

Despinoy
assumes command

Story, Pg. 3
Comments, Pg. 2

Atlantic Express...
coming in October issue

Burger Burn

A burger burn is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6. There will be burgers, kielbasa, tator salad, slaw, chili, drinks and all the fix-n's.

The burger burn is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. for ROA members and 11:30 a.m. for all the other members.

Five bucks gets you charred flesh and a drink.

So come to Bldg. 1218 for some fresh grilled grub!

Fitness Walk

Bring your walking shoes and exercise clothes. Saturday, Sep. 6 for the first three-mile walk of the year.

The walk is scheduled to take place around the Twin Lakes Golf Course.

Running is not allowed.

Race for Hunger

We're looking for a few good runners.

Team McConnell is again participating in the 24-hour Race Against Hunger, to be held Friday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Oct. 4.

We're looking for at least 10 people who would be willing to run for this cause. It won't require much running, but the 931st is slated to provide a running team for one hour on Friday night and one hour Saturday. If we have a 10-person team over an hour, each runner will only run 3-5 quarter-mile laps — one lap with several minutes rest, then another, etc.

Please contact Capt. Dave Fruck or Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman at DSN 743-3616 or 652-3616 if you're interested.

Paying tribute to the people of the South Wind

By Staff Sgt.
Barbara Davis
931st Public Affairs

The drum beat and the song began. The song was not only words but true meanings. A people driven from their land.

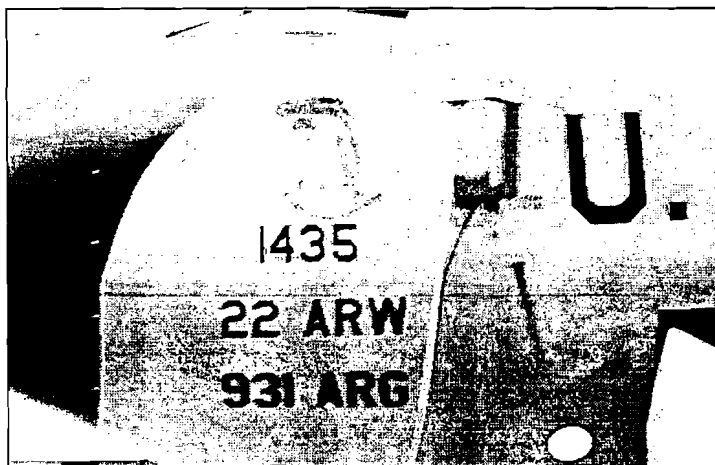
In the early 1800s they were 1,700 strong. Until recently there were only two remaining, on February 7, 1997, Mr. Johnnie Ray McCauley died, leaving Mr. William A. Mehojah, as the last full-blooded living Kanza Indian.

August 9, 1997, a ceremony was held for the Kanza Indian Nation. The ceremony was to pay tribute to the late Johnnie Ray McCauley and the Kanza Nation. There were three parts to this ceremony; the presentation of the nose art and the VIP shield, the blessing of the plane, and the orientation flight.

The ceremony opened with a prayer by Mr. James Croy, head drummer and singer of the Wichita Inter-Tribal Warrior Society.

"This ceremony is not for the 931st Air Refueling Group, the 22nd Air Refueling Wing or the Air Force, it is for the Kanza people. This day we want to honor the Kanza Nation." Col. Vik C. Malling, commander, 931st ARG said.

The nose art was a reproduction of the Kanza Indian head-



Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

dress. The tribal seal symbolizes the people's relationship with the South Wind. The red in the headdress symbolizes blood, to scare off the enemy when warriors go off to battle. The feathers that hang from the bottom of the headdress are from the scissor-tail flycatcher, the state bird of Oklahoma, which signifies their divided nation. "The motive of putting the headdress on the aircraft is to keep the spirit of the Kanza alive. The 931st ARG wishes not only to honor the Kanza but also to preserve their ties to Kansas," Malling said.

The nose art follows the precedence set by the 22nd ARW's "Keeper of the Plains" and the 184th BW's nose art dedicated by the Inter-Tribal Warrior Council.

When the VIP shield was re-

vealed, a moment of silence was instantaneously given. Mr. McCauley's image was vivid. He was in a horizon of earth colors, strong and proud dressed in tribal garb. The painting looked as if he was watching over the people who came to honor him and his great Kanza nation.

The blessing of the KC-135 began with a prayer by Mr. Paul LittleVoice, he went around the plane blessing it with smoke and an eagle feather.

