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January, 2003

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas

Vol. 8, No. 1



'Twas the season

Alex McGill, 2, watches his mother, Tech. Sgt. Jodi McGill, 931st Maintenance Squadron, assemble a frame around his photo with Santa at the group Christmas party during the December UTA.

Smallpox vaccination to begin

Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

Air Force members will soon begin receiving smallpox vaccinations, as directed by President Bush Dec. 13.

The president, citing an increased bioterrorism threat since Sept. 11, 2001, ordered military members and others in high-threat areas to receive the smallpox vaccination.

While Air Force plans for the vaccination are still being worked out, the program's director said inoculations should begin in the next few months.

"We'll start as soon as possible," said Brig. Gen. Robert Smolen, director of nuclear and counterproliferation at the Pentagon. "I can't tell you if it'll be next week or 30 to 60 days, but it'll be somewhere in that timeframe, as opposed to six months or a year."

Smolen said inoculations will be given in phases, but will initially target

See VACCINE, Page 3

Pay raise OK'd

Incentives to stay, join included in bill

A minimum 4.1 percent military pay raise, more time to use education benefits and more incentive to join the Air Force Reserve are among the provisions of the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Dec. 2 by President Bush, the act authorizes an across-the-board pay raise of 4.1 percent with higher targeted raises for mid-level and senior NCOs and mid-grade officers.

In other ways, the FY 2003 defense bill mirrors the Department of Defense Appropriations Act signed by the president Oct. 23. Both bills call for end strengths of 75,600 reservists and 1,498 full-time Active Guard and Reserve members, as well as 9,911 full-time air reserve technicians in Air Force Reserve Command.

Congress differed, however, over funding for the command. The authorization act called for \$1.5 million more for operation and maintenance funding

See RAISE, Page 4

2003 Pay Chart on page 5



Vol. 8, No. 1

Commander, 931st Air Refueling Group

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2002 banner year for 931st, be ready for busy 2003

Col. Jeffery Glass

Group Commander

Kim and I hope each and every one of the 931st family had an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season.

I would like to thank each and every member of the unit for making Kim and I a part of your family. 2002 was a very good year for the 931st. The unit flew more Noble Eagle missions supporting the AWACS than any other unit and our patch is in a display at Air Mobility Command attesting to that fact.

May brought the 15th Air Force Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation team and the results were incredible, with many exceptional programs and individuals. Air Force Reserve Command tasked the unit this summer to begin deploying crews and maintainers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom through a total volunteer effort. The tasking continues and the support has been outstanding.

During September, we had a lot of fun during the annual picnic with the Blue

Angels. The unit exceeded our allotted flying time for the first time in the unit's history, a total team effort. October welcomed the Unit Compliance Inspection team and the results were very good with an almost record number of "Exceptional Performers".

Our Civil Engineers also had a busy year, preparing for another cancelled Inspector General's Exercise and also supplying numerous volunteers to deploy in support of Air Expeditionary Forces.

Now you ask what will 2003 bring? The unit will continue to support both Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom through our outstanding volunteerism.

Where the war on terrorism takes us next is anybody's guess. If you believe everything you see on TV, the next year could be very busy for all in the 931st. I will continue to update everyone on all that I learn, but be prepared.

Everyone needs to be up to date on all of your mobility items. Please help your deployment managers keep you current. I am sure no matter what 2003 brings, the 931st will continue its outstanding effort. Thanks again for a "SUPER" 2002.

Correction

The writer of the story "Fueling the Fight" on page one in the December edition of the Kanza Spirit is Tech. Sgt. David Brumley, not Staff Sgt. Jason Schaap.

UTA SCHEDULE

Next UTA: Jan. 11-12

Feb. 8-9

March 29-30

The *Kanza Spirit* is mailed each month to all 931st Air Refueling Group members on file with Personnel Systems. If you are not receiving your copy each month, check with your orderly room or administration section to ensure your address on file is correct.

Smallpox: 'We just can't afford not to do this...'

VACCINE, from page 1

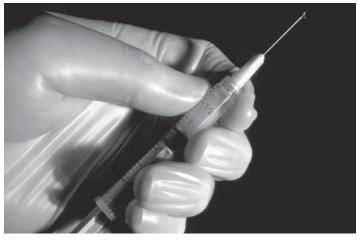
the active duty force.

