

Air Force Computers Pass Milestone Test

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) – April 9 arrived, and Air Force computers never missed a beat. One of the first tests of the year 2000 bug proved to be a big “non-event,” according to Jim Neighbors, Chief of the Year 2000 Management Office at the Air Force Communications Agency here.

April 9 was a key date because it is the 99th day of 1999 on the Julian-based calendar. A Julian calendar measures every day in the year and accumulates them without Gregorian month boundaries. Thus, April 9, 1999, would appear as “9999” in some systems.

There was concern that some systems might incorrectly interpret the alignment of 9999 to indicate an end-of-file marker and cause disruptions.

“The Air Force celebrated its first Y2K success when all systems continued to operate normally after the rollover to April 9,” Neighbors said.

In preparation for the rollover, units throughout the world were notified to increase their awareness and review their Year 2000 continuity of operations plans.

In addition, organizations such as the Air Force Year 2000 Program Office and U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., ran 24-hour Y2K help desks.

These monitored critical systems and key communications nodes in the Pacific and Europe as the clock advanced around the world.

To date, more than 94 percent of Air Force mission-critical systems have been renovated and tested. Systems are undergoing additional testing in operational evaluations designed to test mission-related scenarios.

During the April 8-9 rollover, according to Neighbors, experts tested or monitored several critical systems using Julian dates and found no errors.

Editor’s Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.af.mil/news/> on the World Wide Web.