"He used cedar for purification, he blessed the plane and everyone involved. Cedar smoke carries prayers." Rowena Daugomah of Ponca City, Okla., sister of Johnnie Ray McCauley, said.

Wiping away tears,

SEE KANZA PAGE 4

Thanks for the warm welcome

By Lt. Col. Dean Despinoy
Commander

My wife Judy, daughters Jennifer and Natalie, and I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome we experienced last UTA during the change of command and reception. It is clear that everything I have heard about the 931st is true. The unit has done an excellent job of establishing itself during the past two years. I believe structure changes will soon subside and the unit can concentrate on getting the mission done and continuing the traditions of excellence. I look forward to visiting the various work areas, flying with the crews and meeting each and every member of the 931st.

I know that change can be a disruption to a unit, but the change of the commander can also cause uncertainty and confusion.

My best advice would be to continue with business as usual. When control of an aircraft is being transferred, the pilot assuming control expects the aircraft to be in trim and with the correct power setting. When the new pilot first touches the stick only gradual pressure is applied as necessary to maintain altitude and heading, passengers don't even realize that a new pilot is flying. I feel that the 931st is on the right heading and power setting.

We have many events for which to look forward. The move to the new building will be exciting and will place everyone in a great work environment. We have the opportunity to show the Chief of the Air Force Reserve what the 931st is all about at the dining out. We will have an opportunity to bring in the holidays with our Christmas party. Of course, through it all, we will continue to support the country through air refueling. In the not too distant future we will be throttling up to prepare for the ORI. I know we will do it all as a motivated team of professionals.

In the coming weeks, please feel free to



Lt. Col. Dean Despinoy

stop me in the halls or on the flight line, or make an appointment to see me in my office. I am anxious to hear your ideas. I will hold my commander's call during the September UTA and invite questions and discussion. I promise to always be candid and honest and expect the same from you. Keep the KANZA spirit.

Kanza Spirit

Volume 2, No. 8

Tuesday, Sept. 23 is the deadline for articles in the October 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.

Group Commander

Col. Vik Malling

Chief, Public Affairs, GS-12, ART

Capt. David Fruck

Editor, GS-7, ART, Public Affairs Specialist

Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Public Affairs Specialist

Staff Sgt. David Brumley

Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

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All photos are Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

Good Bye Wishes



Col. Terry Edwards

By Col. Terry Edwards

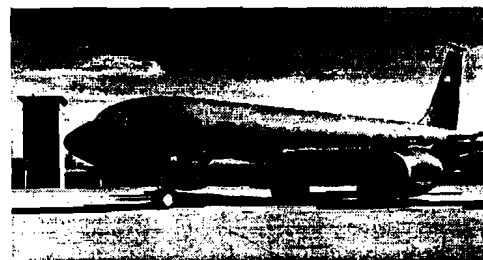
Just over two years ago I was fortunate enough to become the first vice commander of the 931st Air Refueling Group — the first associate KC-135 unit in the Air Force. It has been a true honor for

me to serve you in that capacity.

I will never forget the long hours and great efforts that each of you gave to make this a great unit in such a short time. You are the benchmark for the future.

You have proven to the world that the 931st is the best — keep up the great work and continue to improve. Challenge yourselves to excel in all you do. Make others come to you for ways to be better.

In all you do, be safe. I look forward to seeing you in other places at other times. My wife Linda and I wish you nothing but the best. Our home is always open for you to stop and visit. Good luck — Godspeed — Fair weather — Calm winds!



Command of 931st passed to Lt. Col. Despinoy

By Tech. Sgt.
Brian Bowman
931st Public Affairs

Calling it "the best thing that's ever happened to me in my life," Lt. Col. Dean Despinoy assumed command of the 931st Air Refueling Group during a ceremony at Emerald City Aug. 10.

Despinoy officially replaced outgoing commander Col. Vik C. Malling on Sept. 1.

"I feel my leadership style is very much like (Malling's)," Despinoy told the assembled unit and guests numbering more than 400. "It is a participatory style."

Despinoy was praised by 4th Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Whaley during his remarks.

"He has great, great tanker experience," Whaley said. "He's part of ... the tanker long-range planning team."

Whaley said Malling's achievement of standing up the 931st was "outstanding."

"(The unit) is combat ready ... and we at 4th Air Force salute what you've done here," he said.

Malling will now work directly for Whaley as the assistant vice commander of 4th Air

Force. Whaley hinted that a wing command is in Malling's future.