One of the program's first goals is educating the force, Smolen said.

"(Smallpox) has been in the press for quite some time ... so we're just getting down to establishing the specifics," he said.

One specific item the program managers want to clarify is concern for the quality of the vaccine, and reports that it may have been diluted to "stretch" the supply.

"There is (currently) a limited supply of the vaccine the FDA has approved," said Lt. Col. (Dr) Kelly Woodward,



chief of preventive medicine at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency. "(The vaccine) is currently licensed to be used full-strength, and that is how we will use it."

Because the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been eradicated worldwide in 1980, the vaccine itself is several years old. But, Smolen said, that should actually be considered a benefit.

"I think we ought to take some comfort in that," he said. "While the vaccine may be old, this is (the) vaccine that has proven to be successful. The (supply) has been tested, and there's been no degradation to (quality)."

As successful as the vaccine has been in the past, Woodward points out that all inoculations involve some risk of side effect.

"Smallpox vaccine has some well-recognized side effects," he said. "Many people can expect to have minor side

effects such as feeling achy, low-grade fever, headache and itching at the (injection) site. Those are minor reactions, and resolve on their own."

The smallpox vaccine is a "live-virus" vaccine that uses vaccinia virus; however, people cannot contract smallpox from the vaccine, Woodward said.

Since it is a live-virus vaccine there can be occasional "big problems," he said. One such problem, though extremely rare, is the virus erupting widespread over the body, as opposed to staying limited to the vaccination site.

People who received the shots as children (the United States stopped its routine vaccination program in 1972) must still receive the inoculation.

"We know that, over time, the body's defenses against smallpox, that were gained through vaccination, decrease," Woodward said. "People, regardless if they've been vaccinated before, need to be revaccinate every 10 years."

A potential benefit to those being revaccinated, Woodward said, is that the threat of serious side effects is lower than for those getting the shot for the first time.

A benefit to all who receive the vaccination, Smolen said, is piece of mind.

"Certainly, if (people who have been vaccinated) go into a high-threat environment, they'll feel much better ... than if they had no protection at all," he said.

Even if no smallpox biological attack happens, the general said the vaccination program is well worth the effort.

"While there may never be an attack, it's still a prudent thing to do," he said. "We just can't afford to not to do this. It's an insurance policy the president has decided we need to take out, and we always buy insurance in the hope that we'll never use it."

According to Smolen, people can help reduce the risk of side effects by knowing their own medical histories.

"There are people we will recommend not take the vaccination, for very good reason," he said. "It's a good idea for people to talk to their family members to get as complete a medical history as possible. The more complete a picture you have, the better medical decision can be made."

For more information contact local military medical officials or visit the official Department of Defense smallpox vaccine Web site below.



RAISE, from page 1

to train, organize and run the command, and an additional \$18.4 million for military construction, primarily at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Several provisions of the authorization act are designed to make life easier for reservists.

To be eligible for a non-regular military retirement, reservists must now serve six years rather than eight years of continuous reserve component service immediately before qualifying for retired pay.

The authorization bill extends the maximum period reservists have to use their Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefit from 10 years to 14 years. Another provision treats an obligation to refund the United States as a debt when a reservist must repay benefits because he or she failed to participate satisfactorily in the Selected Reserve.

Congress also wants the Department of Defense to

Split disbursement now mandatory

All Air Force government travel card holders can expect to be filing split disbursements on their travel vouchers starting in the spring of 2003.

The Air Force is making the current optional process mandatory to combat delinquent government travel card payments to Bank of America, which holds the government travel card contract.

"It will especially help people who tend to procrastinate," said Rhonda Griggers-Evans, government travel card service coordinator for Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. "They don't need to write a check or even put a stamp on an envelope. They know the bill is paid."

Griggers-Evans expects split disbursements to become mandatory during the April to June timeframe.

She said using the process is a simple, easy way to manage government travel cards. Account holders select the option when filing their travel voucher and enter how much they want Bank of America to receive toward their bill. The payment is sent directly from their finance office to Bank of America.

