

Kanza SPIRIT

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Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

New building dedicated by ribbon cutting

By Staff Sgt. David
Brumley
931st Public Affairs

In a dedication ceremony here on Oct. 5, Building 850 became the new home of the 931st Air Refueling Group.

Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh, Chief of Air Force Reserve and the 931st ARG Commander Col. Dean Despinoy did the honors of cutting the ribbon and begin a new era for the associate unit.

It will house the 931st command and support staff, the 18th Air Refueling "Super" Squadron and operational personnel.

"Facilities are brick, mortar, infrastructure, computers, telephones, windows and roofs," McIntosh said. "The thing that makes facilities really become viable relative to implementing and enforcing national defense are the people."

The unit will begin moving into the \$4.9 million complex Dec. 3.

"We're very fortunate to be able to take possession of this fine facility in today's environment of very short dollars," Despinoy said. "This building

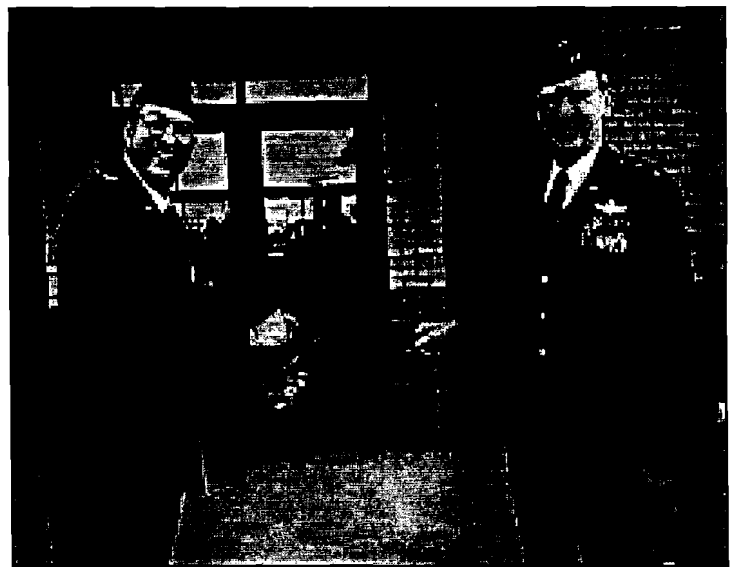


Photo by Staff Sgt. Barbara L. Davis

Maj. Gen. Robert McIntosh and Col. Dean Despinoy cut the ribbon to the new Squadron Operations Building, Oct 5, 1997.

will also give us enough room to grow as our unit changes and grows."

The new 34,000 square foot facility is replacing building 1218 with more office space, improved furniture, larger break areas, and extra parking spaces in the rear of the building. It also has been pre-wired for computers and cable television, eliminating wiring problems that occurred when

1218 was being restored. It is also fully accessible for handicapped personnel with ramps and an elevator.

The building was designed on the "Prairie School" premise of architecture that renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright made famous. The "Prairie School" theme was a popular Midwestern design and is still prevalent at McConnell.

Not Yet!

The move to the new Bldg has been delayed until the first week in December. Everyone should report to Bldg 1218 for the November UTAs.

Toys for Tots

The Chaplain's Office is sponsoring the Toys for Tots program. Look for the boxes during the November and December UTAs to donate toys for Christmas.

Make a Christmas merry by providing a present for a needy child.

Flu shots

The 18th ARS flight surgeon recommends two Tylenol just before the flu shot, sometimes a little Vitamin C helps, too.

Shots will be given on Sunday by squadron/flight in the medical office Bldg 1218 Rm 137. Schedule:

1200-1300 AGS

1300-1400 CES

1400-1500 ARG/MSF/OSF

1500-1600 ARS

Over 30 Basketball

Basketball season start soon. Starting mid-November.

We are looking for players-CE this means you.

If interested contact Tech Sgt. Willhight or Staff Sgt. Marshall @ Ext. 6401.

Excellence Award see page 3



NOT THERE YET

By Col. Dean J. Despinoy
931st commander

There has been a delay in our move to the new building. It is difficult to look past all the finger pointing to determine exactly why, but the bottom line is that we will most likely move into the new building on Dec. 3. This will mean that we will be in the new building by the December UTA.

Everyone should insure they are packed and ready to go by the end of the November UTA, especially if you are not going to return to the unit prior to the December move date.

The 931st is extremely lucky to have this marvelous facility. There are several other reserve units that would kill to get the military construction money that was given to us under "new mission".