"He'll work for me for a couple of years and then we'll get him back out there," he said. "Commanding a flying unit is the best job there is."

Malling called Despinoy "the right guy at the right time," for the 931st. Malling — who has been the only commander of the 931st since its January 1995 reactivation — has helped the unit develop a close tie to the Kanza Indian tribe during the past two years. Those ties culminated with an Aug. 9 ceremony dedicating nose art and a VIP shield in honor of the Kanza tribe, Kaw Indian nation and the late Johnnie Ray McCauley — the second to last full-blooded Kaw.

"As I leave, I only ask one thing," Malling said. "That you keep the Kanza spirit alive."

Despinoy issued a challenge to the leaders in the 931st.

"Are you, right now, teaching people to take your place?" he asked. "All of the experience you have accumulated will do no good if you don't pass it on."

Despinoy, who is scheduled to pin on his Colonel's wings this month, said his philosophy is to "work hard ... but have a good time."

His military career started as a Navy en-



Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Gen. Whaley passes 931st flag to Col. Despinoy last month at the change-of-command ceremony

listed man in 1969. He earned his Air Force commission in 1977, and since then has flown more than 3,500 hours — much of it in the tanker field.

He and his wife Judy have two daughters, ages 12 and 14.



Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Major Steven Kett swears in wife and new major, Terri Kett.

Congrats to new major selectees

Isaac Algaze
Matthew Archer
Randall Brink
Ned Calderone
Kenneth Guevara
Galdino Leon
Christopher Line
David Nelson
Arthur Roveto
Jonathan Sabatino
Terri Kett
John Loranger
Kim Thompson
Karen Uchmanowicz

Special Guest to speak at 2nd annual Dining-Out

Maj. Gen. Robert MacIntosh, AFRC/CC will be the featured guest speaker at the group's second annual dining out on Saturday evening, October 4, 1997. This year's event promises to be even better than last years. In addition to our special guest speaker and the traditional bagpiper, we have the AFRC "High Flight" combo to provide musical entertainment.

Tech. Sgt. Troy Lawson, 18th ARS, has been tapped to serve as Mister Vice. He is charged with the responsibility to direct and maintain the order of the 50-2 mess. Violators of protocol will be subject to the wrath of and mischievousness of this most devious clown. If last year's mess was any indication — Mister Vice will have his hands full and trips to the grog bowl will be aplenty!

Remember, a dining out is open to all military members and their guests. So plan ahead and come out and join your Kanza comrades for a most fun and enjoyable evening.

Tickets will be on sale in each squadron/flight until Sept. 26. Prices are \$17.00 for enlisted and guests and \$19.00 for Chiefs/

Officers and their guests. In addition to the dinner everyone will receive a commemorative coin.

Some quick reminders on Dining Out attire:

- * Military members must be in mess dress or semi-formal uniform.
- * Must wear highly polished U.S. insignia
- * Ribbons are mandatory (all or some)
- * No name tag
- * Women must wear white blouse with blue inverted-V tie tab.
- * Men with old uniform can wear either a blue satin or black bow tie.
- * If you have the new uniform you must wear the polyester herringbone twill tie. A white short- or long-sleeve shirt is also required.
- * All medals are to be worn on the mess dress.

For further information please consult AFI 36-2903 or contact 2nd Lt. Martha Murphy at Ext. 3577.

Reserve member named Crew Chief of active-duty aircraft

By Maj. Timothy Nesley
931st AGS Commander

The 931 Aircraft Generation Squadron has reached a milestone in our growth to be a full member of Team McConnell. Master Sgt./WG-11 Eric Smith's the first of our team to be selected as an Aircraft Crew Chief (ACE) or lead crew chiefs on a McConnell AFB KC-135. The ACE is similar to a NASCAR or Indy car crew chief in that they are the senior person assigned to the airplane and responsible for all actions on the it and the people assigned to it. The position carries a lot of responsibility and only the best maintainers are selected.

Master Sgt. Smith works in the 384th Sor-

tie Generation Flight with the active duty aircraft maintainers on a daily basis as a crew chief. Chief Master Sgt. Robert Stephenson had been working with the 384th SGF Superintendent, Chief Master Sgt Larry Lowe, to get Eric his own airplane. Chief Lowe recognized Eric's leadership and selected him for aircraft 58-1435.

Eric and our ARTs are becoming the experience on the flight line. Their contribution to the flightline production effort has been growing since we came on line in 1995.

