantry in combat to three Air Force pilots.

Staff Sgt. Amy Swanson, a supply management journey-man with Portland's 939th RQW, summarized her 83 days in Europe for Operation Allied Force as "a tremendous team effort." She was one of many reservists honored during the ceremony at Andrews. Others included: Maj. Lawrence D. Bill, an individual

mobilization aug-mentee with Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.; Tech. Sgts. Curtis O. Brown and Nicole C. Canada, 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; Tech. Sgt. Derek A. Davis, 940th Air Refueling Wing, Beale AFB, Calif.; Maj. Edward Dieringer, 927th ARW, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.; Maj. Suzanne M. Heigh, Balkans Intelligence Task Force, Defense Information Agency; Master Sgt. Troy A. Lawson, 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan.; Master Sgt. Donald A. Mason, 434th ARW, Grissom ARB, Ind.; Maj. Sharon L. Pauley, 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C.; Tech. Sgt. Tommy M. Simmons, 513th Air Control Group, Tinker AFB, Okla.; and 2nd Lt. Kelly Therese Warren, 440th AW, Gen. Mitchell IAP Air Reserve Station, Wis.

Advisory committee member plans November visit

On Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ms. Jo S. Zakas from the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), will meet with all interested members of the 931st ARG to discuss topics concerning forces utilization, career opportunities, and quality of life

issues.

The DACOWITS was established in 1951 by then Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall. In its advisory capacity, the committee recommends measures to ensure effective utilization of women in the armed forces.

Some current issues of interest to the DACOWITS include: gender discrimination; women's health issues; career progression, especially in fields opened to women post-1993; and leadership development of women.

Ms. Zakas welcomes your input at this meeting. Should you

desire to provide additional information after her visit, you may provide written input to Capt. Joe Wible in the 931st command section, ext. 4736.

Additional information on Ms. Zakas' visit will be available in next month's issue.

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peacekeeping effort in Bosnia, both as a lead and a support unit, as well as in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and many other places. We deployed to Jakarta, Indonesia to participate in an international air show and went to Russia and many of the old Warsaw Pact countries. I don't have the space to list all the places where we have deployed, but literally we have been all over the world. I have unforgettable memories from participating in a lot of these trips.

Being the first KC-135 associate reserve unit, it became our job to establish a strong rapport and to educate the active duty personnel in the reserve philosophy (balance between family, civilian and military job), processes, structure and operational requirements. We coordinated on airplane allocations, flying schedules, deployments and operational support. We laid the

foundations for smooth interoperability by forging strong relationships (and friendships) with the host wing leadership. Our support has grown to over 1,000 duty days of direct support to Air Mobility Command in a fiscal year.

Our performance in exercises and inspections is unsurpassed. The first one was the Unit Self-Assessment, followed by the Quality Air Force Assessment (QAFA). We received a 219 on the QAFA, the highest score for a first year unit (high even for second year units). We were also the first military unit to receive the Kansas Excellence in Quality Award. Then came the ASEV, and we received outstanding and excellent in almost all categories. Our excellence was recognized by the Air Force when they awarded us the Outstanding Unit Award in our second year of operational existence.

This past year we had the UCI and once

again our personnel were recognized as being the best of the best with the highest score of any 4th AF unit. We will also remember the great performance of our team in our initial AMC Rodeo competition last year. While most units go the first year to observe and learn, we went to participate and "teach".

Some of my most memorable experiences were during the recent presidential activation for Allied Force and Northern Watch. I am thankful to Col. Despinoy and the unit for the opportunity to help our deployed members and their families. It was definitely a highlight of my life. Of course, there was also the Crisis Action Team (24 hours-a-day), briefing the commanders of AMC and 15th AF, and answering several congressional inquiries.

The friendships and memories of the 931st will be with me forever. I will miss everyone and I will treasure the memories forever. Thank you.

New defense bill targets quality -of-life issues

WASHINGTON – Better pay and benefits, and more full-time people are among key features of Air Force Reserve Command's portion of the fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Oct. 5 by the president, the act grants a 4.8 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1, 2000, the largest pay increase since a 14.3 percent hike in 1981. Additional raises take effect July 1 with a pay table reform, which primarily targets mid-level officers and NCOs.

