

# KANZA SPIRIT

## 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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March 2004

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

Vol. 9, No. 3



## 18th ARS gets patch redesign

The group's flyers have officially adopted a more "modern" design for their official unit emblem. Maj. Michael Moeding, 18th Air Refueling Squadron pilot, created the new look for his squadron.

"The wings were changed to white/silver to reflect our Army roots and Air Force heritage (Navy wings are gold)," Moeding said. "A gold star was added at the top to represent excellence in all that we do, and that we are the first KC-135 reserve associate squadron."

Squadron members are currently wearing patches adorned with the new design. The patches were also enlarged to help the 18th's flyers "stand out," Moeding added.



graphic by Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

Master Sgt. Sheila Croninger (right) and Tech. Sgt. Debroada Cornelius were named the group's 2003 Senior Noncommissioned Officer and NCO of the Year, respectively.

**M**arch is Women's History Month, the time set aside annually for the recognition and celebration of the historic accomplishments of women.

Historically, the Air Force is one of the many U.S. institutions that have continued to expand the contributions women make to meet the mission.

Today, the Air Force is 20 percent female, a makeup that surpasses all other U.S. military branches. For every five airman, one is actually an "air-woman."

Approximately one in

every six pairs of combat boots walking around the 931st every Unit Training Assembly is worn by a woman. Add in the group's female civilian employees and the 931st's gender structure mirrors the 20th percentile of the entire Air Force.

In honor of Women's History Month, this month's Kanza Spirit looks at two of the group's best woman warriors, Master Sgt. Sheila Croninger, the 2003 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and Tech. Sgt. Debroada Cornelius, the 2003 NCO of the Year.

*Read more about the 931st's  
**Women of the Year** on page 4*



The number of women working alongside men in the Air Force continues to rise. In 1975, 5.4 percent of the force was female. It was 15.9 percent in 1995 and 20 percent in 2003.

**Commander,  
931st Air Refueling  
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**Deadlines**

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is close of business of the UTA.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

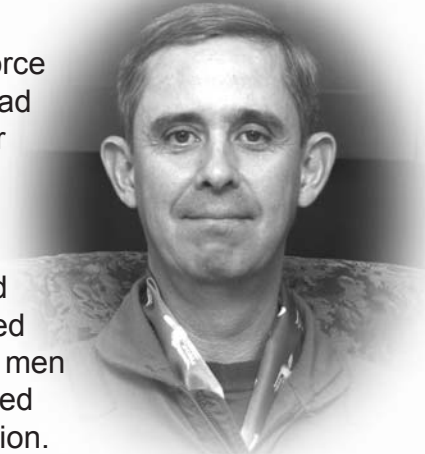
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The *Kanza Spirit* is mailed each month to all 931st ARG members on file with Personnel. Members not receiving their copy should check with their administration section to ensure their filed address is correct.

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

I just got back from the 4th Air Force Commander's Conference, where I had the honor of accepting, for you, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2003. It was indeed a thrill to stand before all 4th AF commanders and hear Maj. Gen Duignan announce and present the award. The 931st is indeed an outstanding group of hard working men and women. Thank you for your inspired dedication to the group and to the nation.



This month is Women's History Month. Take some time this month to reflect on the tremendous accomplishments of women within our group, the Air Force, America, and the world. Give a special "how you doing" to our 2003 SNCO and NCO of the Year winners. Tech. Sgt. DeBroada Cornelius is truly deserving of the NCO of the Year award. Her performance in our Mission Support Flight has made it one of the top flights in 4th AF. She just added an exclamation point to her award by graduating from the NCO Academy as a Distinguished Graduate.

Master Sgt. Sheila Croninger is also a real go-getter and deserving of the Senior NCO of the Year award. Her management of CES's training program has received numerous accolades from 4th AF and AFRC. I am proud to have these two accomplished women in the 931st ARG.

This month the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is asking for nominations for the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Nominate your employer if you feel they did a great job supporting you. The site is [www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com)

*Have a great UTA!*

Karl J. Hurdle, Colonel  
931st ARG Commander

**May UTA Rescheduled**

Group members should note that the May Unit Training Assembly has been rescheduled. The new dates are **May 1-2**.