We started out as an new entity in the Air Force. We have been collocated with the active duty in the past, but hadn't worked arm in arm before. Our integration with the active duty has been on ongoing education

for them. We are achieving the point where we are not an anomaly anymore, but a trusted partner, and in many cases the "go to" members on the flightline when the tough problems pop up.

It isn't only the ARTs who have been recognized as the experts on the line...many of our Reservists have become sought after for their knowledge and skill. From the flightline leadership's point of view, we have become equal partners in Team McConnell.

Keep your eye on tail number 1435. With the strength of Eric Smith, and the support of the 931 AGS team, you will see the best aircraft at McConnell AFB...at least until we get another airplane with the 931 AGS team member as the ACE.

KANZA FROM PAGE 1

Daugomah told of how emotional the day has been for her because McCauley had just passed away in February of this year. "The ceremony was a blessing. I am really honored. It was so beautiful." she said.

At the end of the ceremony, 34 members of the Kanza tribe went on a flight. The flight was over an area near Kansas City where the Kanza once inhabited the land. "The aircraft will be flying over Council Grove; your land." Malling said.

The headdress was drawn by Staff Sgt. David Lofton from the 931st ARG Civil Engineer Squadron. The headdress and VIP shield were painted by Tech Sgt. Kenny Blanks from Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C. Each of them was presented an award for their contribution in the dedication.

Blanks agreed to paint a canvas of McCauley similar to that of the VIP shield for the 931st new building and another for the Kanza Indian Council.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman
Mr. Paul LittleVoice praying
before blessing of KC-135.

Dental care available for Reservists

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Starting Oct. 1, reservists will have the option of using a government-sponsored program designed to maintain good dental health and keep war planners smiling.

Some members of the Selected Reserve, including reservists in Air Force Reserve Command, can sign up for the program. Family members are not eligible.

The new program will cost-share premiums, with reservists paying less than \$25 per month for services. Unit AFRC reservists will have premiums deducted from their drill pay.

Services will include basic care and treatment; diagnostic, preventative and restorative services; and emergency oral examinations. Treatment will have a \$1,000 annual cap.

Under proposed rules, if patients use a dentist within the dental network, the dentist cannot bill them for any charges not paid by the contractor. Patients who use dentists outside the network could see charges in excess of the maximum amount allowed by the contractor. (AFRC News Service)

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:

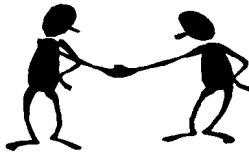
MCCONNELL AFB, KS
MSgt Torry Gesh (316) 652-4350
MSgt Lester Shaw, Jr. (316) 652-3766

TINKER & VANCE AFB, OK
MSgt Al Garza (405) 734-5331

ALTUS AFB, OK & Lawton, OK
MSgt Larry Gilles (405) 357-2784

SHEPPARD AFB, TX
MSgt Bob Wright (817) 676-3382

MIDWEST CITY, OK
MSgt Linda Smith
TSgt Erick Gilck
(405) 733-9403



Promotion Information

from: Career Enhancement

Unit vacancy promotions are effective the first day of Jan., March, May, July, Sep and Nov. To qualify for promotion, eligibility criteria must be met by the last day of the month preceding promotion effective date. Unit vacancy promotion to TSgt and above may not be in an overage position.

The 931 MSS/DPMPE will forward the Reserve Airman Promotion Eligibility and Ineligibility Roster (computer generated DESIRE) to unit commanders before each unit training assembly (UTA) the month preceding the month the promotion is to be effective.



The In's & Out's of the USAFR Promotion System

Due to the DESIRE being prepared in advance of the cut-off date, there is a chance some airman will acquire promotion eligibility between the listing date and the cycle's eligibility cut-off date. Supervisors should review the ineligibility roster and PIF when this occurs as member's skill level may have been upgraded, or member could have completed PME, or met satisfactory service requirements before cut-off date, etc.

The promotion authority processes the promotion eligibility rosters, prior to UTA completion by doing the following:

- Line through the names of airmen not recommended for promotion and annotates a period of ineligibility, not to exceed 6 months.
- Notify the airman of the reasons for denying promotion and how long they remain ineligible.
- Add airman not identified on listing as eligible for promotion and attach memo explaining why action was necessary.
- Prepare AF Form 224, using Perform Pro version, for each individual being selected or recommended for promotion to SMSgt or CMSgt.
- Forward the signed listing and AF Form 224(s) to DPMPE for final processing. The MPF will issue and distribute orders to arrive prior to promotion effective date.

