

Did you know?

Dec. 9, 1992-May 4, 1993: AMC operated 1,182 airlift missions, carrying 51,431 passengers and 41,243 tons of short cargo, in support of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston AFB, SC

Charleston facts

Three Charleston-based C-17 aircrews were directly involved in transporting the president and his staff from Sofia, Bulgaria into Pristina, Kosovo, and on to Aviano AB, Italy, Nov. 22-24.



Rules set for investigational drug use

by Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department gave pyridostigmine bromide tablets to troops during Desert Storm to protect them during suspected chemical attacks.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved and licensed "PB" for treating the muscular disease myasthenia gravis, but not for countering chemical warfare agents. Instead, the FDA authorized DOD to use PB as an "investigational new drug" to protect troops against certain nerve agents thought to be in the Iraqi arsenal.

Although a new literature review has indicated that PB should not be ruled out as a possible cause of Gulf War illnesses, defense leaders stand by their predecessors' decision to issue the medication. They say they'd do the same if the threat is imminent and PB is the best protection available to U.S. service members.

The White House, DOD and the FDA concur that investigational new drugs can and should continue to be viable options for force protection. President Bill Clinton made it official Sept. 30 by issuing Executive Order 13139, which spells out ground rules for giving such drugs to service members — with or without their consent.

"Military personnel deployed in particular military op-see **drugs**, page 2

O' Christmas tree



Charlie Wall

Senior Airman Robert Lewis, 437th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, helps a customer load his Christmas tree at the tree lot near the base commissary. The trees are on sale from 9 a.m. to

7 p.m. daily until all of the trees are gone. Proceeds will help the Charleston AFB community and various organizations like the Boy Scouts, First Sergeants Association the recreation center.

Peters lays out goals, promotes EAF concept

By Senior Airman
Karen Giacalone
39th Wing Public Affairs

Men and women join the Air Force to serve the American public, but current issues like long deployments and pay concerns are driving some away, says Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters.

Peters, who was at Incirlik AB, Turkey, for Thanksgiving, said airmen join because they want to do public service.

"They're out there performing the mission and seeing all the good right in front of their eyes," he said. "But when they're gone too much and have no time for their private lives or families or no time to take advantage of the educational benefits we offer — that's what drives people out."

Peters and other Air Force leaders are hoping the expeditionary aerospace force, with its stable and predictable deployment cycles, will help solve some of the retention problems. Including people from the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve in the deploying force should also help.

"The Guard has 52,000 people who will rotate through the EAF cycle in the first two years," he said.

Military readiness is also an issue for the secretary, who believes in having the right people in the right place to get the mission done. But maintaining readiness means keeping Air Force members safe from the threat that chemical and biological weapons pose to troops stationed overseas

see **Peters**, page 2

Town hall meeting answers questions

Base leaders hope for large turnout to address key issues

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

If the pending doom and gloom of a potential Y2K disaster as shown in a recent TV movie has got you worried, then base experts want to share the "straight facts" with you and the Charleston Air Force Base community on Monday at 7 p.m. in the main ballroom of the Charleston Club.

The semi-annual town hall meeting will feature guest speakers on a wide variety of subjects, to include Y2K, and about 10-15 information booths on everything from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to Family Support Services.

There will be free refreshments and door prizes given away to

those attending, to include a color TV and free dinner tickets. For families with children, free childcare will be provided in a separate room at the Charleston Club.

"Our main focus will be on Y2K. We want to get the word out on what the base and its utility providers have done to prepare for Y2K, as well as what all our community members can do to insure they are ready to enter the new millennium," said Lt. Col. Craig Armstrong, 437th Support Group deputy commander. "Our primary goal is to give you an idea of what your individual preparations should consist of as well as provide some practical advice, such as making copies of your financial statements.

"Also, this is your chance to find out about anything you want to know about Charleston Air Force Base at one meeting. You can get the facts directly from our base experts in an open forum."

Armstrong added that there will be several briefings and updates on subjects such as the base construction program, Hunley Park housing renovations, curbside recycling program, problems with crosswalk safety, crime issues in the community, and the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The last town meeting was held in May and was sparsely attended by the base population.

Base officials are hoping to change that trend by urging all Charleston community members to attend. The town hall meeting will include about an hour's worth of briefings followed by a question and answer period.

The town meeting will be the first one hosted by Col. Dennis Kaan, 437th Support Group commander.

Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop Jr., 437th Airlift Wing commander, is also scheduled to brief the Charleston community.