**UTASCHEDULE**

**Next UTA: March 13-14**

April 17-18

May 1-2

June 12-13

# Reserve headquarters leads fit-to-fight test

## AFRC leaders get first taste of new program

AFRC News Service

### ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.

– It wasn't your typical workout crowd gathering at the base gym – unless you normally run with a general, colonels and chief master sergeants.

More than 40 senior leaders of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command took the new physical fitness test of push-ups, sit-ups and a mile-and-a-half run Feb. 10.

“We decided that our headquarters needed to lead the fit-to-fight program from the front,” said Maj. Gen. John Batbie, AFRC vice commander at Robins AFB. “So we gathered up our headquarters' leaders and set the pace for the command, which will begin fitness testing later on in April.”

Out in front of the running pack was Col. Michael A. Cleveland, director of personnel. He turned in the fastest time for the run, completing the six laps around the

quarter mile track in 8:38.

About 36 percent of the officers and chiefs scored above 80 points. Scores are based on a person's age, waistline and exercise scores. Airmen who score 75 or more points pass the test.

“This first test was a learning experience for everybody,” said Maj. Richard Watson, squadron section commander for the headquarters. “Our fitness representatives had their first shot at administering the test and our key staff officers and chiefs had their first taste of what the Air Force expects of them and their people to be fit to fight.”

Airmen from all Air Force components are expected to meet the new physical fitness program standards. People who score above 90 percent are considered in excellent health.

“Our headquarters leadership did very well on the test,” said General Batbie. “Overall, I think this test is a good motivator to keep everyone in the command focused on

healthier lifestyle choices. If every reservist keeps up with a good training program, this team will be better prepared to complete the Air Force mission.”

About 75,800 Air Force reservists train on full and part-time duty – ready for immediate tasking from higher headquarters. Since Sept. 11, 2001, approximately one in four Air Force reservists have been called up at some point. About 9,000 of the reservists are currently mobilized – on full-time, active-duty status by order of the president.

“Air Force Reserve Command members perform duty in almost every Air Force mission area,” said General Batbie. “Our ‘Citizen Airmen’ balance the demands of their military service with those of their families and civilian employers. Physical fitness is just one more way that our people go above and beyond the commitments of the average civilian life to make our mission a success.”

