

437 EMS continues to strive above and beyond

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

On a day-to-day basis, the 437th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Home Station Check Element proves why the 437 EMS was named the best in the Air Force.

The mission of the HSC flight is to inspect each Charleston-based C-17 every 120 days. The flight thoroughly inspects each aircraft that comes in, looking for the smallest of discrepancies.

"I really like this job. It's very technical and in depth," said Airman 1st Class Ven Eric De La Garza, a C-17 crew chief. "There's always going to be some new problem that comes up because we inspect the aircraft so closely."

Focusing on the little problems doesn't slow down the process for the HSC Element. "The AMC standard time for a C-17 HSC is five days," said Tech. Sgt. Steven Godwin, C-17 Inspection Section chief, "and we get the aircraft in, inspected and back out within three days."

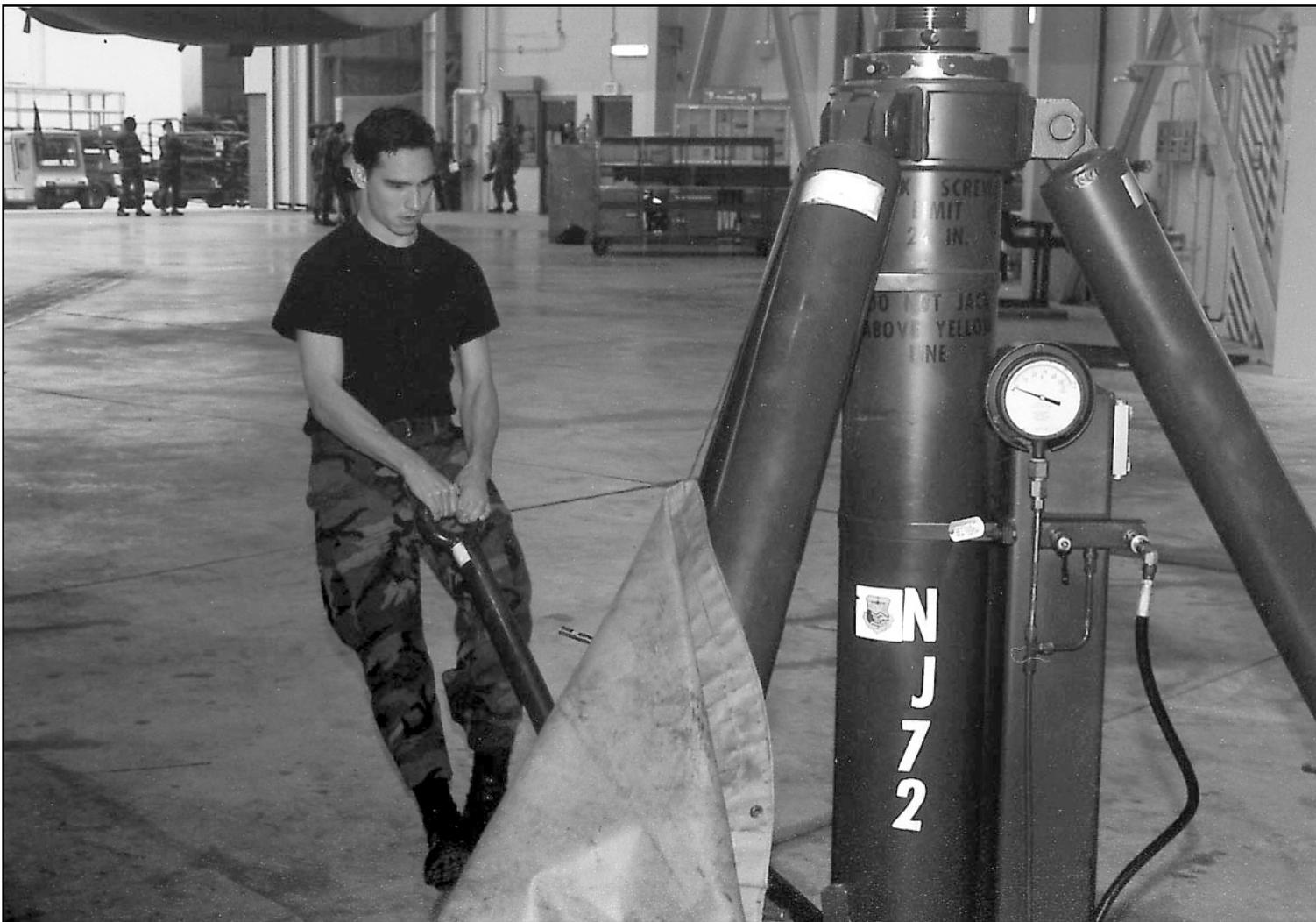
Godwin credits supervision and the determination of the young airmen in the flight with the above standard turn around rate. "Two years ago, we had 40 3-levels assigned and the supervision level was low," he said. "Over the past few months, we have just begun to overcome the training barriers; we now have 90 percent of those 40 3-levels upgraded to 5-level, and the number of supervisors has increased. Every C-17 assigned to Charleston goes through the HSC Element three times a year, resulting in the element performing 126 HSCs a year."