To help keep pace with inflation, basic pay increases for FY2001 through FY2006 will be calculated using the annual Employment Cost Index plus .5 percent. This action will reduce the current 13.5 percent gap between military and private industry pay.

Manning: The new bill permits 1,134 Air Force reservists to serve full time as members of the Active Guard and Reserve, 142 more than in FY 1999, and calls for 9,785 full-time air reserve technicians, 24 more than in FY 1999. Part of the reason why Congress authorized the increase in the number of AGRs is to permit the Reserve to assume some missions performed by active-duty pilots in Air Force Materiel Command.

The authorized end strength for traditional reservists, however, decreases for the first time in three years, from 74,243 in FY 1999 to 73,708 in FY 2000.

Retention and recruitment: Enlisted flight crew members who hold certain aviation specialty codes get a pay boost if they qualify for career enlisted flyer incentive pay. The new incentive replaces hazardous duty incentive pay for these people Oct. 1.

Those entitled to less under the new system will get "Save Pay." They will continue to receive their current amount until they reach the next increment in years. Qualifying reservists get 1/30th of the monthly pay for each regular period of instruction or duty or for other equivalent training, instruction or duties as the secretary of the Air Force may prescribe. More than 3,000 enlisted Air Force reservists are in career flyer specialties.

The FY 2000 bill extended the Reserve's authority through Dec. 31, 2000, to offer

enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, and special pay to recruit and retain certain needed specialties.

Starting Oct. 1, the maximum enlistment bonus for people entering the Selected Reserve climbs from \$5,000 to \$8,000 and no longer requires a minimum period of enlistment for prior-service people. The period a non-prior service person may be extended in the delayed entry program increases from 180 to 365 days.

Other benefits: For the first time, members of the active force and the Ready Reserve will be able to participate in the Thrift Saving Plan, which has been available to federal civil service employees. The effective date is contingent on the president proposing offsets for the lost revenues in the FY 2001 budget request.

Under the TSP program, military people can contribute up to 5 percent of their basic pay or reserve pay before taxes each month. They can also contribute special and incentive pays. The annual contribution limit is \$10,000. Although the federal government is not required to match servicemember contributions, the secretary of defense has the option of offering matching contributions to military members in critically manned skills in exchange for a commitment to serve for six years.

Federal employees can now use military leave to perform inactive duty for training, such as unit training assemblies.

Reservists called to active duty for less than one year may not have to pay the deductible before TRICARE begins sharing the costs of medical care for them and their families. A provision of the defense bill allows the secretary of defense to waive the TRICARE deductible for members of the Reserve and National Guard who are called up for less than a year.

The FY 2000 bill expands eligibility for voluntary enrollment dental plans to certain members of the Ready Reserve. Reservists subject to involuntary recall would share premium costs with the government, and the remaining members of the Individual Ready Reserve would pay the full premium cost.

A provision of the bill authorizes giving a reservists lodging in kind for IDTs when transient government housing is not available. This option especially benefits

individual mobilization augmentees and unit reservists when they travel to major metropolitan locations, where on-base lodging is difficult to obtain.

Another provision establishes a new type of duty for reservists to perform military funeral honors. Reservists earn retirement point credit and receive a \$50 stipend if the duty lasts at least two hours, plus they get travel entitlements if commuting more than 50 miles to perform this duty. They are also authorized medical care for injury or illness associated with this duty.

Next of kin may now request military funeral honors for deceased members or former members of the Selected Reserve.

Retirements: Reservists will now be eligible to receive a flag, at no cost to the recipient, upon retiring.

Reservists with more than 15 but less than 20 years of service who have a physical disability that did not occur in the line of duty may now qualify for a disability retirement.

Promotion potential: Under a provision of the defense bill, the chief of Air Force Reserve, other chiefs of reserve components and the directors of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard may get to wear a third star if certain conditions are met.

First, the service secretary must recommend them for the promotion, which counts against the limit on the number of authorized three- and four-star general and flag officers. Second, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff must say they possess significant joint-duty experience. Reserve officers can gain joint experience as a result of repetitive tours of less than 180 days, as an individual mobilization augmentee, as an adviser to the JCS chairman or through some other experience. The secretary of defense can waive the joint-duty experience criteria until Oct. 1, 2002.