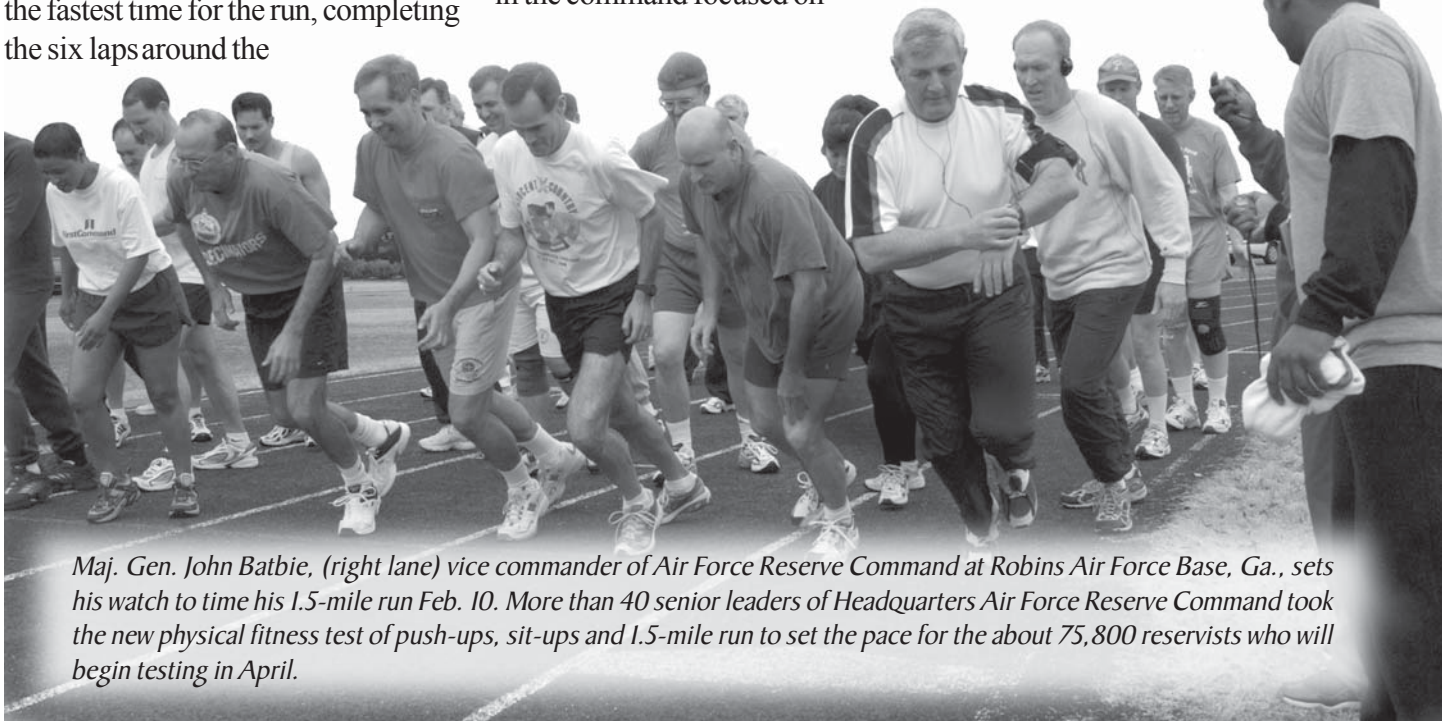


photo by Bo Joyner

Maj. Gen. John Batbie, (right lane) vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., sets his watch to time his 1.5-mile run Feb. 10. More than 40 senior leaders of Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command took the new physical fitness test of push-ups, sit-ups and 1.5-mile run to set the pace for the about 75,800 reservists who will begin testing in April.

# Tech. Sgt. Debroada Cornelius 2003 NCO of the Year

**T**ech. Sgt. Debroada Cornelius wasn't there when she was named the 2003 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year at the February Unit Training Assembly.

She was doing her professional military education, in residence at the NCO Academy in Texas.

Leaving family, home and work for weeks, rather than finish PME via correspondence, isn't always the popular choice for reservists. But taking the easier route isn't what Sgt. Cornelius is about. She approached the labors of attending school like she approaches the labors of her current position as the chief of the Military Personnel Flight's Career Enhancements section. She welcomed them.

stories and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap

“(Being chief) is challenging, especially when I don't want it to be,” Sgt. Cornelius said with

a slight smile. “But that's why I wanted it. It encompasses so many things that I knew if I could do it I could do anything in the MPF.”

She not only “does” her job, her commander, Capt. Martha Kuder, said Sgt. Cornelius “skillfully manages the most high-profile shop” in the MPF.

“Her section controls the very lifeblood of every 931st member's career,” Kuder said. And despite her “overwhelming responsibility,” Sgt. Cornelius is “on the top of her game at all times.”

Proving just how important Sgt. Cornelius is to the MPF, Capt. Kuder credits her for repeatedly helping with daily Career Enhancement operational needs kept even while she was at the NCO Academy.

“She was incredibly missed,” Capt. Kuder said. “She spent valuable time to help us and still graduated as a Distinguished Graduate.”

Like many award-winning airmen, recognition is not

(Above right) While talking to a co-worker, Tech. Sgt. Debroada Cornelius displays the positive work ethic that helped earn her the 931st's 2003 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award. Sgt. Cornelius is the Career Enhancement Chief for the Military Personnel Flight. (Right) Sgt. Cornelius is reflected in the picture she chose to display over her work space. The picture titled “RISK” reads, “A ship in the harbor is safe ... But that's not what ships were made for.”



new to Sgt. Cornelius. She was the also the distinguished graduate of her class when she went to school to retrain into personnel after 13 years working in transportation. She was named NCO of the Quarter while in transportation prior to earning the same award a year ago from the 931st.