There will be some initial growing pains once we move in. I am sure that some agencies will

be very satisfied and others will feel they need more room. There is enough flexibility in the building's layout so that changes can take place as the needs arise.

I ask that everyone get settled first, so we can assess the entire situation prior to making any changes.

I am also very interested in not mixing old and new furniture. If your location does not have the amount of furniture to meet your needs, make your needs known through your commanders.

Also, if you have extra furniture in your work space, let that be known. If after we move furniture around, we find that there is a valid need for additional furniture, we will order matching furniture from the same vendor.

We owe it to ourselves and the future members of the 931st to be good stewards of the facility that has been given to us.

I hold everyone accountable to make sure that we don't do anything to "trash" this building.



Col. Dean J. Despinoy

Let's keep our fingers crossed and we may be in the new building as a unit Christmas present.

Kanza Spirit
Volume 2, No. 10

Tuesday, Nov. 25 is the deadline for articles in the December 1997 issue of the Kanza Spirit. All articles and photographs must be turned into the 931st Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1218, Room 221 by 4 p.m.

Group Commander
Col. Dean Despinoy
Chief, Public Affairs, GS-12, ART

Editor, GS-7, ART, Public Affairs Specialist
Capt. David Fruck

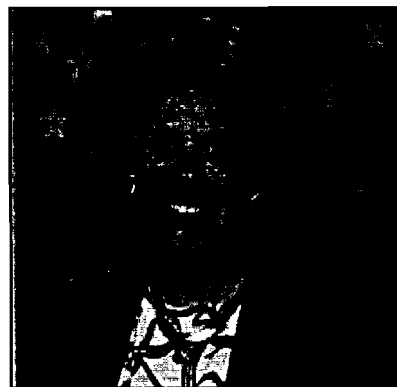
Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman
Public Affairs Specialist

Staff Sgt. David Brumley
Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

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All photos are Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

Widnall bids farewell to Air Force



Sheila Widnall

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—The following is a farewell message from Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall to the Men and Women of the United States Air Force

Now that my tour of duty is up and I prepare to transition back to academic life, I want to tell each one of you what a fantastic tour I have had as your secretary.

Today as you read this, I want to be clear in my message — the Air Force's enlisted and officer corps and the civilian workforce have made the last four years the most rewarding of my professional life.

As a youngster, I dreamed of being a part of the aviation world. As most of you

are aware, my dreams became a reality at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). However, as a child I had no idea as I watched B-29s fly over my house in Washington state that I would someday be the secretary of the mighty force those B-29 crews belonged to — the United States Air Force!

Millions of men and women have served in "Air Force Blue" since that time. Through it all, the one human quality that stands out both yesterday and today in all of you is that quality we call commitment: commitment to the Air Force team, commitment to our core values, commitment to the mission. Commitment of people in its many forms has allowed the Air Force to exist and flourish as the world's preeminent air and space force.

In my travels I have witnessed this commitment. Whether in the desert, at Aviano (Air Base, Italy), Kunsan (AB, Korea), or Minot (Air Force Base, N.D.) — I have seen it. It is at the Air Force Academy and Basic Military Training. It is on the flightline at Travis (AFB, Calif.) and the Space Warfare Center at Falcon (Air Station, Colo.). Most recently I saw it in the faces and actions of

see Widnall pg. 5

Unit wins "Performance in Quality" award

By Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis
931st Public Affairs

The 931st Air Refueling Group received a "Performance in Quality" Award at the Second Annual National Quality Awards Banquet on Oct. 21, 1997 at the Wichita Marriott Hotel.

The Kansas Award for Excellence was modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award to recognize quality performance in three levels. The 931st ARG won the level two award. The award is given to organizations who have demonstrated their commitment to, and practice of, quality principles.

The 931st was one of 10 organizations to receive this award. The 931st ARG is the first military organization to date to receive this award. "The 931st was in competition

with several other businesses from around the state, companies that have been in business for a long time to win this honor and we showed them how to do it," Col. Dean Despinoy, 931st ARG commander said.

"It filled me with pride to be in a room of business professionals, the only one in uniform, and be called to accept this quality award."

Dean Despinoy, 931st commander

"The award gave me a great deal of satisfaction to see us recognized for our efforts since we have only been established for two years," said Lt. Joe Wible, 931st ARG Quality Officer. It also helps to encourage the unit to continue down that road for continuous improvement, Wible added.

"It filled me with pride to be in a room of



Photo by Staff Sgt. Maurice Hessel
Col. Dean Despinoy accepts the Kansas Award for Excellence award from Marty O'Linde, Co-Chairman of the award committee.

business professionals, the only one in uniform, and be called to accept this quality award," Despinoy said.