Air Force officials said split disbursements reduce operating costs and make it easier to avoid late fees and delinquencies.

clamp down on travel card abuses. DOD is authorized to withhold or deduct from the pay of a DOD employee or member of the armed forces funds for payment of delinquent travel card charges when the person is delinquent in paying and does not dispute the amount of the delinquency.

Enlisted people may receive more basic allowance for subsistence when they are assigned to single government quarters without adequate availability of meals from a government messing facility.

The services have the option of reducing the threeyear time-in-grade requirement for retirement of officers in the grades of O-4 and above.

To help families, Congress authorized continued eligibility of family members for TRICARE Prime Remote when the sponsoring service member is ordered to active duty for more than 30 days and transferred from a duty that qualified the family for care but the family is not authorized to accompany the sponsor at the new duty assignment. Certain surviving dependents may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program after the family discontinued enrollment in the program.

Each year Congress renews one-year extensions of bonuses and special pay. This year's extensions through Dec. 31, 2003, include:

- · Special pay for health-care professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve in critically short wartime specialties;
- · Selected Reserve affiliation, enlistment and reenlistment bonuses;
- · Special pay for enlisted members of the Selected Reserve assigned to certain high-priority units;
- · Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonuses; and
 - · Prior-service enlistment bonus until Dec. 31, 2003.

To attract more prior-service people with critical skills, the enlistment bonus rates increased from a maximum of \$5,000 to \$8,000 for a six-year enlistment and from \$2,500 to \$4,000 for three years. The incentive to reenlist or extend for another three years went from \$2,000 to \$3,500 for people who enlisted for three years.

As another enlistment incentive, Congress extended the time period members who enlist in the reserve delayed training program from 270 days to one year.

A unique enlistment incentive program potentially ties active duty, reserve and public service together in one program. After completing an initial active-duty service commitment, an individual may serve an additional period of ac-

JANUARY 2003



							Years	of Service							
	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over
O-	7 828.12	866.56	884.40	898.56	924.12	949.44	978.72	1007.92	1037.20	1129.16	1206.84	1206.84	1206.84	1206.84	1212
0-	6 613.76	674.28	718.52	718.52	721.28	752.16	756.28	756.28	799.28	875.24	919.84	964.44	989.80	1015.48	1065
O-	5 511.68	576.40	616.32	623.80	648.64	663.60	696.36	720.40	751.40	798.92	821.56	843.88	869.28	869.28	869
O-	4 441.48	511.04	545.16	552.76	584.40	618.36	660.60	693.52	716.36	729.48	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12	737
O-	3 388.16	440.04	474.96	517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	63
O-	2 335.36	381.96	439.92	454.76	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	46
O-	1 291.16	303.00	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	36
O-3	E			517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	640.84	654.80	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92	67
O-2	E			454.76	464.16	478.92	503.84	523.12	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	53
0-1	E			366.24	391.16	405.60	420.36	434.88	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	45
E-	.9						475.24	486.00	499.60	515.60	531.64	557.44	579.24	600.84	63
E-	-8					396.72	408.16	418.84	431.68	445.60	470.68	483.40	505.00	517.00	54
E-	7 275.80	301.04	312.52	323.76	335.52	355.72	367.12	378.44	398.72	408.84	418.48	424.36	444.20	457.04	48
E-	6 236.08	259.68	271.16	282.28	293.88	320.12	330.32	341.64	351.56	355.08	361.28	361.28	361.28	361.28	36
E-	5 216.72	231.16	242.32	253.80	271.60	286.92	298.24	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	30
E-	4 200.36	210.64	222.04	233.24	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	24
Е	3 180.92	192.28	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	20
E-	2 172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	17
E-1>	4 153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	15

tive duty or 24 months in the Selected Reserve. The person would then fulfill the remaining obligation in the active force, Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, Peace Corps, Americorps or other national service program, or some combination of these programs. Participants would have to meet all military service eligibility requirements and elect one of the following incentives:

- \$5,000 bonus payable after completing 15 months of active duty;
- Repayment of a qualifying student loan, not to exceed \$18,000;
- · Educational allowance at the monthly rate payable under the Montgomery GI Bill for 12 months; or
- · Educational allowance of one-half of the monthly rate payable for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for 36 months.