Part of what Sgt. Cornelius attributes her success to is her ability to roll with the punches. “My (short-term) goals are always changing,” the Macon, Ga., native said. “Sometimes my biggest goal is monitoring my own attitude.”

One of her goals never changes. That's the goal, wherever Sgt. Cornelius' ventures take her, that will likely bring her more recognition.

“If I'm mentoring airmen I want to be the best mentor; if I'm training I want to be the best trainer,” she said. “Whatever situation I'm in I want to be the best.”



**M**aster Sgt. Sheila Croninger wants to be a chief master sergeant one day. Those who know a little about her know she'll likely get what she wants.

Being named the 931st's 2003 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year was just a cap on top of a long list of awards and achievements that adorn Sgt. Croninger's biography.

A year ago she was named the group SNCO of the Quarter. It was the fourth time she was recognized as a quarterly award winner. She's been a Student Leader of the Month, Airman of the Month, Junior Training Manager of the Year and even was nominated for the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Sgt. Croninger is the Civil Engineer Squadron's Education and Training Manager. She credits much of her current success to her decision to leave her active-duty stint as a communication and navigation systems specialist.

"I'm a people person. I found that out when I retrained," said the "Midwest" native (she was born in Sandwich, Ill., but subsequently moved around a lot).

Her decision to switch fields would also allow her to eventually become part of CES, the unit she calls her "second family."

"We have a strong sense of *Espirit de Corps* in CES," Sgt. Croninger said. "It's a group of people I'm proud to be a part of."

And as a self-proclaimed people person, her position

allows her to help all of her CES brothers and sisters.

"I really like helping people reach their potential," she said. "I like seeing the people around me succeed."

Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Summers, the 931st's Chief of Education and Training, said the programs run by Sgt. Croninger have done just that, succeed.

"I really can't say enough about how much I credit her for the success of so many individuals at CES," Summers said. "The education and training programs have changed 180 degrees for the better since Sgt. Croninger has been there."

More impressively, Sgt. Croninger keeps all the gears of her training machine oiled as a traditional reservist. And, somewhere in the mix of her civilian occupation as a full-time mother, her duties at CES and the plethora of other community activities she keeps herself busy with, Sgt. Croninger found time to finish her master's degree in Human Resource Management. She recently accepted a position as an adjunct professor with a local college.

Right now, Sgt. Croninger said she's concentrating on becoming a senior master sergeant, probably through the Promotion-for Exceptional Performers, more commonly known as "PEP," process. Then she knows she'll have her eyes on becoming a chief.

"I'm not sure how that is going to happen," she said, referring to the position and/or unit changes she'll have to do to get it. "But I know I want to be part of the CES family as long as I can."

## Master Sgt. Sheila Croninger SNCO 2003 of the Year

**Master Sgt. Sheila Croninger conducts a training class inside the headquarters of her unit, the Civil Engineer Squadron. Her success as the squadron's Education and Training Manager earned her the 931st's 2003 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award.**



## SPIRIT SHORTS

### **Personnel services now available at online Portal**

The personnel applications airmen and civilians use most often are now available online via the Air Force Portal. The applications now available include:

#### *Military:*

- Virtual Military Personnel Flight
- Air Force Officer Qualification Test Score
- Military Personnel Data System Status Website
- Reporting Instance of Production Password Change Utility
- Reserve Management Vacancy System
- Retraining Vulnerability Lists for NCO Retraining Program
- Virtual Out Processing
- Web Based Testing

#### *Civilian:*

- Career Brief
- Electronic Official Personnel Folder
- Emergency Medical Data System

- Employment Benefits Information System
- Employment
- On-line Career Program Registration

The Portal is located at **www.my.af.mil**

For more information about the Portal, call (800) 616-3775.

### **Beware credit card scam**

Government credit card holders are being warned about a scam involving unknown callers falsely identifying themselves as Bank of America employees working with the GTC program. They claim to be checking suspicious card activity and ask for account numbers, social security numbers and other personal information.

