

knowledge of mission processes. This is the only way to guarantee that all our critical missions are free from negative Y2K impacts.

By engaging the operational communities and the systems they employ to carry out wartime operations, we can identify critical mission processes and components previously missed. We need to be working off the commander in chief's designated mission-critical systems listing to ensure that all electronic pathways to and from these systems are Y2K compliant. Because so much of our operational capability is maintained and executed at contingency sites and deployed locations, Y2K vulnerability analysis needs to be performed on the mission processes employed there. MAJCOMs and main operating bases need to ensure that operational planning processes and systems that direct and employ forces at these locations are Y2K ready.

Only through this analysis can we identify the most critical wartime processes and ensure that adequate contingencies have been properly identified and documented. It is time to make the operational mission the pointy head of the spear—we cannot afford to continue looking at the problem from a purely functional perspective. We must widen our scope to look at the entire Air Force as a whole system to find out where we are most vulnerable. The bottom line is that on Jan. 1, 2000, Y2K mission impacts will hinder the commander in chiefs' abilities to perform their missions—it will be too late to do these things that we should be doing now.

The Y2K problem is not just a communication problem—its an Air Force mission problem. The program manage-

ment office here at Scott Air Force Base encourages everybody to look at their jobs and their units' missions from a Y2K perspective. How will it affect your duties and ability to support the mission? How will it affect your unit's ability to perform its mission? Find out what is being done at your unit and then take appropriate actions to raise issues and contribute to the solution. The Air Force relies on every person so that it can be the greatest air and space force in history; the way we must handle the Y2K problem is no different. Our success depends on having every individual take personal responsibility for Y2K.

### Summary

History has proven Warden's theories to be correct. The new paradigm for war in this technology and information-based age is to directly influence the enemy's leadership by affecting his capability to function as a cohesive system. Blind the enemy's leadership by cutting off communications, taint their information or prevent them from receiving it, disrupt key production facilities and other national infrastructure to deflate national morale, and inflict choke points. By denying an enemy any one of these capabilities, an aggressor gains significant advantage. If the Y2K issue is not adequately addressed, we will allow all these things to happen to our National Command Authorities. Our enemies, *all of them*, will achieve these advantages, simultaneously, without any effort on their part. Y2K is the Pearl Harbor of the 21st century just waiting to happen, but only if we let it. ♦

### About the Author



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