

# Kanza Spirit

Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

## Thanks for efforts

Comments, Page 2

## Boom's eye view

Column, Page 3

## Laying bricks

Construction photo  
Page 4

## Military pay

The Reserve Military Pay offices open on Saturdays at 0600 hrs to serve you. The offices open from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. for processing and from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. for customer service.

## Weight in

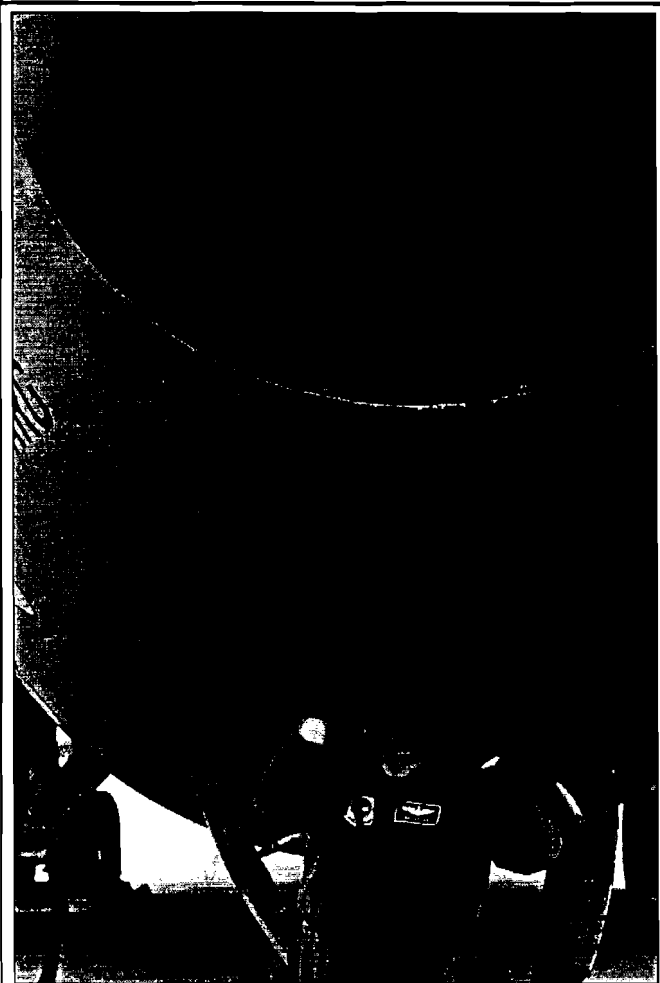
The weigh-ins scheduled for the June UTA-GI beware: the unit lost 2 individuals last year.

## Birthday boys

Col. Val Malling, 931st commander, and Col. Robert J. Edwards, 931st vice commander, each celebrated birthdays in late May. Malling turned 51, while Edwards turned 50. Cake was served at a small reception with full-time staff May 29.

## Softball update

The 931st's softball team opened play in the McConnell softball league recently, dropping its first game 8-4. The team was scheduled to play its second game June 4.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Maj. Ray Kozak, chief pilot for the 18th ARS of the 931st, makes last-minute checks before his he and his crew left on a recent refueling mission. For more on the mission, see page 3.

## 931st, HRDC organize drive for crisis center, food pantry

By Maj. Miriam Carlson  
931st Social Actions Officer

The 931st ARG, in conjunction with the Human Resources Development Council, will be conducting a drive to collect items for the Base Food Pantry and the Rape Crisis Center.

The drive will begin with the June UTA and will continue through July. Collection boxes will be placed in building 1218 and there will be a separate box for each squadron.

The food pantry is open to all active duty and retired military personnel, their family members, Kansas Air National Guard and Active Guard and Reserve members and their families, and Department of Defense civilians and their family members assigned to McConnell Air Force Base.