Cardholders should report any such attempts to their Agency Program Coordinator and the Bank of America at the 800 number on the back of their cards.

### **Quarterly Award deadline**

931st leaders are encouraged to nominate deserving airmen for quarterly awards. Nomination packages are due to the Military Personnel Flight by the end of the March UTA.

### **Group offers tax help**

The 931st finance office is offering tax filing assistance to group members and their families. For assistance by appointment, call Mrs. Jill Bruner at (316) 759-4633.

### **FEEA Scholarship**

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund is accepting applications for its 2004-2005 scholarship program. Eligible applicants are civilian federal employees with at least three years of service, and their dependents. Awards generally range from \$300 to \$1500. Applications must be postmarked by March 26. For more information visit **www.feea.org**.

## SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

**This month's selectee is a San Francisco, Calif., native who has been in the Air Force for 14 years.**

**Job title:** Computer Operator Technician

**Civilian job:** Air Reserve Technician

**Currently studying:** Computer Programming at Southwestern University

**Favorite way to relax:** Listen to music

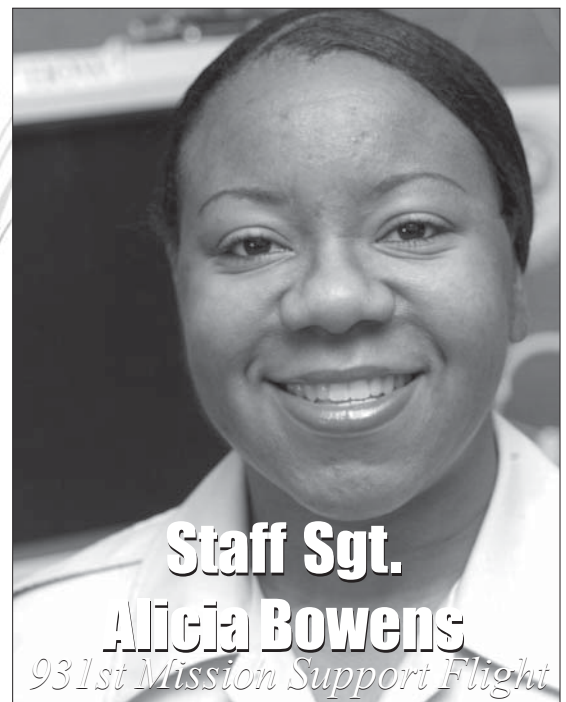
**What annoys me:** Beating around the bush

**Most influential person in my life:** My mother, she's awesome

**What I'm listening to now:** Angie Stone

**What I'm reading now:** School books

**If I won \$1 million, I would:** Go to school full time and invest



**Staff Sgt.**

**Alicia Bowens**

*931st Mission Support Flight*

## ROUND THE GROUP

# Group members encouraged to nominate employers for SecDef/ESGR recognition

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, announced today that the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award nomination process will now be open to all of the nation's employers.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 to recognize the significant contributions and sacrifices made by America's employers of National Guardsmen and Reservists. Previous recipients have included the Home Depot, Miller Brewing, American Airlines, American Express, Intel, and UPS.

"Today, in support of the war on terrorism and the ongoing operations in Iraq, an essential alliance has been formed as many of America's employers have become inextricably linked to the nation's defense by sharing their most precious asset, their employees", said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR Executive Director.

"We are encouraging all of America to visit the ESGR website at [www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com) and nominate public and private employers for this prestigious award that recognizes support above and beyond the USERRA Law for their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve", Hollingsworth added.

Nominations for the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award will be accepted at the ESGR website from February 1, 2004 to March 15, 2004. The

Recipients will be recognized on September 21, 2004 in Washington, DC.

