



Gen. Ryan's visit to Charleston AFB included both an enlisted and officers call (above).

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us. We are working on medical and housing this year as our big focuses. If we can work the quality of service issues and give them the tools to do the jobs that we ask them to, I think they'll stay with us."

"I've gone to Congress and told them we need five billion dollars more a year in the Air Force if you want us to continue at the pace and rate that we are operating the force today. And if we want to keep that up in the future, then you need to modernize the force. We are not recapitalizing the United States Air Force. The average age of aircraft is 20 years old, and in 15 years, it will be 30 years old and that's if we do everything we have planned in modernization today. I don't know how many of you drive 30 year old cars, but I doubt very few of you do."

To free up money for modernization, General Ryan supports another round of base closures. "We have more base structure in the United States Air Force than we need. We need to consolidate our forces into more efficient base structures to give our bases more depth and to utilize our best bases and get rid of those bases that we continue to pour money into that we don't need. I am not sure exactly what we'll do, but I know I need to cut base structure by 15 percent."

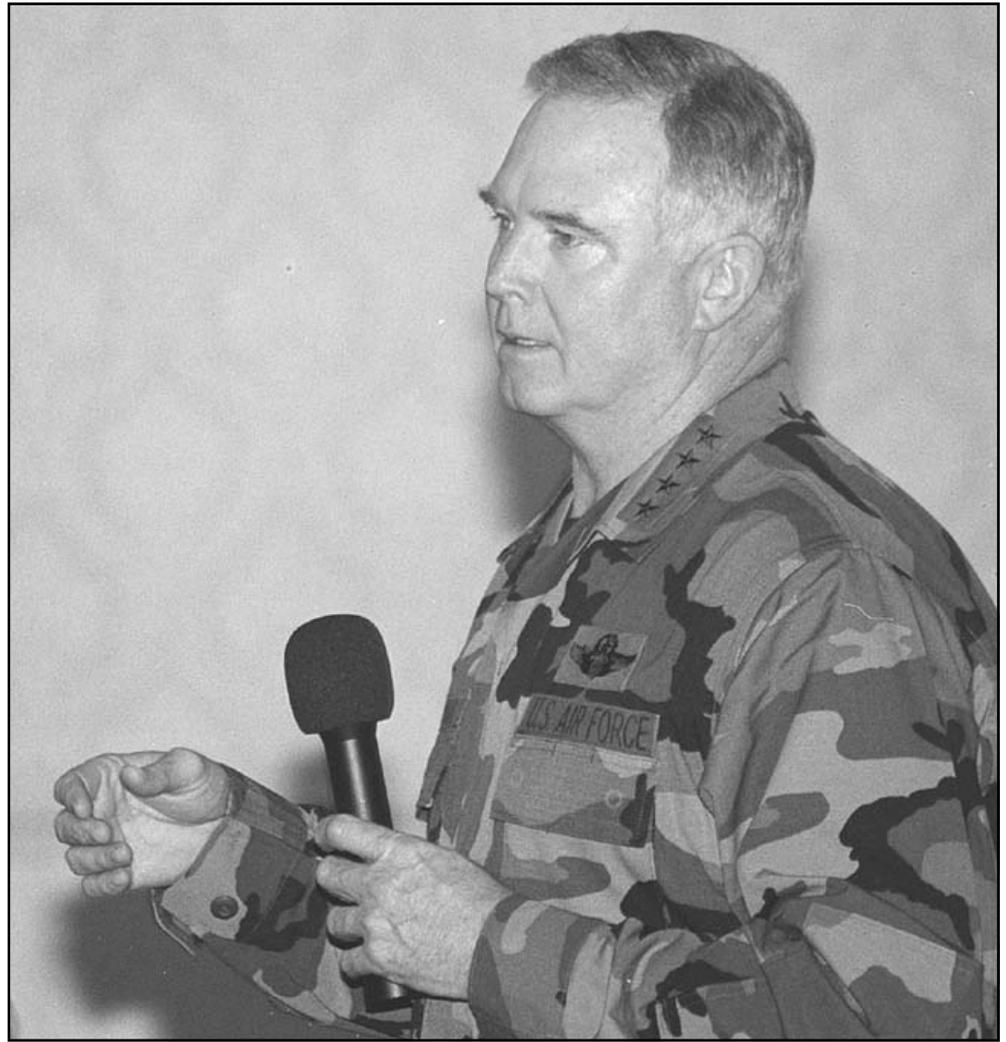
He said there was no way to be sure Charleston would be affected by a future round of base closures until the process and criteria are established with Congress. "Charleston has always been very important and critical to our Air Force. We bedded down the C-17 which is going to be in our air force a long, long time." Ryan mentioned that the next Quadrennial Defense Review would set the stage for whether another round of closures comes about.