The Rape Crisis Center has clothing needs. The myth is that victims of rape are only girls and women. The fact is that men, boys, female and male infants and senior adults are also the victims of rape. The items

Continue DRIVE page 4

## Social Actions works to promote a barrier-free environment

The Social Actions staff is here to assist the commanders at all levels to "improve mission effectiveness by promoting an environment free from personal, so-

cial, or institutional barriers that prevent Air Force members from rising to the highest level of responsi-

Continue ACTIONS page 4

# Thanks for your effort on RSAV

By Col. Vik Malling  
Commander

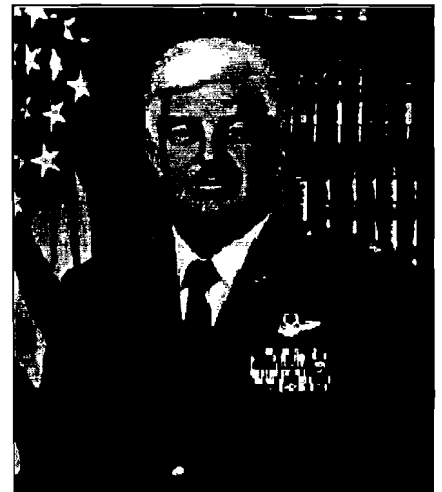
Thanks to everyone for your special efforts to prepare your sections for the 4th Air Force Resource Staff Assistance Visit (RSAV) during the May UTA. The 40-person team debriefed most every section on areas for improvement in the compliance items that were checked.

Overall, the team chief—Col. Don Schell—was impressed with the quality folks we have in the 931st and the great job you're doing. I

should get the formal report soon and we will combine areas for improvement with our Quality GAP analysis items to push the 931st to even higher levels of excellence.

Again, thanks for working hard to show 4AF what a professional unit we are — it makes me feel good to see you all perform so well.

We've worked hard. Let's kick back Saturday afternoon and enjoy the 931st Group Family Picnic and an afternoon of fun and camaraderie. See you there!



Col. Vik Malling

## June appendix list:

\*Personnel News you can use

\*Recruiting "Get One" referral sheet

## An update on VOICE submittal #2

By Col. Vik Malling  
Commander

In April, the Executive Steering Committee received an anonymous VOICE submittal. There is a very specific process in place in the 931st ARG I 38-401 that ensures each submittal is processed according to a flow chart (that is even depicted on each VOICE submittal deposit box).

Your "voice" is vitally important to this unit and the logic tree makes sure each submittal is addressed and finally reaches the ESC where a "participative type" management committee decides on an action or response to each submittal.

VOICE submittal #2 was the one I spoke about at the April Commander's Call. In retrospect, I miscommunicated my thoughts on this particular submittal. Specifically, I thought it was a blistering attack on maintenance and there are other methods and processes to fix

certain things and that the VOICE was not the proper vehicle to address this.

I erred and should not have said that. I don't want to stifle any inputs.

The VOICE tracking committee will get it to the proper place, whether the submittal should actually be an IG complaint, EEO or sexual harassment issue. The tracking committee will give a short briefing at the July Commander's Call to ensure everybody understands the process and that it was validated as being very functional.

VOICE submittal #2 followed the flow chart and on the May UTA the ESC voted 8-6 in favor of not taking any action on this submittal due to its opinionated slant and a lack of specifics that could be dealt with.

In closing, the VOICE of the 931st is to express your ideas. This is an important freedom we enjoy — please use it.

## Knowledge the key to avoiding poison ivy

By Maj. Randy Foster  
Chief, Safety

The real culprit behind the rash, blisters and itch caused by poison ivy is urushiol (uh-ROO-she-all), an allergy-producing chemical in the sap of poison ivy and its cousins poison oak and sumac. It can remain active on contaminated objects for months or even years.

About 85% of people are sensitive to urushiol, although it may take several exposures to trigger an allergic reaction. Here's how to avoid the itch:

Know the enemy. Poison ivy leaves usu-

ally cluster in threes. They can be dull but tend to be shiny, with smooth or saw-toothed edges. Blossoms appear in late spring, white berries in late summer.

**Cover up.** If you're in an area where these plants grow, wear gloves and other protective clothing. Avoid lightweight fabrics, since urushiol can penetrate them.

