

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Charleston Profile



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

## Santa Claus

1<sup>st</sup> Toy Delivery Squadron, North Pole

Santa Claus, a resident of the North Pole, has been delivering toys to Charleston AFB boys and girls for many years. Santa also has been tasked with the additional duty of delivering presents to other children around the world.

"It's a lot of work, but I really enjoy it," said Santa. "I can't take all the credit because I have a great staff of helpers assisting me. I'm never short on help, but my helpers are short."

A popular misconception is Santa only works one day a year. That just isn't true. Santa said he works every day preparing for his big deliveries on Dec. 25.

"My staff and I are busy all year," said Santa. "During the summer months, the children tend to forget that I'm watching. They should remember I know who's being bad and good. So be good for goodness sake."

Santa said the behavior of CAFB children has been exceptional this year.

"There was a lot of effort put in by CAFB kids to be better than last year," said Santa. "It didn't go unnoticed."

While Santa isn't ready to trade in his sleigh and reindeer just yet, he did make mention of testing a C-17 in the future during an Airlift/Tanker Association meeting last month.

"The C-17 may meet the needs of my customers," said Santa. "It may be a good break for the reindeer to try a C-17 in the future. While the aircraft is capable of landing on a roof top, I need to be certain the rooftop can handle the plane."

As a reminder, Santa said he works so hard on Dec. 25 that he gets hungry and any cookies and milk left on the table for him would be appreciated.

## Around the base

**Chiefs' Group:** The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group is meeting Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Nominations of officers for next year will be taken in preparation for the January election. All chiefs are encouraged to attend.

**Commissioning briefing:** The base education center is holding an officer commissioning briefing Jan. 10, 11 a.m. The briefing will provide information regarding commissioning program opportunities. For more information, call 963-4575.

**Unity Walk:** The African-American Heritage Council is holding a Unity Walk Jan. 15, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club. The walk will honor the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The walk will conclude at the base chapel where a commemorative service will be held. This event is the first of its kind at Charleston AFB. The AAHC has many other events scheduled for 2001. For more information, call Master Sgt. James Jarmon at 963-2331.

**Dental care:** United Concordia Companies, Inc. will take over the administration of the new TRICARE dental program on Feb. 1. Inquiries and appeals can be processed through the dental contractor at 1-800-866-8499, or at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com). Members currently enrolled in the TRICARE Family Member Dental

Plan or the TRICARE-Selected Reserve Dental Program will be automatically enrolled in the new plan. Enrolled personnel should check their Leave and Earning Statements to ensure their premiums reflect their elected coverage.

**Commissary scholarship:** The Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation is offering schol-

arships for military children. The program will award a scholarship of \$1,500 or more to a college-bound military child at installations served by a commissary. Applications can be picked up anytime starting today and must be returned to the commissary by Feb. 15.

**Ribbon eligibility:** The Secretary of the Air Force has approved an

Air Force Recruiting ribbon. The ribbon is authorized for those who successfully completed 36 months as recruiters and were on active duty, reserve or guard as of June 21. Prior recruiters may request authorization through unit commanders and Headquarters Air Force Reserve for approval.

**Medical records:** The medical records of military beneficiaries are property of the U.S. Government and must be maintained at a military treatment facility. Any records being stored elsewhere should be returned.

**Reunion:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> Military Airlift Squadron is planning a reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, in May. Anyone interested in attending or helping plan the event should call Ray Daley at (937) 323-6304.

**NCOIC needed:** The Base Honor Guard is seeking a new NCOIC. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Phil Johnson at 963-3398.

## Family Support Center

**SMOOTH Move:** Today, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

**Pre-Deployment Briefing:** Monday, 8 a.m., and Thursday and Dec. 28, 4 p.m.

**Couples Communication:** Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

## Holiday Briefs

**Commissary:** The Commissary holiday hours are as follows:

Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Dec. 25, closed  
Dec. 26, closed  
Dec 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Jan. 1, closed  
Jan. 2, closed

**Christmas closure:** The Fitness and Sports Center will be closed Dec. 25. For information about holiday guest use of the facility, call 963-3347.

**Testing:** The base education office will not be conducting testing Dec. 26. For more information, call 963-4575.

**Santa's mailbag:** Members of the 58<sup>th</sup> Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska, have volunteered to send

letters back to children who wish to write to Santa Claus. Send a self-addressed, legal size, stamped envelope to:

Santa's Mailbag  
354 OSS/OSW  
1215 Flightline Ave STE 100B  
Eielson AFB, AK 99702-1520

A letter will be returned with the official North Pole, Alaska, cancellation stamp on it. There is no charge for the letters, but donations are accepted to help defray the cost of postage.

**Toys for Tots:** Military families who need assistance for the holidays should contact the Family Support Center. The Toys for Tots program supplies families in need with toys for their children. For more information, or to volunteer, call the Toys for Tots hotline at 743-4947.

