

# Base surveyed, Team Charleston mourns loss of loadmaster

**By Col. James Norris**  
437 AW vice commander

As part of his director of Mobility Forces duties, General Bishop returned to Europe this week to reestablish contacts with key personnel that have changed since the Kosovo conflict ended. He returns this weekend and will be back in the office on Monday.

There are two surveys going around. The first one is the Air Force Chief of Staff Survey. I want to encourage all military personnel to complete the survey at <http://csafsurvey.randolph.af.mil>. The survey, which began Sept. 30, is designed to gain understanding of the quality of life and organizational climate issues.

Available for the first time on the web, you can access the web site from your home or office computer. The survey can be completed in less than 30 minutes. This is our chance to speak today and shape tomorrow's Air Force. Please make your voice count.

The second survey is the 1999-2000 Community Needs Assessment being distributed to randomly selected active duty members and their spouses. The information collected in the survey will identify community needs and improvements required in current services. Many of our Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Family Support programs will be shaped based upon your answers. Please take 10-15 minutes to complete this survey.

One of our Team Charleston members passed away Monday morning after a long illness. Staff Sgt. Phil

Manore, loadmaster with the 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, will be missed by many. He served in the military for 12 years here at Charleston in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadrons. His funeral was held in Summerville on Thursday. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.

Please direct donations to his children's education fund. The 16<sup>th</sup> AS first sergeant, Master Sgt. Louis Argus, will accept donations on behalf of the family. Donations to the American Cancer Society in his name are also appreciated.

On a more positive note, I am glad to see that retired Col. Paul Canant, our former chief of the Retiree Affairs Office, is back home recovering from a recent surgery. We wish him well as he recuperates at home.

As many of you may have read in last week's paper, this week, October 23-31, is Red Ribbon Week to highlight drug abuse prevention. Many of you have probably seen the red ribbons worn on uniforms or may have participated in one of the many activities held on base. The theme for this year's observance is "leading by example" and that Charleston Air Force Base will be drug free for the next century. Thanks to the medical group for bringing this important issue to our attention.

NCO Academy graduation at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., was celebrated Thursday night. This was the last class at Keesler to which Charleston members will attend. We have shifted to the NCO Academy at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. This change to a closer location may afford more people the opportunity to attend graduations.

## Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.



First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to [action@charleston.af.mil](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil)

Callers are encouraged to leave their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply. Remember the easiest way to resolve problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command.

Here are some commonly used phone numbers:

Security Forces.....	963-3600
Base Exchange.....	552-5000
Commissary.....	963-5695
Housing Office.....	963-3860
Medical Group Information.....	963-6700
Family Support Center.....	963-4406
Education Office.....	963-4573
Charleston Club.....	963-3914
Fitness and Sports Center.....	963-3347
TRICARE.....	1-800-444-5445
TRICARE Claims.....	1-800-403-3950

# Native American Heritage: A proud military tradition

**by Master Sgt. Mike Humble**  
437<sup>th</sup> Component Repair Squadron  
first sergeant

Native American ethnic observance runs throughout the month of November. At this time of year, when we as a nation give thanks for the freedom and peace we take for granted, it's fitting that we have the opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions these Americans have made in preserving that freedom.

Native Americans have served their nation with distinction for more than 200 years. In the 20th century, five Native Americans have been awarded our nation's highest military honor...the Medal of Honor.

Many tribes were involved in the War of 1812. Native Americans fought for both sides as auxiliary troops during the Civil War. They were valued members in the American West as scouts in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

It's estimated that more than 12,000

Native Americans served in uniform during World War I and at the outbreak of WW II once again returned to the battlefield in large numbers. More than 44,000 American Indians served with distinction between 1941 and 1945.

There are countless examples of great sacrifice and heroism on the part of Native Americans such as Ira Hamilton Hayes. He was part of the American invasion force that attacked the Japanese on the island of Iwo Jima. Hayes and five others raised the U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi. Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph of this heroic act transformed Hayes' life. Although he received wide spread publicity and recognition from his countrymen and the Pima Indian People, he never accepted his celebrity status.

I would be remiss if I didn't include the huge contribution that Navajo "code talkers" made in the Pacific during WW II. Early on, the Marine Corps realized the

value of the Navajo language as a code. The virtually undocumented language was completely unintelligible to anyone except another Navajo. In addition, they developed a special coded alphabet of 38 symbols plus an auxiliary vocabulary of 411 other terms. All of this information had to be memorized during training so that there was no chance of it falling into enemy hands. To this day, there is no indication that any messages in the Navajo language—while undoubtedly intercepted—were ever deciphered.

At Iwo Jima, Maj. Howard Connor, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division signal officer, declared, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Six Navajo code talkers working around the clock sent and received over 800 messages during the first few days of the battle. Praised for their skill, speed and accuracy, Navajos could encode, transmit, and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds.

By the war's end, nearly 400 Navajos served in combat under the code talker program. Because of the continued value of the Navajo language as a code, these veterans were largely unrecognized long after the war. President Ronald Reagan recognized their unique achievements by awarding the Navajo code talkers a Certificate of Appreciation in December 1981.

As the 20th century comes to a close, there are almost 200,000 Native American military veterans. They've served in every major war and conflict from the Philippine islands to the Iraqi desert. Their distinctive cultural values and proud warrior tradition seem to drive them to serve their country. Historically, they have maintained the highest record of service per capita of any other ethnic group.

Throughout the month of November, let's celebrate the tradition with them by recognizing their unique place in America and in service to our country.

## Airlift DISPATCH

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