Program participants who are oth-

erwise qualified and volunteer to continue serving on active duty may be considered for reenlistment or extension on active duty and any additional benefits for which they may be eligible.

In a recognition program for enlisted reservists, individuals who receive the Air Force Cross or equivalent for extraordinary heroism are authorized a 10 percent increase in retired pay.

The secretary of defense may prescribe a flat-rate stipend for military retirees and others who are not service members or government employees who participate in funeral honor details. The stipend is in lieu of receiving payments for transportation and miscellaneous expenses.

Provisions for the good of the service include:

· Repealing the prohibition on full-time Active Guard and Reserve members to perform base security functions;

- · Authorizing use of trained contractors to perform security guard duties for up to three years after enactment of the bill if those duties would have been performed by members of the Armed Forces; and
- · Postponing the requirement for significant joint service experience for appointment as the chief of Air Force Reserve until Dec. 31, 2004.

Some benefits offered by defense bills are not immediate because DOD and Air Force must implement policies and programs before these benefits are delivered to service members.

In some cases, Congress issues additional clarification in later defense bills. For example, the FY 2003 bill corrects a provision from the FY 2002 bill to provide transitional health care to dependents of members separated from active duty who are eligible for transitional health care.



Mission Orient Protective Post

Don overboots. People wearing contact lenses nee remove them. MO 2 reduces transitio time from MOPP 1 MOPP 4.

Mission Oriented Protective Posture

Keep helmet on, take off the other gear, don protective overgarments, and then put on web belt, canteen and gas mask carrier. Carry overboots, hood and rubber gloves with cotton inserts. Action is required when **Alarm Condition** Yellow is declared in a nuclear, biological or chemical environment.

Mission Oriented Protective Posture

Don helmet, web belt with canteen and protective mask carrier. Carry overgarment pants and jacket, overboots, and rubber gloves with cotton inserts.



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need to MOPP sition PP 1 to



Add protective mask and hood. Do not wear rubber gloves with cotton inserts so delicate tasks requiring unhindered sense of feel or touch can be performed. Used when chemicals are in a vapor form.

Mission Oriented Protective Posture

4

Includes overgarment pants and jacket, protective mask, hood, overboots, and rubber gloves with cotton inserts. MOPP 4 provides maximum protection from the hazards of a nuclear, biological or chemical environment.nuclear, biological or chemical environment.



