



Did you know?



Twenty five South Carolinians died during the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

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Charleston AFB, SC

Charleston facts

Seven C-17s are participating in airdrop testing at Pope AFB, N.C., until Tuesday. The test examines the ability of a C-17 to drop an Army Brigade in a short period of time.



Charleston, AMC ready for 2000

Y2K readiness experts say Air Mobility Command is fully prepared to enter the year 2000, and although no problems are anticipated, the command will activate a Y2K Action Team beginning Dec. 28.

Maj. Chris Lowe, AMC Y2K branch representative, said they're standing by, prepared, even though they've been working on command systems since at least early 1997.

Charleston AFB and the 437th Airlift Wing are ready also, according to Lt. Col. Craig Armstrong, 437th Support Group deputy commander. Like AMC, the Charleston Y2K Action Team will activate Dec. 28 and remain active as long as needed. Charleston is facing two critical time phases; the actual year-end rollover at midnight on Dec. 31 when all 24-hour operational systems are operational, and again on Jan. 3, the first duty day of the new year for the majority of the base.

"Not all systems will be up and running at midnight on the 31st," said Armstrong, "in fact, most base systems will not become operational until people begin reporting for duty the following Monday morning. At that time we will activate all unit control centers and monitor routine systems closely to ensure they are working properly."

In preparation for Y2K, AMC created a stringent certification process for each system, said Lowe. The process began by creating certification checklists developed by the Air Force for all systems, ranging

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Dirt digger

Jim Dick, a local contractor, operates the back hoe during the rehabilitation project near the Dorchester Gate. The project is to replace the sewer lines which run under base housing. The lines have become unserviceable because of age and are being replaced. The entire project began this past summer and is expected to be completed in the spring.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

C-17s, aircrew impress Clinton

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

When the President has to get somewhere and the airfield he's flying into is in a high threat area or can't accommodate Air Force One, the White House will, more than likely, call Team Charleston.

Base members flew the President and his daughter, Chelsea, in a C-17 for an hour Nov. 23 from Sofia, Bulgaria, to Pristina, Kosovo. After eight hours on the ground, the presidential party reboarded the C-17 and flew two hours to Aviano Air Base, Italy. Secretary of State Madeline Albright and other high-ranking officials also flew with the President.

The primary aircraft, commanded by Lt. Col. Fred Cianciolo, 437th Operations Group deputy commander, carried the presidential party. The primary back-up aircraft, commanded by Maj. Mark Cerrow, 17th Airlift Squadron, carried 89 media and White House personnel, but was prepared to assume the primary role at any time. The third aircraft, commanded by Maj. Dan Hancock, 15 AS, was ready to assume either role should one of the aircraft experience maintenance problems that would cause a delay, though no major maintenance problems occurred.

Besides the presidential support, the wing was busy with flying support missions to prepare 11 locations as potential visit sites.

"Extensive pre-mission planning done by members of all three crews ensured the success of the mission. Due to the threats in that region (human, climatic and geographic), numerous contingency plans were prepared to be able to react to almost any

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Town hall meeting well attended

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Voorhis
437 AW Public Affairs

The semi-annual town hall meeting dispelled rumors and worries about Y2K issues Monday as more than 200 people listened to guest speakers provide useful information.

"This is a great turnout, and we thank you for attending. It shows that you are concerned," Brig. Gen. Rod Bishop, 437th Airlift Wing commander said as he started the meeting with details about promotion rates, the Air Expeditionary Force and how Charleston fits into the concept, among other topics.

Col. Dennis Kaan, 437th Support Group commander, jumped right into the main focus of the meeting: Y2K issues. "We want to assure you that Team Charleston is ready to

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First sergeants help needy during holiday season

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

'Tis the season for helping and the Charleston AFB First Sergeants Association is doing just that. They have set up two programs, Holiday Cheer and Angel Tree, to help military members and civilians who need help during the holiday season.

The Holiday Cheer program began Oct. 29 and will continue until Dec. 20. The first sergeants and base volunteers have set up collection points at the entrances to

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Master Sgt. Tammy VanEtta (right), 437th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, hangs ornaments decorated with the name, sex and unit of needy Charleston family members, on the Angel tree at the Family Support Center.