However, not everyone in the service wants to get promoted. A provision of the authorization bill closes a loophole that allowed some Reserve officers to request not to be selected by a promotion board and, as a result, avoid a service obligation and having to repay bonuses. (AFRC News Service)



Reserves, aircraft integral role in AEF support

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — From the start, reservists and aircraft from Air Force Reserve Command will play an integral role in air operations in support of the Air Force's Expeditionary Aerospace Force.

Pilots from the 926th Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station New Orleans Joint Reserve Base, La., will fly four unit A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft to Southwest Asia in late August in support of Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. They will join A-10 pilots and aircraft from Eielson AFB, Alaska, in the deployment, which will pre-position the A-10s for Aerospace Expeditionary Force One from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30.

As the lead Reserve wing, the 926th FW will primarily support the first 30 days of AEF 1, and the 442nd FW, Whiteman AFB, Mo., will cover the second month. Six Reserve pilots, supported by aircraft maintainers, will be deployed at any given time during AEF 1 and will share aircraft and equipment with the active-duty unit as a "rainbow" organization.

"Our aircrews and aircraft maintainers are used to rainbow packages," said Lt. Col. John Woerly, Reserve EAF project officer. "The Reserve and Air National Guard have been sharing equipment and intermingling crews on deployments since the early 1990s." Woerly said the aircraft will remain in place during the AEF deployment period, saving

millions of dollars in aviation fuel, maintenance, and paychecks by avoiding repeated trans-Atlantic flights. At many deployment locations, supporting equipment will stay overseas for even longer periods.

The Air Force will shift to a 90-day deployment schedule, starting with AEFs 3 and 4. Reserve participation will peak during AEF 8, involving nearly 20 aircraft, dozens of aircrews and supporting aircraft maintainers. Serving as the Reserve's lead fighter wing, the 419th FW, Hill AFB, Utah, will deploy eight F-16s to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, for Operation Northern Watch.

Also supporting Northern Watch on a rotational basis are KC-135E's and aircrews from the 927th ARW, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., and the 940th ARW, Beale AFB, Calif.; and KC-135R's and aircrews from the 434th ARW, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind. An E-3 crew from the 513th Air Control Group, Tinker AFB, Okla., will support Northern Watch for part of the 90-day period. Six C-130 airlift aircraft and crews will take part in Operation Joint Forge, military operations in part of the former Republic of Yugoslavia, during part of AEF 8.

KC-10 aircrews from the Reserve's 514th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire AFB, N.J., will provide air refueling for AEFs 1, 5 and 9, and the Reserve's 349th AMW, Travis AFB,

Calif., will perform the same Operation Southern Watch job for AEFs 3 and 7. Four KC-135R's, crews and support people from the 507th Air Refueling Wing, Tinker AFB; 916th ARW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.; and 931st Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan., will support Operation Deliberate Forge during AEF 3. Three HH-60G helicopters, aircrews and aircraft maintainers from the 301st Rescue Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla.; 304th RQS, Portland International Airport, Ore.; and 305th RQS, Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., will participate in AEF 6. They will deploy to Incirlik AB to support Operation Northern Watch. During AEF 10, an HC-130 aircraft, crew and crew chiefs from the 39th RQS, Patrick AFB, and 303rd RQS, Portland IAP, will deploy to Keflavik in support of the Defense of Iceland. All five rescue squadrons are part of the 939th Rescue Wing at Portland. Two B-52H's with two crews from the 917th Wing, Barksdale AFB, La., will pull alert duty at home station during AEF 7.

As part of AEFs 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, three to six Reserve C-130 airlift aircraft and four to eight crews along with aircraft maintainers will continue to deploy year round to Muniz ANG Base, Puerto Rico, in support of U.S. Southern Command's Operation Coronet Oak. (AFRC News Service)

Most AEF tours to run longer than two weeks

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Air Force Reserve Command is relying on volunteers to serve on most of its Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployments. "Execution of the AEF concept will require us to change the way we currently do business," Maj. Gen. James E. Sherrard, AFRC commander, said in a recent AEF policy statement.