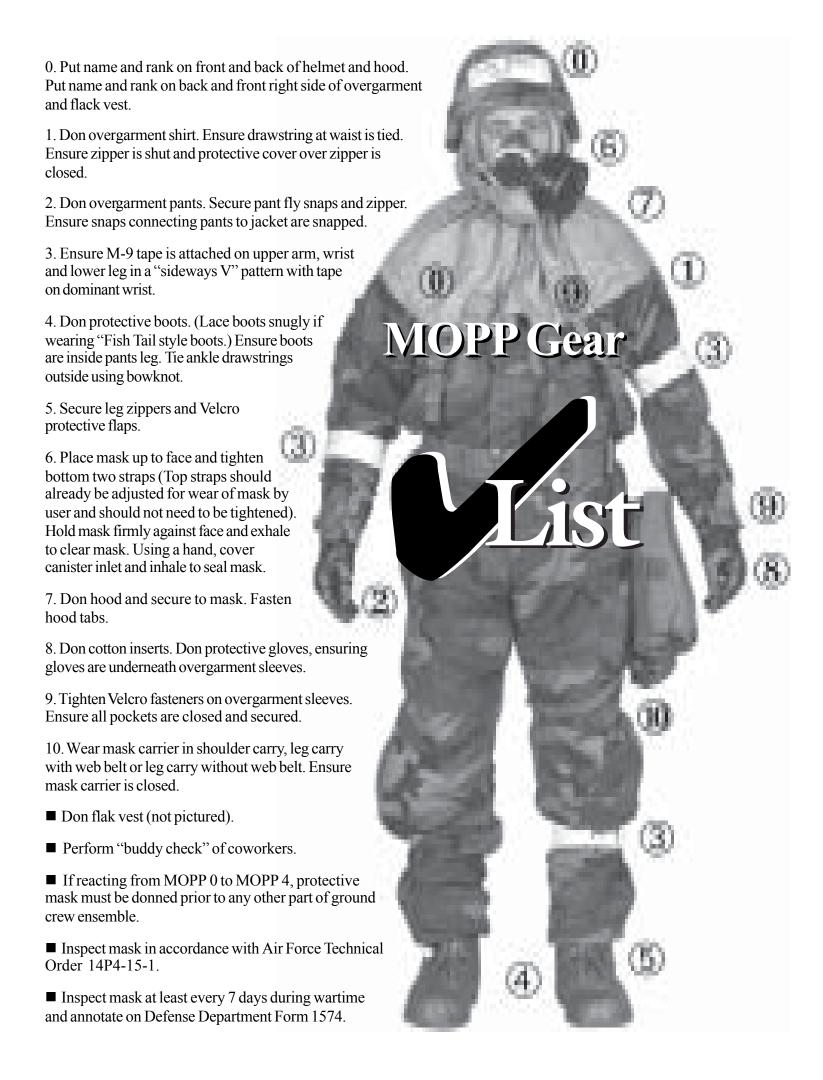


Mission Oriented Protective Posture

A

Protective mask, hood, and rubber gloves with cotton glove inserts worn.
Used to reduce heat stress and when chemicals are in vapor form. Used when there is a nuclear or biological threat, or when a chemical threat is minimal and down wind from present conditions.





931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY April 12

Employer Nomination Form

Here's your chance to let your boss see what you do in your military jobs and for them to understand the mission of the 931st Air Refueling Group and the Air Force Reserve. Your boss will be invited to visit the group on Saturday, April 12, 2003. They'll get a mission briefing, find out about the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, visit your work center, have lunch and fly aboard a KC-135 (subject to mission requirements). Reservists are required to be on duty status, in uniform, pay for their own lunch and provide a tour of their work centers and units.

Please complete the form below if you would like your civilian supervisor to participate. Priority will go to employers who haven't participated in previous employer events with the 931st. This event is not for family members of friends. This form is for 931 ARG/PA use only.

Fill out and mail this form to 931 ARG/PA, 53280 Topeka Street, Suite 221, McConnell AFB, Kan., 67221-3723, or drop it off in the PA office on the second floor of the headquarters building by the end of the February 2003 UTA. You can also fax the form to (316) 759-3393.

Don't pass up this opportunity to play host to your employers and give them a taste of what the Air Force Reserve is all about.

YOUR NAME		
RANK	SQUADRON	
PHONE NUMBER ()	
YOUR EMPLOYER'S N.	AME	
TITLE		
COMPANY NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE NUMBER ()	



Air Force Spouse Scholarships

The Aerospace Education Foundation is sponsoring 30 \$1000 scholarships to encourage Air Force spouses to further their college education.

The deadline for applying is Jan. 31. Contact Pam Summers at (316) 759-5423 for more information and an application.

Undergraduate Tuition Assistance increases

The tuition assistance rate has increased to \$250 per semester hour for undergraduate studies with the annual cap per person increasing to \$4,500.

Graduate study assistance will remain at \$187.50 per semester hour. For more information, call (316) 759-5423.

American Legion Spirit of Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the American Legion Spirit of Service Award through Feb. 9.

For nomination guidelines, contact Patrick Johnson at (316) 759-3587.

Lodging open until end of month

Military identification card holders are eligible through Jan. 31 to make Space Available reservations at the Air Capital Inn for up to two weeks.

Reservations must be made two weeks prior to the date needed. Call (316) 759-6999 or 1-888-AFLODGE to make reservations.

Group feedback program to be implemented

A new Suggestion and Feedback program is being implemented at the group to give all members an opportunity to be heard and understood. Suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement, as well as comments about what makes the unit successful are welcome.

Forms and boxes to put them in will be placed on each floor of building 850 and near the Civil Engineering and Aero Medicine Flight orderly rooms.

Any and all ideas are welcome, especially suggestions to fix recognized problems.

One of these concerns and the out come will be featured monthly in the Commanders Corner of the *Kanza Spirit*.

