### Inside Inside • Readiness Team Page 3 • "Mail Call!" Page 4 • Ritchie retires Page 5

**McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas** 

April 2002

## Commander's conference focuses on war, retention

#### By Capt. Andra Higgs

4<sup>th</sup> Air Force Public Affairs

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – Five months after Sept. 11 launched America into its first war of the  $21^{st}$  century, the message to  $4^{th}$  Air Force squadron, group and wing commanders was clear.

"The people in America will look to us – the men and women who wear the uniform – and expect us to win this war," said Maj. Gen. James P. Czekanski, 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force commander.

That message opened a two-day meeting in February for 300 leaders from the 13 major flying organizations aligned under the numbered air force flag.

With more than 3,100 of the 24,000 men and women under his command mobilized for the war, Czekanski emphasized the unique opportunities his commanders have to defend America. Cops under his command are providing about 20 percent of the current Air Force ground fighting and security force. For them and other mobilized reservists, the days of serving one weekend a month and two weeks a year are a thing of

"We've all had to change with the world, and the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve have been changed forever," the general said.

the past.

Beyond the war effort, March's 452<sup>nd</sup> Air Mobility Wing and the 445<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, are The C-141 fleet is scheduled for retirement in 2006, a three-year process slated to begin next year.

possible candidates to receive C-17 aircraft

as replacement for the aging C-141 Starlifter.

See conference, Page 7



the 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 184<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing and the 931<sup>st</sup>.

Col James Bouska (right), 931st Air Refueling Group commander, and Lt. Col.

Ray Kozak listen as three staff members from Senator Sam Brownback's office

ask questions concerning the unit's mission. Katie Weyforth and Jay Wolff from Brownback's Washington office and Tamara Baker from the senator's Wichita

office visited McConnell Air Force Base to get an orientation and update from

Spirit Photo\ Maj. David Fruck



## Protecting information is vital

#### **By Patrick J. Fox**

Headquarters Air Combat Command

- Our Air Force desire to excel while getting the more likely he will give up trying. bombs on target too often leads to overlooking of battle.

OPSEC, if applied correctly and consistently tion of air and space.

One important piece of OPSEC is informaand information systems.

OPSEC doesn't matter.

phones, radios, and other technical assets. No system, and the receivers' need-to-know. matter how secure these systems become, the security of the systems you touch.

time you touch these systems or use the infor- ment. mation obtained from them. Here are the minimum steps necessary

others in the area.

Protect the passwords used to access your cret" hiding places in your desk. Intruders will service, or on a contract.

find them. Follow established procedures for building your password each time you change it. The more difficult you make it for an in-LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) truder who is trying to guess your password,

When talking about information systems, be the importance of operations security in the heat careful with what you say about infrastructure. Open discussion about information-system vul-We always promise ourselves to do better nerabilities could give adversaries the avenue the next time but never seem to get there. they need to exploit them. Remember, the more There are many reasons why we are stuck you say or type, the easier it will be for the in this continuous cycle. The fact is that expert intruder to manipulate your system.

If your duties include acquiring information across the spectrum of Air Force operations, systems, be aware of the depth of information starting now, will make a difference in our abil- you release to the vendor. Telling the vendor ity to achieve our ultimate mission - to defend why you need a particular equipment configuthe United States through control and exploita- ration may be the key an intruder is looking for to access your unit's information infrastructure.