The general also believes only a mandatory anthrax vaccination program can adequately protect our force. "We need to protect our people. If you make it voluntary and one person refuses the shot, then that person is letting down the force should they be attacked," he said. He added that he has had all six shots without any adverse reactions. "It is a very safe inoculation."

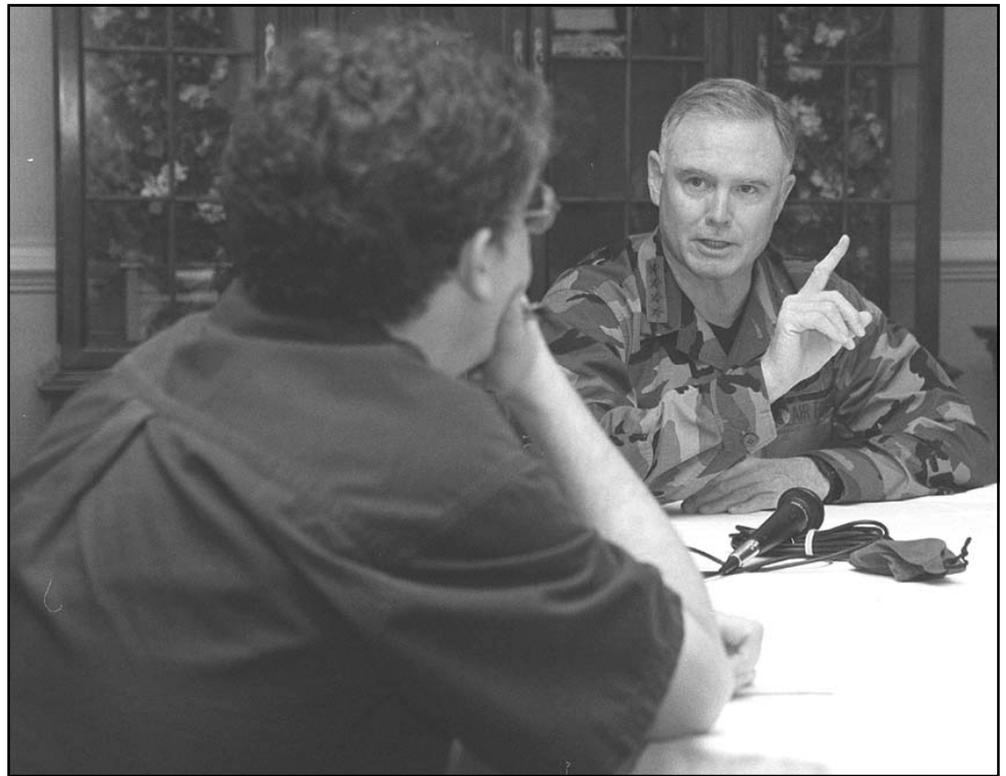
About Allied Force, the general mentioned that we should be careful about assuming all future conflicts will have the same results.

"First, you can use aerospace airpower in certain situations where you can use dominant airpower to bring a conflict to a halt," he explained. "It (aerospace airpower) is a very potent piece of our arsenal. It is a very flexible tool and can react rapidly to a situation."

A second lesson is that success in Allied Force was not easy. "Although



photos by Senior Airman Corey Clements



Gen. Ryan is interviewed by newspaper reporter Dave Moniz of The State, based in Columbia, S.C.



Gen. Ryan is greeted by Command Chief Master Sergeants Jim Minor of the 315th Airlift Wing (left) and Kevin Bruch of the 437th Airlift Wing (center).

we did not lose anyone, it isn't that there wasn't grave danger to our people. They were very, very good and they were lucky in some instances. We had a lot more airplanes hit than two, they just didn't go down."

In addressing the lack of casualties in the war, the chief of staff added that he hopes we have not set too high a standard where people will think all future conflicts will be bloodless or easy.

"We, by percentage of force, had more people in harms way, than during the Gulf War," Ryan said. "In fact, by percentage of force, for the active duty, this was a bigger deal than the gulf war was. We may have made it

look too easy. We deployed 500 airplanes in 21 new locations, built tent cities, built up munitions and flew in bad weather at night with 13 different allies with enemies trying to kill you and we didn't lose one person. That's amazing and a real tribute to the excellence of the force out there."

There were special circumstances where airpower could bring this conflict to an end.

"The use of force as instrument of national power requires our capability to threaten them across the spectrum of operation, not just with airpower," the general said. "You take all cards that you are dealt and use them."