**Use extra caution.** Urushiol can be transferred from any contaminated object, including pets' fur, clothing, firewood, hands and even a gardening tool

Continue IVY page 4

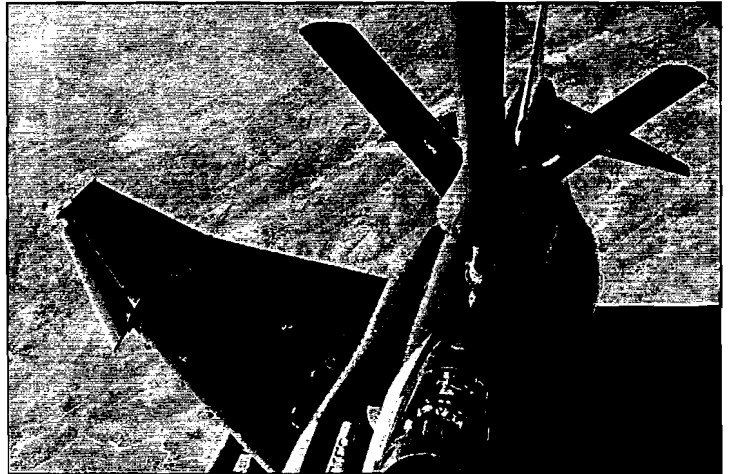
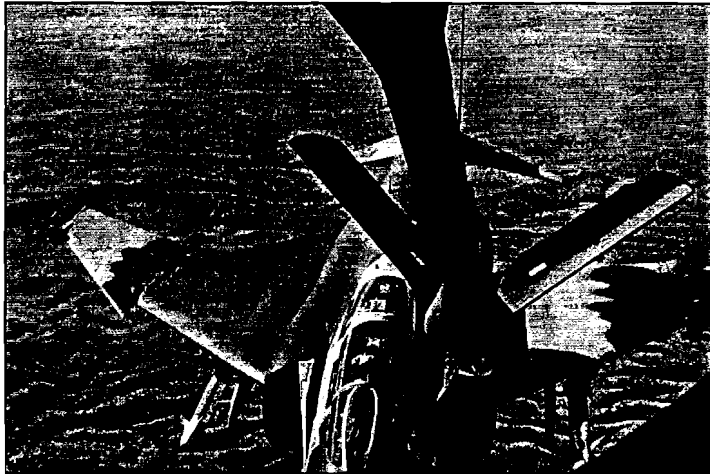
**Kanza Spirit**  
Volume 2, No. 5

Tuesday, July 1st is the deadline for articles in the May 1997 issue of the Kanza Spirit. All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 931st Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1218, Room 221 by 4 p.m.

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**Chief, Public Affairs:**  
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<http://www3.mcconnell.af.mil/index.htm>

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# Boom's Eye View



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

There are not many F-4 fighters in the air these days, but Chief Master Sgt. Don Askren got the chance to refuel several during a recent mission over New Mexico. Askren said it was one of his least favorite planes to refuel because it is hard to keep the plane

steady while the boom is lowered into place. Several of the F-4s Askren refueled had German "student" pilots. Despite the challenges, the mission was successfully completed.

## Former Army "ground-pounder" checks out a 931st mission flight

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman  
931st Public Affairs

There are a few moments in everyone's life that are truly defining. For me, one of those moments happened the night of Jan. 11, 1996, sitting in a Humvee on a bitter cold tarmac in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The moment was defining not because I had just arrived in a country ravaged by four years of civil war with more than 200,000 killed; not because I was wondering what was going to happen to me and other arriving NATO forces in the coming months; not even because I saw fear in the eyes of some members of my Army Reserve public affairs unit.

The defining part was watching the C-141 and its crew that delivered us take off a mere two minutes after I drove the last Humvee off the plane. We were here. They were gone, off to a cold beer (said the Load Master) and warm bed in Rhein-Main AFB, Germany. I'll admit being a bit jealous.

Now, I'm on the other side. Even though public affairs differs little from service to service, being new to the Air Force is a constant learning situation. So for me, a recent mission by one of our refueling crews was all new and a great way to know more about what the 931st is all about.