18th ARS announces NCOIC of Operations Management

By Major Tim Nesley
931 AGS, commander

Master Sgt. Shannon L. Wrango is moving from the 931st AGS B Section Chief to the new position as 18th ARS NCOIC, Operations Management.

As one of the founding members of this unit, Wrango initiated most of the processes

currently in use by the AGS. She developed the Southwind Express UTA shuttle procedure and her Certificate of Achievement form to recognize outstanding achievement by maintenance members, was the model adapted for the Group certificate.

"I am looking forward to the challenges ahead, as an operations manager in the first and only super-size KC-135R squadron.

I welcome these challenges and the

opportunity to serve the 931st ARG in an increased area of responsibility. I saw an opportunity to further my knowledge and better utilize my organizational and team concept skills.

I will miss the flightline ARTs and hope the very best for them. I look forward to working with the 18th ARS members, and assisting in the build up of the super-squadron", Wrango said.

AGS wins at Knucklebuster Banquet

By Chief Master Sgt.
Robert Stephenson
931st AGS

Master Sgt. Eric Smith, Tech Sgt. Chuck Hoover and Staff Sgt. Steve Marshall of the 931st AGS received awards at the 17th Annual Maintenance Knucklebuster Awards held Oct. 11, at the Emerald City Ballroom.

Over 450 maintenance members, spouses, friends, commanders, and special guests from the 22nd AGS and 931st AGS came together for this annual event.

Knucklebusters are the mechanics on the flight line and maintenance back shops that keep the aircraft going.

Knucklebusters is a celebration. We came together to celebrate another successful year and to recognize those among us deserving an even stronger "pat on the back" for contributing directly to our wing's success.

The entire banquet was planned and organized by McConnell enlisted men and women. They nominated and selected the award winners. The members received the awards because they were selected by their peers as the top mechanics this past year.

The winners of the 931st AGS are selected by their peers only.

The winners received a trophy, savings bond, Quality Coin, and their spouse received a lapel pin.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Why is Staff Sgt. David Brumley running ?

See Running on pg. 4 for details

American Express-for authorized use only

By Laura Brusca
Budget Officer
931st ARG

The American Express card is authorized for official government business only. This means only when the member is on official orders, not to include leave of any sort or IDT.

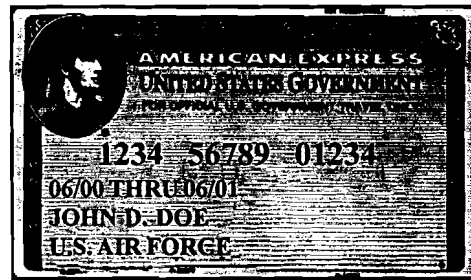
Only official TDY expenditures claimed on your travel voucher, such as food, lodging and transportation will be reimbursed.

Members on TDY longer than 30 days should file an interim travel voucher for expenses incurred to that point. This reimbursement would then be used to pay that month's AMEX bill which will continue to be generated on the normal billing cycle.

The member is responsible for keeping their account current at all times.

American Express accounts that become 60 days delinquent will automatically be suspended. The cards will remain in a suspended status until the entire account balance is paid, not just the delinquent amount. Accounts that become 60 days delinquent twice in a 12 month period will be automatically canceled. If a card is canceled under this process we can request reinstatement, however AMEX reserves the right to deny reinstatement of the account.

American Express card abuse and delinquency have consequences. AMEX abuse and delinquency may result in a letter of counseling, a letter of reprimand, administrative demotion, administrative discharge, and an Article 15. AMEX delinquency will



result in non-eligibility for re-enlistment, awards, and promotions.

It is of utmost importance that all 931st members use the AMEX card properly and pay their AMEX credit card obligations in a timely manner. Not doing so will adversely affect your credit rating and your military career.

“PayCall” System available for reservists

Mr. Ron Swenka, the Director of Military Pay operations in the Defense Finance and Accounting Service - Denver Center (DFAS-DE), has recently announced the development of an automated system which will provide Air Force member with pay and allowance information around the clock, seven days a week. Air Force and DFAS financial managers have christened this new capability “PayCall.” The new system, and the call center that supports it, will provide direct account access for Air Force military pay customers.

This service will be phased in by major commands (MAJCOM) to prevent telephone call overload as the system is activated. Extra time is required on the first call

to establish Personal Identification Numbers (PIN). Each phase is estimated to take about a month, however actual start dates will be determined by usage. Air Mobility Command will be in the first phase which is set to begin on 1 Oct 97.

