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GREAT SCOTT!

BASE SURVIVES CUTS; GROWTH PLANNED

Losses at other bases mean good news here

By JENNIFER A. BOWEN
News-Democrat

MASCOUTAH — Scott Air Force Base survived — and grew stronger.

The announcement came at 8:05 a.m. Friday, moments after an e-mail from the Pentagon was sent to every congressman. U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, a Belleville Democrat, got the news by cell phone from an aide in Washington, D.C., and relayed it to a crowd gathered at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport in Mascoutah.

"I can tell you with absolute certainty that Scott Air Force Base will not, I repeat, will not close," Costello announced after hanging up his cell phone.

Cheers and applause from about 200 politicians, civic leaders and local residents exploded inside the terminal before Costello could finish.

"The fact that Scott is not on the recommended closure list is great news and is the result of 10 years of hard work," Costello said. "It's the happiest day of my career since I've been in Congress."

Not only will Scott remain open, it will gain 797 jobs and 12 modern refueling tankers from other bases that will be closed or realigned as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment And Closure recommendations made by Defense Secretary

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TIM VIZER/News-Democrat

U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello delivers the news while backed by, from left, U.S. Rep. John Shimkus, St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern and U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin.



TIM VIZER/News-Democrat

U.S. Rep. John Shimkus, center, takes his turn on the call from Washington after Costello, left, and Durbin.

Jobs, 2nd four-star general are coming

By JENNIFER A. BOWEN
News-Democrat

Scott Air Force Base not only escaped closing, it also gained from the closure and realignment of less-fortunate bases nationwide and overseas.

The addition of new missions, nearly 800 new jobs and possibly another four-star general during the 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closures surprised and thrilled U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, who has been described by his fellow politicians as the "patron saint of Scott Air Force Base." He said the package significantly strengthens Scott for the future.

"The announcement that we will have 12 KC-135Rs (aerial refueling planes) coming is a big deal," said Costello, a Democrat from Belleville. "We will be getting rid of the older models and replacing them with the new models. What that means is for the next 10 years we don't have to worry about trying to get money into the defense appropriation bills to replace planes."

The 126th Air Refueling Wing of the Illinois National Guard at Scott will receive the newer planes to replace the base's eight aging, noisy and corroding KC-135E Stratotanker refueling aircraft. The guard unit already has retired three of the 11 planes it brought to Scott in

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Metro-east business leaders heave a heavy sigh of relief

By SCOTT WUERZ
News-Democrat

The metro-east dodged a \$2.1 billion-dollar bullet when Scott Air Force Base wasn't on the Department of Defense list of bases slated for closure.

That's how much money the Air Force base, which can trace its roots back to the dawn of military flight in 1917, generates for the local economy, according to Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois.

Scott employs nearly 13,000 people, or nearly four times as many workers as the region's second-largest employer: metals and munitions manufacturer Olin Corp., which has 3,600 workers.

"The consequences to the whole region would have been drastic and dramatic," had the base been on the closure list, said Jerry Rombach, executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Greater Southwest Illinois. "I

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Scott's gains

- 797 new jobs will be coming to the base, including a second four-star general.
- The Army's portion of U.S. Transportation Command will be moving to Scott.
- 12 new KC-135R aerial refueling planes will replace eight aging planes at the base.

Scott's losses

- The 375th Medical Group's mission will be cut, reducing the base's hospital to a clinic.

Inside

- What happens next; communities thrilled about expansion plans. **Page A8**
- Pentagon proposal would close 33 major facilities in 22 states. **Page A9**



ZIA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

Edwin and Diana Jenkins of Shiloh look at Lu Fuller's booth on opening night of Art on the Square.

ART ON THE SQUARE TRANSFORMS DOWNTOWN

Belleville event continues today, Sunday

By LISA P. WHITE
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — What a difference a day makes.

On Thursday, the Public Square was organized chaos as volunteers scrambled to get everything in place for the opening of the fourth annual Art on the Square.

On Friday evening, the scene was much more tranquil as hun-

dreds of visitors strolled through downtown Belleville sipping wine, eating ice cream cones and enjoying the breadth of the artwork — from metal sculpture to fine jewelry to glasswork.

Art on the Square has won national acclaim, including being named the best small-town fine art festival in the country for 2004 by Greg Lawler's Art Fair Source Book.

INSIDE: Today's schedule of activities. **PAGE A6**

Edwin and Diana Jenkins of Shiloh brought their 13-year-old daughter Pamela to the show. Edwin Jenkins, who retired from the Air Force last week, saw an ad for Art on the Square in the morning as he was awaiting news on the fate of Scott Air Force Base.

"It's one of our first outings for the summer since we got

back from overseas," said Diana Jenkins.

The couple said they could use some help decorating the bare walls in their new home.

"We're browsing, and if something jumps out at us, we would definitely buy," said Edwin Jenkins, who admired Los Angeles photographer Joe Hoynik's photos of Paris.

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LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS

Pick 3-Midday: **2-2-1** Pick 4-Evening: **9-4-5-7**
Pick 3-Evening: **7-2-6** Little Lotto: **8-10-15-24-36**
Pick 4-Midday: **8-2-5-4** Jackpot: **\$3.75 million**

MEGA MILLIONS Game: **21-23-27-33-39** Mega Ball: **8** Jackpot: **\$42 million**

FOR MISSOURI

Pick 3-Midday: **4-3-6**; Evening: **1-8-2**
Pick 4-Midday: **8-0-1-1**; Evening: **0-5-7-7**
Show Me 5-Midday: **1-13-28-36-40**
Show Me 5-Evening: **11-18-21-26-27**

