

Open Sesame?

Gate closes temporarily at McConnell

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McConnell will soon be enjoying the benefits of a new front gate and completed road construction, but not without some headaches first.

Beginning Aug. 4, entry on base through the east gate will be temporarily prohibited to allow completion of the east gate project. Two other options for entering or exiting the base will remain.

Driving a short quarter-mile further south along Rock Road, drivers can enter the base through the new, tempo-

rary 31st Street east gate, followed by a sharp left turn down Wichita Street as Manhattan Street will be closed to through traffic.

Sedgwick County has put traffic lights up at the 31st Street and Rock Road intersection to expedite the expected delays.

The main gate visitor's center will also close with the east gate. Its operations will move to a trailer located at the 31st Street and Rock Road gate.

"Between 7 and 9 a.m. two lanes of traffic will flow into the base and one will flow out," said Staff Sgt. Sean Gray, 22nd Security Forces Squadron, Pass and Registration NCOIC. "Between 4 and 6 p.m. only one lane will

flow in and two will be flowing out. It should help the high volume of traffic going in those directions at that time."

For those who prefer a more scenic drive, the brand new west gate will open Aug. 4 and is expected to have shorter waiting times.

A recent addition to the west gate is a new barrier system. It will stop vehicles "dead in their tracks," according to Sergeant Gray.

"It can stop a semi-truck going 60 mph," he said.

Sergeant Gray advises that personnel look for flashing lights and warning beacons to prevent any incidents with the barriers.

The west gate Visitor's Center will

be the point of contact for all contractors needing passes and badges.

The i-Visitor program will not be affected by the transitioning visitor's center and gate closures.

The 22nd Civil Engineer and Security Forces Squadrons encourage all base personnel to use this gate to decrease the traffic flow at the 31st Street and Rock Road gate.

The housing gate will also close Aug. 4 and the housing maintenance gate, located on Spicer Road and 31st Street, will open until construction is finished.

The 22nd SFS will strictly enforce driving laws at both gates to prevent line-cutting and automobile collisions.