When discussing operational information, retion assurance - protecting our information gardless of its classification level, think twice about giving more information than necessary The current state of IA would be much far- to accomplish the task at hand. Operational inther along had our Air Force culture paid closer formation includes every part of your job in the attention to OPSEC as the cyber world was Air Force. Whether you are the director of an emerging. Whether that inadequate attention to air operations center making decisions about OPSEC was due to lack of individual OPSEC combat activities or an information specialist awareness, lack of OPSEC training across the assigned to the military personnel flight, it's your Air Force, or lack of leadership emphasis on job to think about the sensitivity of the information you are about to discuss or type, the vul-IA doesn't mean just computers, tele- nerabilities of your communications or computer

Know who the OPSEC point of contact is most important variable is the human operator for your unit and ask for assistance in develop-- you. If you are uneducated, unaware, or ing OPSEC critical-information lists that include unconcerned, you are the greatest threat to the information assurance elements. Post the OPSEC CI lists next to each computer terminal You must adjust your frame of mind every for ease of reference and awareness develop-

Preach OPSEC awareness in your office. Don't look the other way if you notice some-Think about the immediate surroundings one practicing poor OPSEC when discussing to determine the facility's level of sensitivity or handling operational information. Your re-(i.e., sensitive classified information facility, minder to work associates, combined with your open office area, cubicle, etc.). This will also obvious attention to OPSEC awareness, will raise your awareness of the need-to-know of become contagious. We'll all benefit from your perseverance.

Remember: OPSEC is the 24-hours-a-day, systems. Don't leave passwords on, under, or 7-days-a-week responsibility of each Air Force next to desks or equipment surfaces or in "se- employee, whether you are in uniform, in civil



Vol. 7, No. 4

Commander, 931st Air Refueling Group Col. Jim Bouska

**Spirit Staff** Maj. Dave Fruck, Chief of Public Affairs Vacant Editor Tech Sgt. David Brumley, Staff Writer and Photographer

#### How to reach us

Kanza Spirit 931st Air Refueling Group 53280 Topeka Street Suite 221 McConnell AFB, KS 67221 Commercial Phone: (316) 759-3616 DSN: 743-3616 Fax: (316) 759-3393 e-mail:

David.Fruck@mcconnell.af.mil

#### **Deadlines**

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is the 20th of each month

#### Legal info

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

Contents of the Kanza Spirit are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Air Force.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 931st Public Affairs Office.

All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated

### NEWS

## 3 🕌

## **Going for the Gold:** Civil Engineers Compete for National Team Excellence Award in Las Vegas

#### By Maj. David Fruck

931<sup>st</sup> Public Affairs

Having already earned several military awards, McConnell Team Readiness traveled to Las Vegas March 11 - 13 to compete with 16 civilian organizations for a national quality award.

The National Team Excellence Award, sponsored by the Association for Quality and Participation, recognizes teams that most clearly and effectively demonstrate the principles and techniques of improving quality through participation.

Just getting to the team final event in Las Vegas was noteworthy. The team had to submit a video presentation which was reviewed and graded by AQP judges. After being notified they had made it to the national competition, the team refined their presentation and spent time practicing for what would be a very tough competition.

In the end, McConnell Team Readiness didn't win a national award by finishing among the top three teams. But all members agreed all the competitions were worthwhile. "It has been a great learning experience for all of us," said Tech. Sgt.



Spirit Photo\ Maj. David Fruck

Tech. Sgts. Victor Vaughn (left) and John Bryan pack up part of their display following the team's presentation during the National Team Excellence competition.



Spirit Photo\ Maj. David Fruck

McConnell Team Readiness members receive a National Team Excellence finalist plaque from Warren Krompf, chief judge for the Association of Quality and Participation competition held March 11-13 in Las Vegas.

John Bryan, 931<sup>st</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron. "We had the opportunity to show our system to a lot of people both in the military and civilian world."

Developed in late 1998, McConnell Team Readiness was formed to develop a better way to decontaminate troops and their uniforms in the event of a biological or chemical attack. A joint effort began with members of the 931<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Group, 184<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing and 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Wing personnel. Along the way, the team won two awards from Air Force Reserve Command, one from Air Mobility Command, and narrowly missed winning the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award twice.

While many members of the team have subsequently moved on to different bases, the contamination and control system will continue on. "We have proven that this system works," said Master Sgt. Morris Findley, the leader of the team. "It's mobile, durable and cost-effective."