Access is provided 24 hours a days for individuals to obtain limited military pay information when calling a toll free number

CONUS Number: 1-800-755-7413

Information will be available for all Air Force Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard and separatees. First-time callers will need to answer a series of questions to validate the caller's identity after which a PIN will be established. This PIN must be retained for use in all future telephone inquiries. If a cus-

tommer forgets the PIN, on line assistance will be available to help reset the PIN but will not be able to answer pay questions.

Reserve and National Guard members can get:

- * amount of last paycheck
- * tour dates
- * reissued W-2
- * Federal and State tax information
- * total debt amount paid
- * deduction from last pay

This new service is being provided for customers so they have an alternate means to receive pay information. Unique or unusual pay questions or problems will still need to be resolved by the appropriate servicing finance or pay office.

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 Al 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 Gilck
(405) 733-9403

Running

Five members of the 931st ARG participated with Team McConnell at the Race Against Hunger, a charity event to benefit the Kansas Foodbank Warehouse, which provides food for homeless Kansans.

The Race Against Hunger, held at Wichita State University's Cessna Stadium, features teams running a relay for 24 consecutive hours. More than a dozen Wichita businesses participated.

Team McConnell won the recreational division, logging 219 miles.

931st participants were Staff Sgt. David Brumley, Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman, Capt. Dave Fruck, Maj. Rick Sage and Maj. Jim McCoy.

Widnall , cont. from pg 3

the Thunderbirds' crew chiefs and life support technicians as they prepared me for my "finis flight" at Edwards (AFB, Calif.) earlier this month.

Many reasons for this commitment exist — patriotism, pride, belonging, personal integrity, knowing that what you are doing makes a difference — these are just a few. Whatever the reasons, I thank heaven they exist — for the sake of the Air Force and our nation.

I am also well aware that the contemporary military missions that we are carrying out in the national interest have been very stressing. With the highest taskings seen during peacetime, I have asked you to conduct and support operations in Southwest Asia, Bosnia, and Africa and you have performed flawlessly.

These contemporary military missions have created many new challenges and I commend you for reaching down deep to pull them off with innovation and style. I firmly believe that while we are putting up with many frustrations and irritants in dealing with these missions, we are writing new chapters in the conduct of Air Force and joint military operations.

While we do not know what the future will bring, we will learn lessons in Southwest Asia, in Bosnia, in Africa and all those other places where we may become involved, that will one day provide the foundation we depend upon to pull the nation out of the fire of a war.

I have had the time of my life flying in formation with all of you. I thank you and your families for your unwavering support. I also thank your families for their commitment and support of you and the Air Force. When I came in as secretary and traveled to bases I heard comments like, "We're glad you came to the Air Force." Now as I leave, I want to tell you that I'm very glad I came to the Air Force and I'm very proud to have been on your team. Continue your climb higher, farther, and faster!

Some of my feelings about you, the men and women of our Air Force, are typified by this letter sent by a parent, somewhat tongue in cheek, to the Air Force Recruiting Service:

"Our son gave us nothing but trouble starting at age 13. We didn't think he would graduate from high school. When he announced that he was enlisting in the Air

Force, I said to myself, 'If they take him, he'll be home in a month.'

"They DID take him! But I shook every time the phone rang. Then, one day, we did get a phone call from Lackland (AFB, Texas). He had graduated from boot camp, had a furlough and was coming home for a few days.

"I was stunned when our handsome young airman got off the plane —neatly barbered, perfectly groomed, grinning ear to ear. We still can't get used to all the 'Yes, sirs' and 'No, sirs' around the house. His table manners are flawless.

"His mother and I wanted to let you know that, if this is our son, thank you not only for what you have done, but also for what you have done to him. If there has been a mistake, and this is not really our son, can we keep him anyway?"

This is the way I feel about you. I still can't get used to the "Yes, ma'ams" and the occasional "Yes, sir." But, if there has been a mistake, and you are not really my brothers and sisters, my sons and daughters, can I keep you anyway?

Dr. Bill and I wish you all the best. God bless you all.

FROM THE SAFETY OFFICE.....

The below article is a simple reminder with the holiday season ready to kick off the need to be safe is still a high priority.

DEATH OF AN INNOCENT!

I went to a party, I remember what they said. They told me be responsible not to drink, so I drank Coke instead. I really felt proud inside, didn't think I would. I didn't drink and drive, even though the others said I should.

I know I did the right thing, had a great night. Now the party is finally ending, as everyone is driving out of sight. As I got

into my car, I knew I'd get home in one piece, because of the way I was raised, so responsible and sweet.