The Element's manpower is comprised of NCOs, airmen, civilians, and Air Reserve members, totaling 60 technicians, who work 24 hours a day seven days a week to ensure each aircraft receives a quality inspection, and is returned to the flightline in minimal time to support the wing's mission, said Godwin.

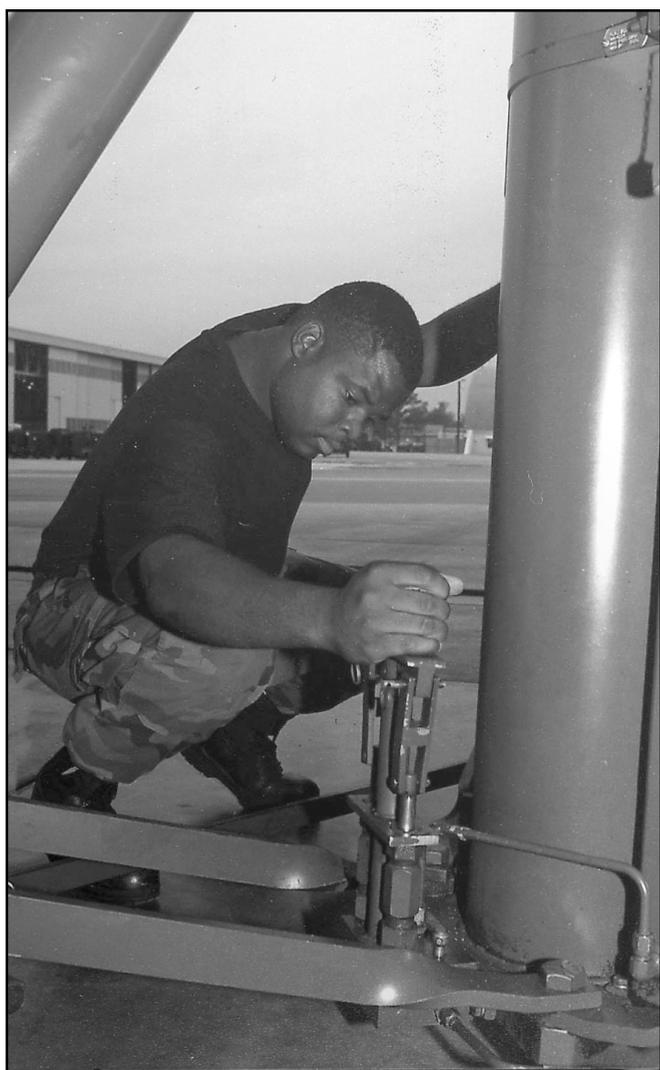
Senior Airman Wesley Coleman, swing shift C-17 HSC coordinator doesn't mind the work. "This is the best place to be," he said. "Knowing I help make things happen is a good feeling."

(left) Airman 1st Class Ven De La Garza does a wing walk during a tow job.

photos by
Senior Airman Corey Clements



Airman 1st Class Christopher Ruiz positions an aircraft jack assembly.



Airman 1st Class LeShaon Davis seats an aircraft jack for a jacking operation.



Airman 1st Class Richard Schoonmaker (above) raises the gear doors. (right) Senior Airman Roger Scheibe lubes horizontal stabilizer elevator cables.