Besides Bryan, other team members from McConnell who attended the event included Maj. Kim Thompson, 931<sup>st</sup> CES commander, Tech. Sgt. Vic Vaughn, 931<sup>st</sup> CES, Senior Master Sgt. Bob Homan, 184<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Staff Sgt. Fred Schmidt, 22<sup>nd</sup> ARW, and Staff Sgt. Jim Vause, 22<sup>nd</sup> ARW.



# Around the Force Co

### Services Respond to Electronic Age's "Mail Call!"

#### **By Jim Garamone**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members through the ages have lived for mail. Whether in the trenches around Vicksburg, Miss., in 1863 or in Pleiku, South Vietnam, in 1967, soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have always looked forward to the shout, "Mail Call!"

But today, instead of the platoon sergeant shuffling through letters and calling out names, the mail call come- and-get-it is more likely a delivery announcement that pops up when you connect your computer to the Internet.

Electronic mail has become ubiquitous in America at large. Some service members are using e-mail to keep in touch with family and friends no matter where they may be, including distant battlefields.

The war against terrorism takes full advantage of the technology available to the U.S. military. Part of that technology helps soldiers, airmen and Marines in Central Asia who are using computers to keep in touch, said service officials.

The Air Force has an ambitious e-mail post office called <u>GIMail</u>, which is accessible from www.afcrossroads.com/html/communications/index.cfm, said Air Force Maj. Jay Doherty of Air Force Family Matters at the Pentagon. Accounts are free and open to members of all the services. Visit the site for more information and conditions of use.

"It is a 'dot.mil site," Doherty said. "Military members themselves have to go in and register. Once they do, e-mail can be sent to and from *name@gimail.mil.*" Deployed personnel can access the site from any computer with an Internet connection. Families without home computers may be able to access GIMail accounts using equipment in service family centers on installations, or libraries or schools.

GIMail is intended for shortterm "keep-in-touch" use by service "I was recently aboard the USS Peleliu," she continued. "There, they have computers all over the ship and you can log right onto e-mail accounts. If you get a good connection, the turnaround time is sometimes 10 minutes."

Carl said she can't think of anyone aboard ship who doesn't take advantage of the service. "Some of the sailors are encouraging their par-



Photo by Capt. Charles Grow, USMC. A Marine in the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) checks his personal E-mail account while on station in Kandahar, Afghanistan in January 2002.

members and families. To keep itself lean, the system deletes mail after 90 days and automatically deletes accounts not accessed for 90 days.

The Navy has a sophisticated e-mail system for sailors deployed aboard ship. "It's getting better all the time," said Navy spokeswoman Lt. Brauna Carl. "In 1998, I deployed on the USS Whidbey Island. We had to save e-mail as text files and it was all sent out once a day at one time. ents and grandparents to figure out how to use a computer so they can stay in touch," she said.

The Marines who went into Camp Rhino and later Kandahar, Afghanistan, had e-mail connections with their families stateside, Marine officials said. There were no "dedicated" official resources to the program and, in fact, no formal program at all. Marines, with their commanders' blessings, used official computers on off-hours to read and send email.

Soldiers in the area are also maintaining contact. "There is no formal set up, like we have in Bosnia and Kosovo," said Kathleen Cole, a specialist with the Army's Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va. In the Balkans, the Army has set up "cyberhuts," which are small buildings with computers inside and a small satellite dish on top.

"We have nothing like that in Afghanistan," Cole said. "We don't know how long we will be there and, let's face it, the commanders are running combat operations. Those, of course, have priority."

In more settled areas, the services have video-telephone capabilities. These aren't in place in Central Asia yet, but the capability is mobile and could be deployed if needed.

The services see e-mail as a critical morale booster, and they continue to seek ways to improve it.

"We're looking at having a capacity to videostream e- mails," said the Air Force's Doherty. "In other words, send e-mails with videoclips so that while you're deployed, you don't miss the Soapbox Derby or the baby's first steps."

