

Did you know?

Charleston AFB's economic impact on local communities in fiscal year '99 was more than \$437.5 million.



Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston facts

Charleston AFB received its last production line C-17 for the next two years. The plane was flown by Lt. Gen. Gregory S. Martin. All new models will be delivered to McChord AFB, Wash.

Y2K rollover was uneventful for CAFB

by Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Preparations for Y2K paid off big when the base's systems made the transition to 2000 without affecting the wing's mission or critical systems, culminating nearly two years of preparation.

The base had only three minor discrepancies attributable to the Y2K rollover, and all were relatively easy to fix with future software upgrades. Critical aircraft systems passed with flying colors as the result of rigorous testing months before the actual roll-over. In addition to local time, the base also closely watched midnight "zulu" or Greenwich Mean Time for possible problems.

Despite dire predictions of problems worldwide, the biggest news about the Y2K rollover was its lack of impact on the base or people's lives. As proof of the problem-free rollover, a C-17 took off only 13 hours into the New Year, as scheduled.

The base had a team divided into two shifts, beginning the day before the big event. At the time of the actual rollover, about 50 people were on duty. There were eight people in the Y2K Action Team, nicknamed the YAT.

The rollover was smooth. "We had three items, one of which we discovered, and they were all database date related problems," said Col. Dennis Kaan, 437th Support Group commander and the base's Y2K action team leader. "One example was a work order system in transportation which wouldn't accept a "00" date, but it didn't hinder the mission at all since the system still worked fine, it just wouldn't recognize 2000. We are working with the software vendor to correct the problem."

The base also found a piece of test equipment that didn't recognize the date properly. The third problem was a 437th Services Squadron cash register that printed out the wrong date on the receipts, thinking the year was 100 instead of 2,000. Again, the base is working with the vendors to fix the problems.

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Wing Safety Office named Best in AMC

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Murphy
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Airlift Wing Safety Office was awarded eight safety awards in the recent Air Mobility Command competition.

In addition, the wing has been nominated for four Air Force level awards, according to Lt. Col. Andy Murphy, chief of safety.

"It's like the aligning of the planets to really take the program to places it's never been before," Murphy said.

The Safety Office received the AMC Safety Office of the Year, Distinguished Flight Safety Award, Operational Risk Management Achieve-

ment and Outstanding Achievement Award for Ground Safety.

"The office was also awarded a flight safety plaque and an explosive safety plaque for not experiencing any class A or B mishaps in FY 99," said Dave Luttrell, chief ground/weapons safety. "We also received an Aero Club Certificate for the outstanding processes and procedures that have been put in place."

"It's more than just everyone here," Murphy said. "It's the entire program from Gen. Bishop on down. The general has the group commanders personally brief him on top safety issues. This help's to allocate resources to help us focus to prevent property dam-

age and injuries. That's what we're all about."

This was also the case at the unit level with commanders and supervisors.

"They didn't just pay lip service to the program, Murphy said. "They backed up their safety talk with action, in terms of funding to fix hazards, people selected for the additional duty of Safety NCO and keeping safety, job number one."

The additional duty paid off for a member of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron.

Staff Sgt. Brian S. Charlebois, a transportation specialist, was recog-

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Wing work

Senior Airman Sam Barnett secures a panel on a C-141's leading edge with a speed handle while performing routine maintenance on the aircraft.

Senior Airman Corey Clements

CAFB saddles up for Rodeo 2000

By Senior Airman Michael Duhe
437 AW Public Affairs

Team Charleston will soon begin saddling up for Rodeo 2000, a biennial air mobility competition set for May 6-13 at Pope AFB, N.C.

Approximately 3,200 military members from around the world will participate. Charleston AFB will field competitors from both its active duty and Reserve wings, with both the C-17 and C-141.

The 437th Airlift Wing will compete in the following categories:

- Security Forces - five members
- Aerial Port - eight members (four C-17 engine running offload, four C-141 engine running offload)
- Joint Airdrop Inspection - two members

- C-17 aircrew - three members
- C-17 maintenance - 10 members
- C-141 Aircrew - seven members
- C-141 Maintenance - 10 members

Team chief Maj. Matt Heuer said preparations are still in the early stages. Squadrons are responsible for selecting members for their respective teams. Heuer recently sent a Rodeo 2000 briefing to squadron commanders to help provide a rough timeline for Team Charleston's participation in the event.

The tentative timeline is:

Jan. 28 - 14th, 15th and 17th airlift squadrons identify crews for fly-off (one crew per squadron)

see Rodeo, page 5

Dorchester Gate closes for two weeks

Commuters can expect some traffic delays on Dorchester Road as base officials close the Dorchester Gate beginning Monday for repairs to a sewer line.

The gate will be closed for approximately two weeks. During this period, the Commissary Gate will remain open. All Dorchester Gate Visitor Center business will be conducted at the Commissary Gate Visitor Center.

To replace the sewer line, a contractor will dig a 70 foot long by 20 foot deep trench along Hill Blvd., completely closing the road by the Dorchester Gate.