Even in training, the Army environment can be extremely tense, sometimes unnecessarily so. Army training, like any other service's, runs with a high degree of sophistication and precision. But what I noticed during the mission flight was the degree of autonomy our flight crews (or anyone else's) have and need to complete their missions. There must be something about being 28,000 feet up and two states out that sets flying apart from "ground" missions. In the

Army, the poor pilots would have been required to call back to base at every semi-important juncture of the journey.

Of course, there is command and control of any aircraft—civilian or otherwise—in the skies. But even the best laid flight plans need in-air adjustments, and it usually majors and captains making those reactions, not generals. It is a significant responsibility I don't think I can appreciate enough—an empowerment that demands my respect.

I have always been fascinated and impressed with the synergy that marries people with machines, especially on military missions. I was not disappointed in the refueling mission. The crew of four mixed precision with flexibility, communicating with each other and adjusting to situations with a smoothness that made the hardware mere extensions of their minds, limbs and will.

To them the mission was routine. When something so obviously sophisticated (to an outsider) is described as routine, it can only be explained as exemplary training.

Watching Chief Master Sgt. Don Askren operate the boom to connect fuel to the F-4 fighters over the beautiful New Mexico landscape was more than worth getting up at 4:30 a.m. for. Lowering the boom to the receptacle is—no matter what our jobs are in the 931st—where the rubber meets the road.

"I've got the best job in the world," he told me before we took off.

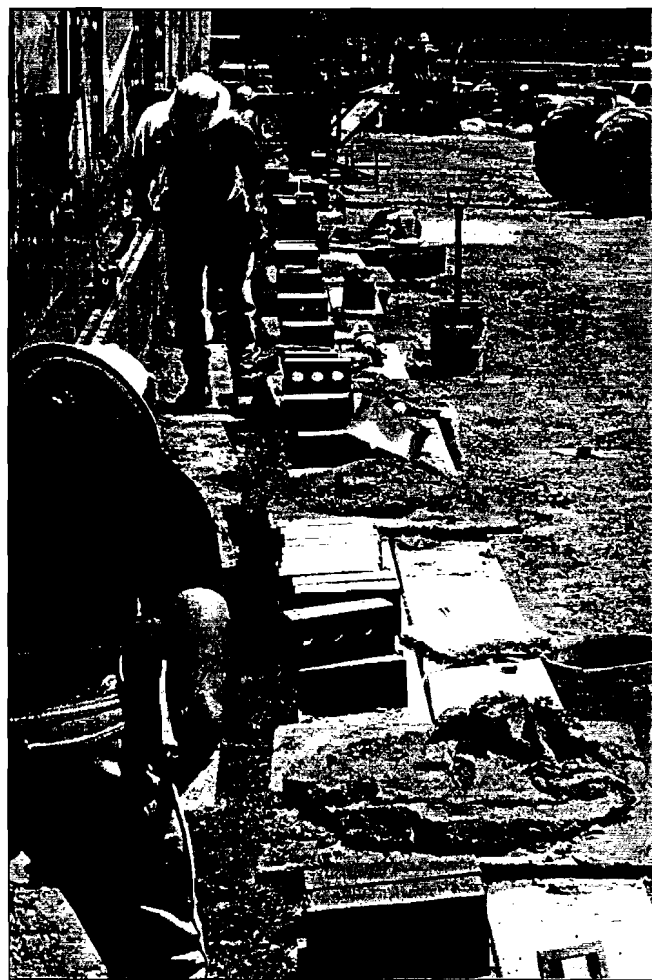
You can understand why he feels that way. I bet it's a defining moment every time he makes a positive connection.

**Ed. note**—The author passes on a sincere thanks to chief boom Askren, chief pilot Maj. Ray Kozak, co-pilot Capt. Shawn McDonald and chief navigator Maj. Rick Sage for taking along a "fifth wheel" on the mission. I hope I can be cargo again sometime.

### COLUMN

*"I've got the best job in the world."*

*--Chief Master Sgt. Don Askren, chief boom operator*



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Construction workers begin laying brick at the base of the building that will eventually house the 931st. The building should be completed for an October opening.