This means time zones don't matter when scheduling videophone e-mail. "It may be noon in Washington, but three o'clock in the morning where your loved one is deployed," Doherty said. Just fire off an e-mail with that ballet clip attached, he said. The recipient can open it at his or her leisure.

#### APRIL 2002

## DoD Fights Government Credit Card Abuse

#### **By Linda Kozaryn**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense officials are on the trail of anyone who hasn't paid their government travel credit card bill and those who've misused government purchase cards.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld "is moving forcefully" to correct department travel and purchase credit card problems, "which he considers to be very serious," DoD Comptroller Dov S. Zakheim said in a Pentagon press briefing today. The department intends to have a package of remedies in the form of proposed legislation or administrative changes within 60 days, he added.

Zakheim said he set up a task force about a week ago made up of the DoD inspector general and Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and representatives from the Office of Personnel Management, Justice Department and Office of Management and Budget. The task force objectives are to investigate and punish wrongdoers, develop reforms, and improve training and senior management enforcement.

The Defense Department has issued about 1.4 million travel credit cards to individual employees and service members. Last year, cardholders charged some \$3.4 billion using the cards. The department has also issued about 207,000 purchase cards to persons authorized to buy office supplies and equipment. Last year, \$6.1 million was spent using DoD purchase cards.

Defense officials say users' current delinquency rate on travel cards is 11.7 percent and 3 percent for centrally billed purchase card accounts. Accounts are considered delinquent when payment is not made within 60 days. Punishment for card misuse, fraud and abuse include termination of DoD employment, imprisonment, probation, restitution, fines and demotion, officials said.

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service has 17 open investigations involving 90 persons allegedly involved in credit card fraud. Other completed cases have resulted in jail terms, probation and restitution. Examples:

-A Florida man, for example, pleaded guilty to placing fraudulent charges on 13 government credit cards. He was sentenced to 18 months in jail and 36 months' probation, and ordered to pay \$262,840 in restitution and other fees.

-In another case, a Texas man pleaded guilty to using a government credit card to buy a television for personal use. He was fired and sentenced in federal court to a \$3,000 fine and \$1,400 in restitution.

-A Virginia man must pay \$400,200 in restitution after pleading guilty to bribing Joint Staff Supply Service employees to buy from his office supplies



Air Force Photo Courtesy of the 931st AGS

#### Career Completed

Senior Master Sgt. Ted Ritchie (right) was recognized during the March Unit Training Assembly by Col. James Bouska, 931<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Group commander. Ritchie, a member of the 931<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron, is retiring to Shelton, Wash., after a 35-year military career.

company using their government credit cards. He was sentenced to 27 months in jail and 36 months' probation.

"The point is we do prosecute," Zakheim stressed. "We do get convictions, and people do pay either in jail time or in money or both."

Zakheim called the credit card programs a major and essential part of DoD's efforts to improve its business practices. The cards cut costs, free up funds for critical requirements and create the potential for accountability.

"What we're looking for now is better ways of executing that," he said. "The issue is not to eliminate the cards — that is going backward. ... What we've got to do is prevent misuse."

The problem is not widespread, Zakheim stressed. "I think sometimes people get the impression that there is this overwhelming degree of misuse. It is simply false." While the delinquency rate on the DoD

cards is higher than for private sector cards, he noted, that doesn't mean the department thinks it's acceptable.

"No abuse is acceptable," he stressed. "No delinquency is acceptable."

Since April 2001, defense officials have taken steps to reduce misuse, fraud and abuse and have succeeded in cutting the total delinquent amount from \$20 million to about \$6.9 million, he said. Because of one step, for instance, employees can't transfer to another office or leave the department until delinquent credit card charges are addressed.

"In other words, you can't just skip town," Zakheim said.

Defense officials are looking at ways to make both individuals and supervisors responsible for fraudulent charges. "The best way to encourage people to do things properly is if they know it's ultimately going to come out of their pocket," he said.