I started to drive away, but as I pulled out into the road, the "Other Guy" didn't see me, and hit me like a load. As I lay there on the pavement, I hear the policeman say, the "Other Guy" is drunk, and now I'm the one who will pay.

Why do people drink and drive? It can ruin your whole life. I'm feeling sharp pains now. Pains just like a knife. The "Other Guy" is walking, and I don't think its fair. I'm lying here dying and all he does is stare.

So remember it's not always your fault, sometimes it's the other guy. Please don't be the other guy.

VEHICLE TALK by MSgt Alejandro Clemenña VCO

Did you know the two most common accidents on McConnell occurs while backing up and not paying attention while driving! The permissible operating distance (POD) in a GOV at McConnell is 25 miles. All vehicle operators are responsible for removing any observed FOD from the flightline. Direct your questions or ideas to improve our service to your unit VCOs. **Thank you and drive safely!!!**

Personnel News You Can Use



Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF 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 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?



Effectively **IMMEDIATELY**, it now takes **9 unexcused absences to be involuntarily reassigned to the inactive reserve. Another action which may occur is involuntary demotion!**



Outprocessing

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

- *TDY for 30 day or more
- *Retirement
- *Separation *from unit*
- *Assignment
- *TDY to School tour

Contact MSgt Dee Melvin as X-3637 for more information



The AMN / NCO of the Quarter Board will meet on Saturday at 1400 in the Group Conference room. Contact the Senior Enlisted Advisor for more information.

931st Airman / NCO of the Quarter

The Airman / NCO of the Quarter Schedule:

Nomination Quarter	Due to DPMSC	Board Date
Oct – Dec	Dec UTA	Jan UTA
Jan – Mar	Mar UTA	Apr UTA



Airman / NCO of the Year Board

The Airman / NCO of the year board will meet 15 Nov 97 at 1400 hours in the group conference room. Uniform of the day will be service dress with ribbons. Report NLT 1345 to TSgt Adkins.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



PEP Nomination Packages

It's that time again! PEP packages are due to the *Career Enhancement* office NLT 11 Jan 98. Cut-off date for eligibility is 31 Jan 98. For more information contact MSgt Corinna Seitz at X-3665.



12 Outstanding Airman of the Year

Nominations are now being accepted until 30 Nov 97 for the 12 OAY. Any questions about submission requirements may be directed to the *Career Enhancement Office* (X-3665).



Vanguard NCO Award

Nominations for the Vanguard Award are due to the *Career Enhancement* office NLT 30 Dec 97. For more information on this award and submission requirements, contact MSgt Corinna Seitz at X-3665.



CCAF Graduation Ceremony

The 931st is once again honored to have members participating in the CCAF graduation ceremonies to be held in Emerald City on the 17th of November at 1600! The following will receive their Associates in Applied Science: MSgt Alex Clemena, MSgt Dallas Jones, TSgt Linwood Cottner, TSgt Johathan Wood, and SSgt Tracy Marshall. Look for the "full story" in next month's KANZA Spirit!!



Montgomery GI Bill recoupment for unsatisfactory participation is coming!! See next month's KANZA Spirit for complete details.



Professional Military Education

Airman Leadership School:

We have one ALS quota left for class dates: 28 Jul – 28 Aug 98. Interested SRA may obtain an application from *Base Training*.

AFRC NCO Leadership Development Program (NCOLDP):

Carswell has offered our members space in their classes. Dates are: 14 – 22 Feb 98
11 – 19 Apr 98, 13 – 21 Jun or 8 – 16 Aug 98. Interested SSgt's and TSgt's should contact *Base Training* for further information. Tinker has also offered us slots in their classes, but have yet to determine dates.

Command NCO Academy (in-residence):

Classes will be held at Goodfellow AFB, TX. Our dates are: 24 Feb – 2 Apr 98,
1 Jun – 9 Jul 98, or 3 Aug – 10 Sep 98. Interested TSgt's (and SSgt's with 8 years time in service) should complete and AFRES Form 129 (available at *Base Training*). Applications for February dates must be turned in NLT December UTA.

SR NCO Academy (in-residence):

Dates have been announced for the 2nd half of FY'98. They are: 13 May – 24 Jun 98,
29 Jul – 19 Aug 98 and 8 Sep – 20 Oct 98. Interested MSgt's should contact *Base Training* for application procedures (X-3587 or X-3673).



Ancillary Training for Newcomers

Because we WON'T be moving into the new building this month, we will still hold these classes in the CES building on Saturday afternoon. Time will be from 1230 – 1615.