



Photo by Ed Kelly

Checking out a model

(Left to right) Col. Donald Gallion, 437th Logistics Group commander, Staff Sgt. Roy Crowell, 315th Maintenance Squadron, and Col. Mark Meyers, 6th Logistics Group commander, MacDill AFB, Fla., look at a model of a KC-135. The model was refurbished by Crowell and Airman 1st Class Michael Hohl, 437th Maintenance Squadron, and presented to the 6th Air Refueling Wing, MacDill AFB, Dec. 7. The model had been used in the C-141 simulator.

Base Santa brings Christmas to children in need

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

An NCO from the 437th Aerial Port Squadron Mobile Flight has organized an event to bring Santa to children in the hospital.

Tech. Sgt. Cyrill Rousseau, with support from his unit, has planned a trip for Santa to go to the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital Tuesday.

"Senior Airman Cheyenne Strachota, 437 APS, will actually be playing the part of Santa," said Rousseau. "I've played him in the past, but Strachota asked for the part and I know he'll do well."

Rousseau said he started the trips to the hospital at his last base and he hopes to keep the tradition alive at Charleston AFB.

"I have three children," Rousseau

said. "My youngest boy is a special needs child. My wife and I were in the waiting room for one of his doctor's appointments when we started talking to the grandmother of a little girl with a rare disease.

"The grandmother said the girl's mother's husband had left her because of the pressure of a special needs child, and the family had exhausted all of their money.

"The girl had a 9-year old sister who said, 'This is going to be another lonely Christmas with no presents.' That's when we knew we had to do something."

Rousseau and his flight members have been taking donations and hope to have a gift for each of about 50 children at the hospital.

For more information, or to make a donation, call Rousseau at work, 963-3126 or at home, 207-0629.



Santa wants to visit CAFB children

The 437th Aerial Port Squadron Top Four Association is sponsoring Santa visits to Charleston AFB children. For \$5, Santa will visit children in base housing.

Upon request, Santa will deliver presents bought by parents when he visits.

Santa is available Monday-Dec.22, 5-9 p.m.

For more information, call 963-3126.

CAFB to have brief base-wide power outage Saturday

There will be a base-wide power outage Saturday, 5 a.m.

The power will be out for approximately 10 minutes while work is started on an off-base sub station.

The Santee-Cooper, Moncks Corner, sub station needs the outage while they turn on a new transformer.

One of their transformers went bad approximately a year ago. The new one has been in place for some time, but the outage is necessary to turn it on.

Charleston AFB receives power from the plant in a

complex system of lines and transformers.

For more information, call Ron Wiggins at 963-5020.



Pre-trip planning for safe holiday season

By Staff Sgt. Bart Craven
437 AW Safety

The holidays can conjure up images of fun, family, friends, food, football and holiday trips. Many Charleston AFB folks already have leave requests in for the holidays.

Now let's say it's the day before Christmas. You rush home to get the family, load the car and begin the long journey to visit relatives. You've already been up ten hours, and depending on how far you drive, you might be awake for another eight or nine hours.

While most people arrive

safely at their destination, many will wake in a roadside ditch, and some will not wake up at all. Remember, fatigue can sneak up on anyone at any time. The following tips should help you avoid holiday mishaps while on your journey home:

- Know your limitations and plan your trip accordingly; don't cram too many activities into too little time

- Get plenty of rest prior to starting your trip

- Give yourself adequate time; plan for and take rest stops and meals; get out of

the car and walk around for a few minutes

Help make your trip a safe one by following the suggestions listed above. If you find yourself short of time, call your duty section.



Let them know you misjudged your departure time and will be late. Don't become a statistic. Plan your

trips carefully, know your limitations and allow plenty of time to safely complete your travel. Above all else, don't drink and drive and wear your seatbelts.

Clinic

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not mission ready. Again, the 437 MDG came through with a very favorable rating — mission ready.

The JAHCO and HSI inspections occur once every three years and occur simultaneously with each team focusing on uniquely different areas to avoid duplication. The inspections were conducted from Dec. 6-8.

"I believe the process provides any medical group with invaluable information about how well the processes to deliver health care are working," said Aune. "Based on the findings of this inspection, the 437 MDG is doing very well at making the processes work to ensure that the

right care is delivered to the right patient at the right time."

HSI Team chief Col. David Corman briefed the results of the inspection Dec. 8 and was quick to praise the 437 MDG. He commented on the great morale and esprit de corps in the medical group.

In the area of Primary Care Optimization, which is the process on how medical care is provided to patients, the clinic was described as one of the best in the 35 medical groups that Corman had inspected.

"When most medical groups were required to stand up two teams to care for patients by Oct. 1, the 437 MDG has already stood up 10," said Corman. He added the 437 MDG has one of the best implementations

of this concept for providers, nurses, medical technicians and administrative personnel.

The 437 MDG received two "best practices" during the HSI inspection. "Our Health and Wellness Center was singled out for their processes in reducing the error rates when conducting body fat measurements as well as the Dental Clinic for their business plan with a cost analysis of dental care," said Capt. Shelley Lovelady, a group practice manager and 437 MDG project officer for the inspection. The use of "business care analysis" was used to track spending and profits in the dental clinic.

Preparing for the inspections was no easy feat, according to Lovelady. She distributed weekly newsletters

handbooks and had recurring surveys where different areas of the clinic inspected one another. She said she started preparing the medical group for the inspections in August.

"In preparing for the inspections, the 437 MDG came together as a team, and during mock surveys we asked each other questions and looked at our processes," Lovelady said. "It was a great educational opportunity for all our staff."

"The recommendations from the HSI as well as the JCAHO inspections will help us to fine-tune our processes and help us focus on what we need to improve and what we need to continue to do in an exceptional manner to provide quality patient care," Aune said.