## **Spirit Shorts**

#### Military Personnel Flight hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are: Mondays through Fridays—7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; UTA Saturdays—8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and UTA Sundays—10 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### MPF MINIMUM MANNING

The MPF will be minimally manned during the May UTA.

#### **ART Orientation**

Newly hired enlisted ARTS should attend this course within their 1<sup>st</sup> year of being hired. It is now an in residence course, held at Robins AFB, Ga. The next class is June 4-5. Contact your unit training manager or Group Training to request a slot.

#### GI Bill Stoppage

Effective June 1, members receiving reserve (chapter 1606) GI Bill payments must call the VA (1-877-823-2378) each month to certify the number of credit hours they are taking. Members who fail to call will not receive their monthly check.

#### Airman Leadership

FY '02 dates have been announced. Senior Airmen with 48 months time in service are eligible to attend ALS. Interested members may contact Group Training for further information.

#### NCO Leadership

Class dates from both Tinker and Ft. Worth Joint Reserve Base (Carswell) are available. Interested staff sergeants and tech sergeants can contact Group Training for information.

#### Hometown News

Have you just been promoted or received an achievement medal? These are just two of many events that qualify you to fill out a hometown news release. Once you've completed the form, an announcement will be sent to your hometown newspaper to publicize your achievements. Examples of qualifying events for the program include promotions, awarding of the achievement medal and above, re-enlistments, obtaining a college degree, winning airman of the quarter and many more.

Stop by the Public Affairs office in Rm. 221 to fill out your Hometown News Release.

#### **New Stripes**

Congratulations to the latest reservists for selection to the following new ranks in April and May:

Senior Master Sgt. Mack L. Housman, 931st MSF;Senior Master Sgt Pamela Summers, 931st MSF; Master Sgt. James Kirk, 931st AGS; Master Sgt.Debra Lee 18th ARS; Master Sgt. Michael Gil, 931st AGS; Tech Sgt. Michael Haggit, 931st AGS; Tech Sgt.Edwin Espinoza; Staff Sgt.Gregory Carron, 18th ARS; Senior Airman Linda Sutter, 931st AMF; Senior Airman William Baker, 931st AGS; Airman Jeremiah Babcock, 931st AGS; Airman David Dixon, 931st AGS

#### Movin' On Up

Congratulations to the following members for completing Professional Military Education or formal technical training.

The following recently com-

pleted PME via in residence:

Master Sgt.Corinna Seitz , 931st MSF ( SNCOA); Tech. Sgt Don Ellis , 931st MSF, ( NCO A); Tech. Sgt Jon Wattenburger, 931st MSF ( NCO A)

The following recently completed PME via correspondence: **Tech. Sgt Anna Kasl,** 931st MSF, 5 (SNCOA); **TSgt Tatia Krueger,** 931st ARS, 5 (SNCOA)

The following recently completed or will soon complete formal training: Tech. Sgt Debroada Cornelius, 931st MSF, Personnel 3 level school; Staff Sgt. Paul McGinnis, 931st AGS, Electro-Environmental 7 level school; Senior Airman Penny Rickets, 931st OSF, Information Management 3 level school; Senior Airman Marcus Thurman, 931st **ARG** Information Management 3 level school; SeniorAirman Benny Acosta, 931st OSF, retraining to Electronic Computer Switching; Staff Sgt. Andrea Beaupre, 931st ARG, retraining to Public Affairs

#### First Shirt Opening

Applications are being accepted for a First Sergeant position within the 931<sup>st</sup> Mission Support Flight. To qualify you must be an E6 or E7, completed the NCO Academy, communicate well and meet minimum weight and body fat standards. Applications should be turned into the 931 MSF/DPMSC by June 6 for the board held June 8. For questions Call Tech. Sgt Pat Johnson, DSN 743-3587, Commercial (316) 759-3587.