As the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions within America's borders and beyond, ESGR will continue to be the contact agency for educational programs and services that enhance the relationship between civilian employers and their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

For more information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and ESGR volunteer opportunities, please call 800-336-4590 or visit our website at

# [www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com)



## Newcomers

Master Sgt. Carla Swingle  
931 MSF

Staff Sgt. Steven Sirois  
18th ARS

Senior Airman Darlene Burrell  
931 ARG

## Promotions

Master Sgt. Jerry L. Moore  
931AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Nash  
931 MSF

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Nollette  
931ARG

Tech. Sgt. Penny Ricketts  
931ARG

Staff Sgt. Christopher Norris  
18th ARS

Staff Sgt. James Sanders  
931MSF

Senior Airman Justin Triplett  
931MSF

Senior Airman Howard Burns  
931CES

Airman 1st Class  
Geoffrey Duncan  
931CES

## Graduates

Tech. Sgt. Debroadia Cornelius  
931 MSF  
NCO Academy (In-Residence)  
Distinguished Graduate

Senior Airman Jared Arrington  
931 MSF  
Security Forces Academy  
Distinguished Graduate

Senior Airman Jonathan Thyng  
931OSF  
Airman Leadership School

Airman 1st Class Ryan Jarboe  
931 MSF  
Security Forces Academy  
Distinguished Graduate

# WICHITA WEEKEND

## Yanni

March 12 – The same man who played live at the Acropolis and whose music defies borders and boundaries comes to the Kansas Coliseum. Show begins at 8 p.m. Call (316) 755-7328 or visit [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com) for tickets.

## Texas Hold'em

Saturday nights through March 27 – A 12-week tournament held in Emerald City on McConnell AFB. Registration begins 6 p.m., games begin 7 p.m. First and second place weekly finishers earn a seat in the final, March 27 tournament. Free for Club McConnell members, \$3 for non-members. Call (316) 759-6002 for more information.

## The Original

### Toughman Contest

March 12-13 – See the 25-year tradition that launched the careers of Mr. T, Butterbean and Tommy Morrison. Doors open at The Cotillion at 6:30 p.m.

Call (316) 755-7328 or visit [www.selectaseat.com](http://www.selectaseat.com) for tickets.

## Jericho Road

March 12 – One of Christian music's most popular boy bands is scheduled to perform at the Century II Convention Hall at 7 p.m.

Call (316) 721-8670 for ticket information.

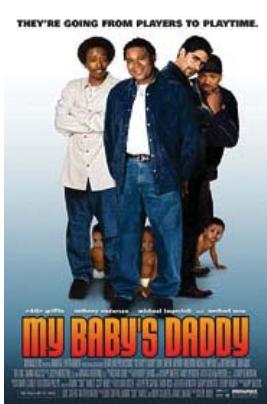
## The Music Man

March 13 – The Wichita Center for the Arts presents the famous musical "The Music Man." Begins 7 p.m. at the Wichita Children's Theatre at 9112 E. Central. Admission is \$4.50 for ages 2 and up. Call (316) 262-2282 for more information.

## Mozart's 'Requiem'

March 13 – The Wichita Symphony Orchestra presents "Requiem," one of Mozart's masterpieces, at the Century II Concert Hall. Part of the "Classic Series," traditional concerts performed by the full orchestra. Begins 8 p.m. Call (316) 267-7658 for more information or visit [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

# At The Movies

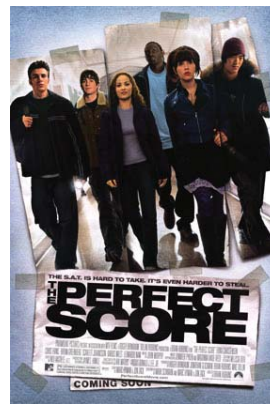


## MY BABY'S DADDY

FRIDAY, MARCH 12 7pm

1 hr. 30 min. Three buddies go from the party life to the family life when their girlfriends all get pregnant at the same time. Their journey teaches them as much about themselves as love and fatherhood.

**MPAA Rating:** PG-13 for sexual content, language and some drug references



## THE PERFECT SCORE

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 7pm

1 hr. 43 min. Six high school students band together to steal the answers to the S.A.T. in order to thwart the test from unfairly defining who they will become and show the only way to decide one's own fate is to beat the system.

**MPAA Rating:** PG for language and thematic elements

*Movies are shown at the McConnell Air Force Base Theater and are subject to change.*

*Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children 11 and under.*

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