Before AEF, many reservists supported contingencies for two weeks as credit for their two-week annual tour. Under AEF, most minimum tour lengths will run 15 days in country plus travel. The Reserves can direct reservists to

serve two-week annual tours, but not to perform the longer tours.

All participation in AEF will be done on Military Personnel Appropriation orders, which means they are funded with active-duty MPA funds. Reservists must request in advance if they want the AEF tour to be substituted for their annual-tour requirement.

To support the Expeditionary Aerospace Force's 90-day AEF periods, Reserve planners have divided up the 90 days into six 15-day periods. Volunteers will have the option of requesting longer tours in 15-day increments in country, up

to a total of 90 days plus days of travel, and will receive priority placement for volunteering for multiple 15-day tours.

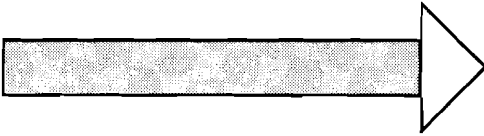
"We are restricting tour lengths to 15-day increments because of scheduling. If we permit a person to volunteer an extra week, that will throw off the rotation and transportation schedules," explained Lt. Col. John Woerly, Reserve EAF project officer.

Wings contributing volunteers outside the current 15-month EAF cycle will not receive credit for AEF participation. "The EAF will be a scheduler's nightmare until we

shake out the timing sequences," Woerly said, "but transportation will be our biggest challenge. We expect to have some bugs in the scheduling and transportation systems until AEFs 5 and 6." Woerly said the benefits of EAF are worth the effort.

Reserve units will know well in advance what is expected of them, and reservists will have a more predictable schedule to keep their employers better informed.

"With reservists giving us extra days of service, we owe it to them and their employers to let them know in advance what to expect. Woerly said. (AFRC News Service)



WICHITA WEEKEND

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N BASE

IN TOWN

Friday, October 15

Wichita Thunder hockey vs. Tulsa Oilers -- Kansas Coliseum, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9 to \$12 at all Select-A-Seat locations and the Coliseum.

Saturday, October 16

Kids Fest -- Century II, 225 W. Douglas. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 685-9380 or 264-9121 for more details.

Wichita Symphony Orchestra with violinist Robert McDuffie -- Century II Concert Hall, 225 W. Douglas. 8 p.m. Single tickets \$11 to \$24, season tickets \$88 to \$190 at the Symphony Box Office, 267-7658

Sunday, October 17

20th Annual KAKE-TV Marathon -- Race starts at 8 a.m. and runs from Derby to Lawrence Dumont Stadium. Race course takes runners through McConnell AFB. Call 636-1266 or visit www.feist.net/wichitamathon.

LIVE THEATRE

Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
through November 14th
Call 681-1566 for dinner and showtimes.

	<u>MAFB</u>	<u>Gate</u>
Thurs. & Sun.	\$21.45	\$24.30
Fri. & Sat.	\$24.45	\$27.48

UTA Movies

All Movies \$2.00; All times 7 p.m.; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 15 -- MICKEY BLUE EYES -- (Hugh Grant, Jeanne Tripplehorn); After only three months of dating his girlfriend, Gina, Michael Felgate is head-over-heels in love for the first time in his life. He gathers up enough courage and proposes marriage. **Rated PG-13** (brief strong language, some violence and sensuality), 105 minutes.

Saturday, October 16 -- THE ASTRONAUT'S WIFE -- (Johnny Depp, Charlize Terron); A space mission goes terribly awry and astronaut Spencer Armacost is rushed back to earth and revived. He is later honored as an American hero, but after several puzzling events is the same man that went into space or did something happen in space that caused him to change. **Rated R** (violence, language, strong scene of sexuality), 110 minutes.

Sunday, October 17 -- A DOG OF FLANDERS -- (Jon Voight, Jason Robards); Nello is a young boy orphaned at birth in the early 19th century. He finds solace, love and companionship from his best friend Aloise and her beloved dog Patrasche. **Rated PG** (one scene of mild violence, mild language and thematic elements), 100 minutes.

The Ticket and Tour office at McConnell Air Force Base has discount tickets on dozens of events in the Wichita Community and surrounding area, including movies, theatre, sports trips and other tours.

For information on what is available, contact the office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The numbers are (316) 652-6007 and 652-6038.

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