#### Need to outprocess?

If you need to out process for TDY, reassignment or retirement, keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay Office (Sam or Dee) is only open for business on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, contact Tech. Sgt. Anick Wallace at Ext. 3665.

#### **MPF** Training

The 3A's and 3C's training for the April UTA will be held on Saturday 1:30 p.m-3:30 p.m in building 850, room128. Training will resume to normal during the May UTA-9am-11am in building 850, room 217.

#### Training Opportunities

Confronting difficult issues course: The Professional Development Center from AFRC will be providing this class to 931<sup>st</sup> members May 19-20. Class size is limited to 10. Those interested may contact Group Training Ext. 5423.

#### FITNESS WALK

It's that time again - time to put on those walking shoes & get after it! Our first walk will be on Sunday April 14 at 3:30 p.m.by the CE ball field. There will not be another walk until the June UTA. You must complete a new AFRC Form 48 PRIOR to walking. Contact your unit fitness monitor for the form.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Do you enjoy taking pictures? Are you versed in desk top publishing? Would you just like to pitch in and help where you can?? The HRDC is starting a yearbook for the 931<sup>st</sup> and we need lots of help. For Questions call Master Sgt. Pam Summers Ext.5423.

## Conference

**Continued from Page 1** 

U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert went to bat on this issue for both organizations at the podium during remarks at the conference.

"I'm looking forward to adding the C-17 mission to 4th Air Force," said Calvert, representative for the 43<sup>rd</sup> congressional district which includes March Field. "Acquisition of more C-17s built for March and Wright-Patterson is an ongoing matter. The defense budget is not settled, and there is room for more negotiations for the military."

As the war on terrorism evolves, reservists can expect call-ups to continue. The director of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Cell at AFRC headquarters reinforced this point at the conference.

"It appears that current operations will continue for a long time," said Anthony Tassonne Jr. of the AFRC directorate of operations.

He urged the commanders to be flexible in managing their functional areas.

"Reality 101 is we're going to war in an AEF construct," he said. "The real world works by the theater commanders in chief and when we're deployed we work for the Airlift and Operations Desert Shield/Storm. CINCs.'

One of the CINCs' recently activated workers is Col. David Walker, 4th AF operations. He got a call on his drive to work in January to depart before close of business that day. Without time to double back home for a farewell hug, he left by lunch time to start his new mission: build an air-bridge plan to transport Al Queda and Taliban detainees from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Security was also bolstered for the flights. The 8,000-mile airbridge swept through 12 times zone and used crews from four AFRC wings on C-17 and C-141 aircraft.

"This mission was the definition of military precision," said Walker, who spent four days bunkered at Khandahar, Afghanistan's, battered airport. "There was 100 percent reliability on every mission."

His briefing, with its graphic descriptions, captured the conferees' undivided attention and yielded a spontaneous, standing ovation at its completion

The point was reinforced about how involved air reserve forces are in this operation. Air support for the current operation is, according to 4th AF tacticians, the third largest airlift effort to date behind the Berlin

"We are not just the back-up team," Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III. AFRC commander and chief of the Air Force Reserve, told the attendees. "What we are accomplishing is the right thing at a difficult time, and we have to get that message across [to the American public]."

Sherrard touched on other issues during his presentation, including the C-17 project and discussions related to the possible use of Boeing 767s in the air refueling community. But nothing was discussed more than personnel.

"Our challenges are recruiting and retention," he said. "I can do all the talking in (Washington) D.C., but the only person I'll retain is me and my secretary. It's up to each of you (reservists) to talk with people in your units about recruiting. We also have to have a serious talk with our members at the end of their mobilization to remind them of how much they bring to the table and how important they are to us."

Command officials stressed concern for maintaining high levels of personnel retention, an effort that is likely to be a creative mix of career incentives for reservists, especially those now on extended active duty.