All other concerns will be addressed by phone and/or e-mail.

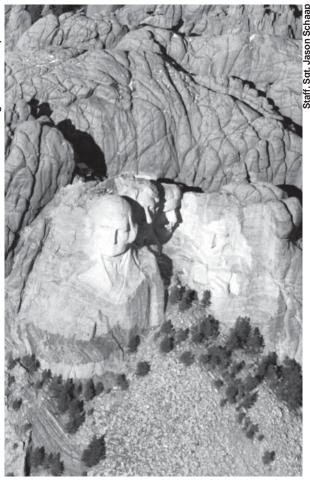




Fitting Flight



(Above) Richard Vogt, Sedgwick County Chief Technology Officer (kneeling), and Kent Meyerhoff, attorney at Fleeson Gooing Coulson & Kitch, LLC, peer out the window of a KC-135 Stratotanker during a flight that brought them over a memorial to four of the United States' greatest leaders, Mount Rushmore (photo of view on right). The 93Ist ARG sponsored the flight during the last UTA for Leadership Wichita, a program of the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce that encourages local leaders to take more significant roles in their community.





Congratulations to those honored at the Non-Commissioned Officer Induction Ceremony during the December Unit Training Assembly. The front row (L-R): Master Sgt. Al Ryder, Master Sgt. Tina Proulx, Master Sgt. Don Saft, Master Sgt. Christine Lewis, Master Sgt. Nancy Link, Master Sgt. Sheila Croninger, Master Sgt. Debra Lee, Staff Sgt. Penny Ricketts, Master Sgt. Joe Powell. Back row (L-R): Master Sgt. Delbert Lumpkins, Master Sgt. Noah Ordoyne, Jr., Master Sgt. Kent Johnson, Master Sgt. Don Ellis, Master Sgt. James Kirk, Master Sgt. Edward Estagin, Master Sgt. Michael Gill, Staff Sgt. Greg Carron, Staff Sgt. Brandon Yandell.

WICHITA WEEKEND

Fifth Annual Blues Ball

Jan. 11 – Begins 8 p.m. at the Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg. Doors open at 7 p.m. Advance tickets \$10 at Select-A-Seat outlets, the Cotillion and plant employee clubs; \$12 at the door. For more information, call (316) 722-4201.

Thunder Hockey

Jan. 10 – Wichita Thunder host the Indianapolis Ice in Central Hockey League action. Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum.

Jan. 11 – Wichita Thunder host the Tulsa Oilers. Game time is 6:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coliseum Tickets available at Select-A-Seat locations and the Kansas Coliseum.

8 Ball Tournament

Jan. 10—The McConnell AFB Enlisted Club will host an 8 Ball Tourney starting at 6 p.m. There is a \$10 entry fee. Winner takes all. House rules apply. For information, call (316) 759-6003.

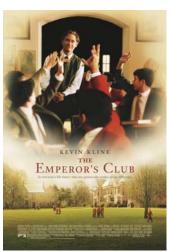
Wichita Symphony Orchestra

Jan. 11 – The Wichita Symphony will perform works by Handel/Diemecke, Haydn and Dvorak with cellist Wendy Warner and guest conductor Enrique Diemecke.

Begins 8 p.m. at Century II Concert Hall. Tickets \$12.50-\$26.50, at the box office or online at www.ticketweb.com.

For information, call (316) 267-7658.

At The Movies



THE EMPEROR'S CLUB

FRIDAY, JAN 10 7pm

1 hrs. 49 min. Kevin Kline is a passionate Classics professor who finds his tightly-controlled world shaken when a new student joins his class. The two form a relationship that results in a life lesson for Kline's character.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for some sexual content



THE TRUTH ABOUT CHARLIE

SATURDAY, JAN 11 7pm
1 hr. 44 min. A young woman in Paris meets a mysterious man, played by Mark
Wahlberg, who tells her that her dead husband's money is really his. He's convinced she's hiding it.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 for some violence and sexual content/nudity

Movies are shown at the **McConnell Air Force Base Theater** and are subject to change. Admission is **\$2.25** for adults, **\$1.50** for children 12 and under.

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