



Did you know?

The renovated base chapel will open Dec. 17.



Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston AFB, SC

Charleston facts



Charleston's first airfield was used for Army coastal operations beginning in December 1941.

Air Force announces restructured ACP program

The Air Force has restructured its Aviator Continuation Pay program for fiscal 2000 in hopes of stemming the largest sustained pilot exodus in recent history, Air Force officials announced Nov. 17.

During the past three years, the Air Force has lost more than three experienced pilots for every two produced.

"This restructured ACP program capitalizes on the flexibility and latitude given by Congress," said Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, deputy chief of staff for personnel. "It allows us to aggressively capitalize on a three-year window of opportunity to protect our ability to man operational cockpits and war-planning staff requirements."

The Air Force's goal is to significantly improve each year groups' retention by executing ACP to the maximum extent of this law. Specifically, the Air Force FY00 program:

- Establishes agreement options at three or five years; or long-term agreements out to 20 or 25 years of aviation service,
- Sets rates for three-year agreements

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Keeper of the gate

Senior Airman Scotty Barnes, 437th Security Forces Squadron, checks the identification of a local contractor while posted at the Dorchester Gate Tuesday. Due to the on-

going construction near Dorchester Gate, the Commissary Gate is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in addition to its regular hours, until further notice.

Charlie Wall

315th SFS troop first Reservist to graduate ALS

Staff Sgt. Raymond Padgett
315 AW Public Affairs

Senior Airman Cedric Simmons, a security forces journeyman with the 315th Airlift Wing, became the first reservist to graduate the Charleston AFB Airman Leadership School Nov. 18.

"Our office worked together with ALS to find the means to place reservists in their classroom," said Master Sgt. Linda Sturgeon, 315th Airlift Wing Education and Training office assistant chief.

Simmons, who is no stranger to the classroom, recently graduated from South Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

He said the Air Force classroom was similar, and, in some cases more practical, than his college courses.

"The instructors were outstanding at delivering the information in a direct and exciting way," he said.

"In the course of 24 duty days, students learn situ-

see **Reservist**, page 3



Senior Airman Cedric Simmons

Charleston troops support Clinton

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

For some 80 Team Charleston members, service above self will be the norm as they might miss their annual thanksgiving meal with family and friends as they are off in the Mediterranean supporting the president's visit to that region.

The base has deployed more than 40 maintainers (half at Andrews AFB, Md. and the others at Incirlik AB, Turkey), a dozen stage planners and functional experts, and seven augmented C-17 aircrews (3 pilots and 2 loadmasters per crew) to support the president's trip to the region.

About six C-17s will form an aerial ballet for a continuous presence in and out of Turkey to preposition the president's limousines, helicopters, secret service personnel, and White House planners as they hopscotch around the Mediterranean as part of his travel itinerary.

The White House specifically asked for C-17 support for the entire presidential swing through the Mediterranean and worked with the base to move personnel and equipment from Andrews Air Force Base to a number of destinations in the Mediterranean region.

Anytime the president travels outside the Washington

D.C. area, then a myriad of military transports, crews and maintainers spring into action to handle the logistics of getting those items in place in time for the president and his family.

"The C-5 is working in a coordinated plan with the C-17 to make all these coordinated moves in the Mediterranean," said Col. Ron Richardson, 437th Operations Group commander.

Richardson added that C-17 aircrews are flying the vast majority of the missions.

Six jets are supporting the president's trip as part of a stage operation at Incirlik. Lt. Col. Bill Erikson, commander of the stage operation, schedules about six aircraft flights a day, moving personnel and equipment around the Mediterranean. Stage operations began around Nov. 10.

President Clinton visited Istanbul, Turkey from November 15-19 to attend a summit meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE summit is an opportunity for leaders of 54 countries throughout the Euro-Atlantic region to focus on promoting democracy, human rights, security and stability among and within participating states.

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