## Addition made to optional uniform items

by Staff Sgt. Amy Parr

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) - Military clothing sales shoppers will see a new set of optional items for wear in the coming year. The Air Force Uniform Board recently approved the addition of Air Force symbol cuff links, tie tacks and tie bars.

These items will replace the respective coat of arms items currently on the inventory, said Master Sgt. Ruth Nischwitz, Air Force uniform section chief at the Pentagon. Also on the inventory are grade insignia and Hap Arnold wing and star items.

These optional items are authorized for wear with the service dress, long-sleeved shirt and blouse, mess dress, semi-formal and maternity dress.

Nischwitz said the new items will be authorized for wear after minor spec adjustments and manufacturing. Provided there are no manufacturing delays, the items should be available by 2003, Nischwitz said.

The phase-out period for coat of arms cuff links, tie bars and tie tacks will be published in the new Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance, later this year.

"Normally items are phased out of the inventory by attrition or within a two-year cycle," Nischwitz said. "The availability of the new items will determine which method is the most appropriate. We anticipate (the phase out to be) approximately 18 to 24 months from the date of the AFI."

To add an item to the inventory, major command commanders normally approve and submit uniform proposals to the Air Force Uniform Board office for evaluation and processing, Nischwitz said. After evaluation by the board, the item is forwarded to the Air Force chief of staff for approval.

"The new symbol was introduced in January 2000 to honor the heritage of our past and represent the promise of our future," she said.

Because the symbol has been used in a variety of ways, including outreach communication and advertising, to promote recruiting, retention and general public awareness of the Air Force and its value to the nation, Nischwitz said its move to the uniform was not unexpected.

"(It was) originally conceived as part of an effort to more effectively tell the Air Force story and present a consistent Air Force image," she said.

#### **A** P R I L 2 0 0 2

## Wichita Weekend

#### Joseph

Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway mega hit Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Six performances at Century II Concert Hall. April 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m., April 13 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., April 14 at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$33 to \$43 at Select-A-Seat locations.

#### Cattleman's Ball

Cattleman's Ball Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. April 13 at Sam Fulco Pavilion in the Kansas Coliseum. Begins at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$85, call 265-3400 for details.

#### Wichita Stealth Football

Arena football at the Kansas Coliseum, April 13. Wichita Stealth vs. Arkansas Twisters. Tickets \$8 to \$35 at Select-A-Seat locations.

#### Wichita State Baseball

College baseball at Eck Stadium, Wichita State University campus. WSU hosts Bradley. April 12 at 7 p.m., April 13 at 2 p.m. (doubleheader), and April 14 at 1 p.m. Tickets \$6 to \$12, call 978-FANS for details.

#### **Dinner Theatre**

Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre presents *Annie*, April 11 – June 2. 3207 East Douglas. Friday and Saturday, doors open at 6 p.m., buffet at 6:30 p.m., and show at 8 p.m. Sunday doors open at 5:30 p.m., buffet at 6 p.m., and show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$22 to \$29, call 681-1566 for details.

#### **Riverfest coming in May**

Wichita's annual 10-day Riverfest extravaganza takes place May 10 – 19 downtown along the river and other locations throughout the city. A \$3 button admits you to everything, including plays, concerts, museum events, contests, and much more. Call 267-2817 for details or visit www.wichitariverfestival.org.



No information on the McConnell theater was avail able at press time.

Call the McConnell Movie Line at Ext. 4181 for information.

#### Other area theaters:

Cinemas East 6: 684.2805 Towne East 4: 685.1121 Towne East 2: 681.2717 Towne West 5: 945.5093 Cinemas West: 729.5665 Royale 8: 282.4423 Northrock 14: 636.5432 Northrock 6: 636.5431 Palace Theaters: 721.7949 Premier Palace: 691.9700 Warren Theater: 721-9545

PRESORTED STD Postage and Fees Paid McConnell AFB, KS PERMIT #85

931st ARG/PA 53280 Topeka Street Suite 221 McConnell AFB, KS 67221-3767