Unit Vacancy Promotion Eligibility for the Grades of Msgt and Below

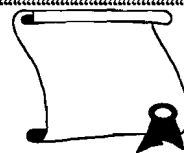


1. The promotion authority is the commander of unit of assignment.
2. Enlisted members will be considered for promotion when they meet the following criteria:

	AMN	A1C	+SRA	SSG	TSG	*MSG
PAFSC SKILL LEVEL:			3	5	7	7
MONTHS TIME-IN-GRADE:	6	6	8	12	18	24
SAT YEARS FOR RETIREMENT:		1	3	5	8	
PME:			+note A			* note B

- +Note A: Airman must complete the NCO Preparatory Course, or the NCO Leadership school, or the NCO Orientation Course.
- *Note B: Airman must complete the Command NCO Academy.

3. Airman must complete basic training. TIG for non-prior service member in the grade of AB, AMN, or A1C will begin the date entered initial active duty training (IADT).
4. Members must meet standards of IAW AFI 40-502/AFRES Supplement before processing for promotion. Individuals must be weighed. (Measured, if appropriate.)
5. Local policy does not allow members with less than 90 days supervision to be recommended for promotion.



Unit Vacancy Promotion Eligibility for the Grades of SMSgt and CMSgt

1. The promotion authority is the group commander (931 ARG/CC).
2. Enlisted members will be considered for promotion when they meet the following criteria:

	SMSgt	CMSgt
PAFSC SKILL LEVEL:	7	9
MONTHS TIME-IN-GRADE:	24	24
SAT YEARS FOR RETIREMENT:	11	14
PME:	See Note	

- Note: Amn must complete the Senior NCO Academy Course requirement.
- 3. Senior NCO's must be in accordance with weight and body fat standards set forth in AFI 40-502/AFRES Supp. before processing for promotion.
- 4. Local policy does not allow members with less than 90 days supervision be recommended for promotion.

If you have questions, stop by the Career Enhancement Office.

??? Do You Know Who Your Supervisor Is ???

If the answer is no, check with your unit orderly room. Each unit should have an EPR/OPR Management Roster that lists who supervises whom.

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**

Schools and Training

HQ AFRC has released dates for the in-residence **Squadron Officer's School (SOS)**. Members wishing to attend need to submit a DD Form 1556 for attendance in civilian status or a DD Form 9701 for military status to DPMAT for processing. Selection will be made by headquarters. As we didn't receive many quotas, the sooner you submit your request the better your chances are of being selected. Eligibility is Capt and above or GS-9 and above. The dates are:

- 98A: 27 Oct - 12 Dec '97 98B: 5 Jan - 20 Feb '98**
- 98C: 9 Mar - 24 Apr '98 98D: 11 May - 26 Jun '98**
- 98E: 3 Sep - 17 Oct '98**

The **Airman Leadership School** slot for 10 Nov - 12 Dec '97 is **still available**. Interested SRA need to contact their Unit Training Manager or the Base Training Office for the application. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with the active duty members. Our last graduate, **SSgt Barbara Davis**, received the Levitow Award and the Leadership award! She can vouch for the outstanding quality of this course.

We have yet to receive dates and quotas for the **NCO Academy** in-residence. Members wishing to attend may start working the application process now so that the forms will be completed once we have dates. Stop by Base Training to get AFRC Form 129.



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 timely or proper notification cannot be made in the event of injury, serious illness or death, 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. You may be one of the lucky ones who escape injury or illness, but can you afford the risk?



Self-Improvement Flyers Available in DPMAT



Computer courses, management skills, stress management techniques, and time management are among the many offered. Civilians may enroll via a DD Form 1556 and military members may attend while on orders. Please stop by DPMAT or call ext. 3587 for assistance.

931st Airman / NCO of the Quarter

The Airman / NCO of the Quarter schedule:

Nomination	Due to	Board
Quarter:	DPMPE:	Date:
Jul - Sep	<u>Sep UTA</u>	Oct UTA
Oct - Dec	Dec UTA	Jan UTA



Outprocessing



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

- TDY for 30 or more days
- Retirement
- Separation *from unit*
- Assignment
- TDY School Tour

Contact MSgt Melvin at ext. 3637 for information.



Congratulations:

**TSGT. ANGELA CHATMON
931ST NCO OF THE QUARTER
[THIRD QUARTER OF 1997]**