

# COMPUTER VIRUSES

*Be a smart computer user; take these steps to beat the bug*

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Over the past few weeks, we as personal computer users have had a few problems with our communications. Malicious logic, otherwise known as a "computer virus," has hit a lot of us exactly where we are trying to get our mission accomplished.

The "ILOVEYOU" worm virus shut down our e-mail capabilities and a short time later, a variant of the little guy took the Internet away from us. Unfortunately, even if you had been keeping your virus signature files up-to-date and conscientiously scanning your system, you would not have caught this bug before it damaged your system. Your workgroup managers, functional system administrators and the base system administrators were very busy tracking down, cleaning, and restoring your computer systems to operational order.

So how do you protect yourself? It comes down to being a smart computer user on how to recognize and fight the Air Force's number one computer security threat: computer viruses.

The first step is to ensure that you have antiviral software installed on your system. Next, properly

set the options. The final step is to scan your system at least weekly, but more often if your job requires you to surf the Internet or if you share removal media (floppy disks or CDs) with other users. This step is wasted unless you update your virus signature files through the live update option in your Norton Antiviral Program. Normally, Norton puts out an updated signature file about every two weeks.

So loading, setting options, and updating and scanning your system regularly will go a long way towards protecting your system. However, that is only part of the process.

As what happen a few weeks ago, executing an unknown file can cause you and everyone else around you unneeded and unwanted work.

Here are a few of the more common virus infection signs:

- 1) Unexplained reduction in system memory
- 2) Unexplained change in program or file size
- 3) Unexpected system reboots or crashes
- 4) Lost or garbled output to screens or printers
- 5) You recognize programs attempting to write for no apparent reasons. These are not the only indicators, but they are the most common.

If users experience any virus activity, you are required to report the event to your work group

managers or functional system administrators and the event will be reported to the base Network Control Center Help Desk at extension 963-3511, even if you, your work group manager or functional system administrators were able to disinfect the system without assistance.

I cannot provide you with the above information without one more warning. New viruses are reported every day and it is important to warn computer users about these new threats. If you hear of a new virus or computer threat, immediately contact the Wing Information Assurance Office at 963-2756/2982/2903 or the NCC Help Desk at 963-3511 to report the threat. The Wing IA Office will research and verify whether there is and what type of a threat we are facing.

DO NOT distribute unconfirmed warnings of virus threats through e-mail or any other means. Sending out an unconfirmed warning is like yelling "fire" in a crowded theater. While we are off chasing hoaxes, we are not available to fight the real virus alerts.

In closing, be a responsible computer user, make sure your anti-virus software is running and up-to-date, and do not click on those tempting unknown icons in your e-mail or out on the internet.

## Commander

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Command as a joint operations and training officer. He also commanded the 9<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Dover AFB, Del.

In thanking his family for their support, Allardice said, "families are the JP4 of life. Without them, I have no gas to fly. I really appreciate what they do."

"Over the next couple of months, I'm saddened to participate in closing the chapter on a very important part of our history, the C-141s. I started my career flying C-141s and I get chills up my back when I think about flying them. What a great old workhorse," he said as the crowd applauded. He added that the C-17 has opened a new chapter as the core airlifter of the United States Air Force.

"As I gained experience at Altus on the C-17, three themes seemed to resonate from Charleston. These themes are the cornerstones of where you have been and where we're going. I call these three themes, my three T's...Teamwork, Trust and Take Time for Fun. At the broadest levels, great organizations are made up of hard-working, ordinary people joined together as a cohesive team to accomplish extraordinary things. You are part of a great team.

"One of the most important elements of teamwork is trust. Trust is the glue that binds us together. In our Air Force, the time is gone for higher echelons of command to check everything people do. We just don't have the time, resources and we have got to trust each other."

On his third theme, Allardice explained that everyone needs to take time to have fun in his or her job and with their family. "We have to take time for fun in this business. We work way too hard not to."

After breathing a sigh of relief at the podium, Richardson said, "I'm proud of the men and women of the Ops group for their achievements in peacetime and in war."

He then went on to describe a number of command and 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force awards, both individual and unit level. He also mentioned the flawless presidential support missions to the Balkans, Mediterranean, Pakistan and India, and soon, Europe and the Pacific and the five trophies won at the Rodeo 2000 competition.

Richardson assumed command in October 1998 and is headed to become the senior planner at the Pentagon.

"You volunteered for some of the toughest jobs here and overseas to ensure that our mobility mission would succeed. You've earned the right to be called the busiest wing in the Air Force, but really what you should have been called is the most vital wing to the Air Force's Expeditionary concept. The Expeditionary Air Force cannot happen without you and since the EAF is the future of the Air Force, you, the men and women of the ops group, are the future of the Air Force.

"This profession we're in, the United States Air Force, is too noble to enter into casually or recklessly. Our great nation relies on each and every one of you. You never disappointed me and I know that you'll never disappoint your country."



Courtesy photo

## Tops in Blue coming to Charleston

Tops In Blue 2000 takes center stage for one performance only June 20 at 8 p.m. at North Charleston Performing Arts Center. Admission is free and open to the public. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. This year's world tour will take the United States Air Force's world-renowned top entertainment touring group throughout the United States, Europe, Central America, Southeast Asia, Bosnia and the Far East. Tops in Blue has performed with Bob Hope, Alabama, Lee Greenwood, and as the half-time entertainment show for the Super Bowl. Now join them during their 2000 world tour as Tops In Blue. The group will entertain for an hour and a half, performing a variety of music styles ranging from big band to pop, country to rhythm and blues, and contemporary latin to nostalgic rock n' roll. Call the 437th Services Squadron Marketing office at 963-3809 or see [www.charleston.af.mil](http://www.charleston.af.mil) for more details.