### Read the Kanza Spirit

**DRIVE** continued from 1  
needed are for both genders and all ages.

The HRDC invites you to participate in letting the Base Food Pantry and Rape Crisis Center know that the people of the 931st care.

The drives will focus on the following items:

**Rape Crisis Center** — New or like-new sweatsuits; new underwear (especially little girls); sports

bras; tennis shoes; socks; men's and boys' clothing; infants' clothing and diapers.

**Base Food Pantry** — Cold cereals; oatmeal; peanut butter; jelly; spaghetti sauce; juices; macaroni and cheese; pancake mix; syrup; canned fruit; diapers and formula; pasta; pop tarts; spam; potted meat; vienna sausages; tuna; hamburger/tuna helper; instant potatoes; children's pasta (ravioli, dinosaurs, abc's); rice and rice dishes.

**ACTIONS** continued 1

bility possible based on their individual merit, fitness, and capability". In order to do this, we conduct educational classes, briefings, and unit climate assessments. In addition, we provide informal assistance and handle both formal and informal complaints of unlawful discrimination.

Currently, we brief all newcomers on the Social Actions programs. Also, we are teaching the 4-hour Equal Opportunity 2000 class. This class is a refresher training reaffirming the Air Force's commitment to equal opportunity and reviewing our roles and responsibilities to ensure that everyone is being treated fairly and equitably.

Another program we conduct for the commanders is the unit climate assessment (UCA) which assesses the unit's equal opportunity climate. This UCA consists of surveys and personal interviews

with individuals within that unit. The commander is given a report and briefed on the results.

The last area is that of providing assistance for and handling complaints of all group members. The equal opportunity treatment complaints process provides a way for all military members to present allegations of unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment to the offending party and/or someone in a position of authority. When at all possible and if appropriate, complainants are encouraged to resolve the complaint informally and at the lowest level. If the complaint does not fall under this category, we can refer the military member to the appropriate agency.

Again, the Social Actions staff is here to provide assistance and education to all Air Force members in order to provide an environment conducive to everyone being treated fairly and equitably.

## 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 one their area recruiters listed below:

**MCCONNELL AFB, KS**  
MSgt Terry Gosh (316) 652-4350  
MSgt Lester Shaw, Jr. (316) 652-3766

**TINKER & VANCE AFB, OK**  
MSgt AJ Garza (405) 734-5331  
**ALTUS AFB, OK & Lawton, OK**  
MSgt Larry Giles (405) 357-2784  
**SHEPPARD AFB, TX**  
MSgt Bob Wright (817) 676-3382

**MIDWEST CITY, OK**  
MSgt Linda Smith  
TSgt Erick Glick  
(405) 733-9483

**IVY** continued from page 1

you haven't used in a year. So avoid the ivy, but also try not to touch anything you think has been exposed, including pets and kids.

**Act fast.** Urushiol can penetrate the skin in minutes. So rinse exposed areas with cold running water right away and scrub fingernails. Wash clothing and other objects with strong detergent, and wipe shoes off.

**For relief:** For mild cases, cold compresses, cool baths, calamine lotion or over-the-counter hydrocortisone products can help. But if you've had severe reactions in the past, it's best to consult a dermatologist without delay after a new exposure.

# Personnel News You Can Use

## Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the Military Personnel Flight are as follows:

Monday - Friday	0730-1600
Saturday - UTA	1000-1600
Sunday - UTA	1000-1600

## Record of Emergency Data (DD Form 93)

This is the single most important source of information within your personnel record for dependent data and notification of next-of-kin in an emergency. If data is incomplete or incorrect, the Air Force cannot extend dependent benefits, and proper and timely notification cannot be made in the event you become injured, seriously ill or die while on duty. You are the only one who can keep this document current. Remember there is no such thing as a minor error on this form. Check the form in your mobility folder. If any information is in error or out of date, come by the MPF Customer Service to update the information. Data accuracy is critical. You may be one of the lucky ones who escape injury or illness, but can you afford the alternative?

## Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

Currently, all service members are afforded the opportunity to elect up to \$200,000 coverage under the SGLI. If you are unsure of the coverage you have elected or the beneficiary you have chosen, please contact Customer Service at ext 3593.

## Outprocessing

All personnel scheduled to do any of the following items must outprocess through Personnel Relocations:

- TDY for 30 or more days
  - Retirement
  - Separation
  - Assignment
  - TDY School Tour
- Contact Msgt Melvin at ext 3637 for info.

## PEP PROMOTIONS

**Next PEP promotion is effective 1 Oct 97. The following schedule will be adhered to:**

<u>Eligibility cut off</u>	<b>30 Jul 97</b>
<u>Packages to DPMPE</u>	<b>11 Jul 97</b>
<u>Board Date</u>	<b>Aug UTA</b>
<u>4th AF Board Date</u>	<b>6 Sep 97</b>

Speaking of Promotions, how does your education level and PME completion compare with your peers? The Training office can help you get to the next higher level. Stop by and see them in Bldg 1218 or call ext 3673.

## Family Care Plan

The Family care program will be implemented on all members who are single parents, dual military couples, and members with civilian spouses who have unique family situations. A Family member is an unmarried child under the age of 19, an unmarried child 19 years of age or older incapable of self care; a parent or another person related by blood or marriage who depends on the member for over half of their support and resides in the household. Family Care is a Commander Program. If you have any questions, please contact your commander or First Sergeant.

**Going to a Military Formal School?**

All members attending formal military schools away from home station must outprocess through the MPF before departing; and must inprocess upon return. This includes ARTs attending in-resident PME in civilian status. If you have any questions, please contact Msgt Melvin at ext 3637. Remember all personnel must meet weight standards prior to departure.

**DID YOU KNOW.....**

All personnel will be weighed and if appropriate measured before the following actions: promotions, reenlistment, reassignment actions, all TDYs, school tours. Personnel attending PME courses will be **weighed and measured** not later than 10 days before departure for the course.

**931st Airman/NCO of the Quarter**

The Airman/NCO of the Quarter board will convene on Saturday, 19 Jul 97 at 1400, in the Group conference room. Below is the scheduled dates.

<i>Nomination Quarter</i>	<i>Due to DPMPE</i>	<i>Board Date</i>
Apr-Jun	Jun UTA	Jul UTA
Jul-Sep	Sep UTA	Oct UTA
Oct-Dec	Dec UTA	Jan UTA

**Military Courses Offered**

The 931st has received 3 guaranteed slots in the FY98 Airman Leadership School. For those interested in attending this excellent course, we will publish a schedule as soon as it's available.

The AFRC Professional Development Center announces class 98A of the Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminar-II (JOLDS-II). The two-phase class with a home/unit study portion covers

approximately a 7 month period. The Phase I session will be held 23-26 Oct 97 at Kelly AFB TX and conclude with a 4 day Phase 2 session in Mar -Apr 98 (dates and location TBD) First and Second Lieutenants and Captains are eligible to attend.

Reserve members can take the AF Officers Qualification Test (AFOOT) and the AF Classification Test (AFCT) through the active duty testing proctor right here at McConnell!! Those interested should contact their unit training manager or base training for details. CLEP and DANTES exams are also available at the education center. 931st DPMAT has a complete list of the exams that are offered – stop by and pick one up. They are free and can save students both time and money in the pursuit of their degree!!

For more information on any of these courses, please contact MSgt Pam Summers in DPMAT at ext. 3587.

**Personnel Concept III (PC-III) Lives**

Personnel Concept III (PC-III) system is on-line in the 931st. Unit commanders, support staff, first sergeants and unit training managers should have access. If you have questions about access to PC-III and the many applications available contact MSgt Housman at ext 4310.

**New Area Code For Kansas**

A new area code, 785, will be assigned to the area which extends west to the Colorado state line in the north half of the state. The Kansas City area will retain the current 913 area code. The 316 area code is not affected at this time. This change is effective 20 Jul 97. Those individuals affected must report to 931 MSF/DPMPs and update their phone number. In addition, please update your unit recall roster.