

# WELL CONNECTED

## 437th CS Mission Systems Flight again wins AMC honors

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron Missions Systems Flight recently won the Air Mobility Command Maintenance Effectiveness Award, Communications Electronics Small Unit Category, for the second year in a row. The award is given for excellence in mission accomplishments, effective use of maintenance resources, innovative management accomplishments and personnel quality of life programs.

"I'm really proud of what the flight has accomplished," said Maj. Douglas Taylor, 437 CS commander. "They are such a professional, customer service oriented group. It's rewarding to see their hard work pay off."

This was echoed by Capt. Greg Coleman, mission systems flight commander. "We do everything to take care of our customers. The personnel here attack their jobs with vigor. They have a lot of camaraderie and take pride in that fact. The way they carry themselves it is not surprising they won again."

The Visual Imagery and Intrusion Detection Systems section of the flight was recognized as being the first in AMC to install the Vindicator Alert Security System that safeguards the Air Force alert force F-16s. The system consists of six cameras, fence sensors a Raycon transmitter and receiver, and the Vindicator Smart System with four monitors at the entry control point. The micro processing system saved the 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron thousands of man-hours and reduced on site forces from five to two. The flight also saved \$7,500 in costs and early completion of the project.

"The recent merger of the Visual



photos by Senior Airman Corey Clements

Senior Airman Dominic Laufenberg, a telephone maintenance craftsman, troubleshoots a connectivity problem.

Imagery section into the flight has expanded the flights role throughout Charleston AFB," Coleman said. "We plan to wrap our arms around our new flight members and charge into the new millennium as a team."

The award-winning flight implemented upgrades to North Field. Among them was a refined cable plant which saved \$60K from previous estimates and an initiative to extend Charleston AFB dialing capabilities, saving more than \$700 a month in long distance fees. The new maintenance agreement led to faster re-

sponse times and eliminated some of the strain on base manpower.

A new Cable Assignment Information Retrieval System installation streamlined the research process, replaced bad equipment and allowed a pair-by-pair accounting of all telephone circuits on base cable, Coleman said.

Base housing upgrades for wing leadership enabled wing and group commanders immediate access to critical command and control communications from their homes, which eliminated delays in mission-essential decisions.

An inadequate cable system was troubleshot, saving the Air Force \$19,000 and upgrading the current cable system.

"We mapped the cables currently in the ground and have enforced the need for digging permits to prevent costly repairs from accidental cuttings," said Senior Airman Dominic Laufenberg, telephone maintenance craftsman. "We also repaired cable splices in the ground with corrosion to prevent a complete failure to the system."

The mission systems flight was recognized for preparations made during Air Expo 1999. More than 100 man-hours were spent coordinating equipment, manpower and support items. With a new public address system, coverage of the area was increased by 35 percent and saved more than \$7,000 in contractor costs.

"They're working hard on several new projects, including a base public

address system that will extend into all of base housing," Taylor said.

A fabricated remote control head for the North Field giant voice alarm system increased contingency response time during exercise, giving senior leadership the ability to alert base personnel in minimum time.

"We moved the controls to the headquarters tent inside of the mobility exercise area to allow senior leadership quick access," said Airman 1st Class Sean Gosnell, radio maintenance apprentice.

Various contracts were also established, giving the base 100 percent reliability in wireless command and control communication. During Operation Allied Force, radios were provided to the Crisis Action Team and the 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, which secured and expanded commander communications capabilities.

"We've done all this with limited funds," said Master Sgt. Allan Harris, superintendent mission systems flight. "It is an effective use of our resources. What makes the difference is how we come together as a team and this speaks well for the personnel in the flight. They deserve this distinction."

"I'm very proud of each and every member of the flight," Coleman said. "It's an honor and a privilege to be their flight commander. They're truly dedicated professionals who work hard and earned this award. It all comes down to the maintainers mentality, 24-7." (Tech Sgt. Dan Murphy contributed to this article.)



Airman 1st Class Sean Gosnell (left) and Senior Airman Joseph Weeks, ground radio technicians, remove a ground-to-air receiver at the Command Post.