



News Advisory

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
102 East Hill Blvd., Rm. 223, Charleston AFB, S.C. 29404-5154
Phone: (843) 963-5608, 5588 or 5589 Fax (843) 963-5604

PAO email: Linda.pepin@charleston.af.mil
After duty hours, call the base operator or
command post (963-2531) & ask for a PA rep

Release No. 06-02

June 3, 2003

16th Airlift Squadron hosts pre-deployment workshop for families:

Who/What: In preparation for a 90-day deployment beginning in July, the 16th Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base is holding a workshop for its families to prepare them for the upcoming separation period. Deborah Merritt, a licensed play therapist and wife of Maj. Michael Merritt, 16th Airlift Squadron, will host the workshop.

When/Where: The workshop is **Thursday, June 5**, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Family Support Center at Charleston Air Force Base.

Why: The workshop will provide helpful information for families and deploying personnel. Topics will focus on children and the spouse and how to best deal with the stress and other difficulties involved with having a family member deployed. Mrs. Merritt will teach spouses how to communicate with children of all ages to help them through their fears and anxiety. She will also provide information and activities to help the children cope with their parents' deployment.

Visuals: Parents and children of the 16th Airlift Squadron and activities led by Mrs. Merritt to teach parents different ways to communicate with their children.

-30-

(Media wishing to cover this event should arrive at the Dorchester Gate at 7:10 p.m., Thursday, June 5, and MUST CONTACT 2nd Lt. Kristy Miller at 963-5537 or MSgt Angel Newman at 963-5582 TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE.)