

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Spotlight

**Farewell retreat:** A retreat ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bruch, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant, is today at 4 p.m. at the base flagpole. Come out and show your thanks for the chief's many contributions to the wing. If you would like to stand in the formation, contact Senior Master Sgt. Carl Hunsinger at 963-4234.

**Farewell dinner:** A fare well dinner for Col. Ron Richardson is Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Charleston Club. Cost is \$14 for club members, \$17 for non-members. RSVP by the close of business today by calling Capt. Patrick Blum at 963-3070.

**Blood drive:** A base blood drive is Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the old chapel. The goal is 200 units, which will require at least 20-25 donors per organization. For more information, call Capt. Heather Logan at 963-5575 or Staff Sgt. Kelly Zimmerman at 963-5281.

**Dining out:** The Wing Top 3 is coordinating an Enlisted Dining-Out Sept. 16.

The Wing Enlisted Dining-Out committee needs volunteers for the Sunday parking fundraiser -- the free Lone Star concert at the Ladson Fairgrounds. For more information, or to volunteer, call Master Sgt. Jim Scanlan at 963-2798.

Volunteers of all enlisted ranks are needed for many preparation activities. The next planning meeting will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Charleston Club. Volunteers are also needed for mister and madam vice, with selection based on an interview process to be held in mid-July.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Tracy Brewster at 963-6318 or Master Sgt. James Scanlan at 963-2798.

**Major party:** A going-away party for 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron commander Maj. Brian Blankenship is June 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the old Charleston Club. The party will include steaks with all the trimmings. Dress is any Services t-shirt, any color. Call 963-3809 if you don't have one. Cost is \$13.

To RSVP, call 963-3820.

**Volunteers welcomed:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs office is looking for people who are interested in giving base tours and speaking at off-base engagements. Volunteers can contact Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones at 963-5657.

**Seminar:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group will offer a marriage enrichment class beginning May 30 and meeting for six consecutive Tuesdays from 6-8:30 p.m. There is no cost for base personnel and their spouses. For more information and to register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

**Retirements:** A retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. Luke Howard, commander of AFROTC Det. 772, is today at 3:30 p.m. in the Younkie Auditorium.

A retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. William Ridler is June 2 at 10 a.m. in the Charleston Club. For more information, call 963-2328.

**Med Group information:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Pharmacy is seeking volunteers who can devote at least one-half day per week. Anyone interested can call Maj. Royce Terry at 963-6809.

**No propane tanks:** Several household goods carriers have been unwilling to accept propane tanks as part of the members' household goods, while others would pack the "purged" tanks because it was considered part of the members' property. Recent fires, explosions in household goods vans have resulted in new stringent safety regulations for shipping and labeling of refillable propane tanks. Effective immediately, shipping and storage of propane tanks (of any type, including purged) in a members' personal property household goods shipment is not authorized. The carrier will not accept propane tanks as part of a "government-procured" shipment. A member/agent may contact a propane dealer for disposal instructions.

For more information, visit the TMO web site at: <http://globemaster/437og/tmo> or call 963-2255.

### Around the base

**Star Spangled salute:** The Charleston AFB Aero Club will be transformed into an old fashioned USO show for veterans and friends tonight from 2-4 p.m. The event is free and tickets are available at the Retiree Activities Office (963-4409) or the Veterans Administration Hospital, room B512 (805-5796). A Moonlight Hangar Dance begins at the Aero Club at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Outdoor Recreation Center (963-5271), the Aero Club (963-5152) and the Charleston Club (963-3914).

### Education office

**Closed:** The Community Education Center will close for our annual consolidated graduation ceremony practice Wednesday at noon and will be closed for the ceremony all day Thursday.

## Cadets go from stripes to bars

By Cadet Chantal Cousineau  
AFROTC Det. 772

There is an old saying that a tiger cannot change his stripes. Fortunately, this is not the case for enlisted members in the Air Force. They can change their stripes -- for gold bars.

Four prior enlisted members from Charleston AFB have done just that, through the Reserve Officer Training Program at Charleston Southern University. Cadets Rodger Acklin, Dale Hataway, Reginald Mosely and Christopher Osgood will be receiving their second lieutenant bars Saturday.

Acklin, who was a personnel specialist with the 637<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron (now the 437<sup>th</sup> AGS), recalls the most difficult part of going from active duty to full time student was supporting himself and his family.

Hataway, who worked at CAFB as a Deputy Test Director, said, "I was very wary about giving up my ties to the active duty Air Force to pursue my goals. I was worried about money, insurance, security, and all the things I took for granted as an active duty member."

Despite the difficulties of going to school full time and also supporting themselves, each cadet made it. Mosely, who was the unit training monitor for the 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, said, "I learned that anything worth having in life will not come easily, or without many sacrifices."

While every cadet learns a great deal in ROTC, the experience is unique for each individual. Each cadet takes something different from the program. The experience changed Hataway, who believes that he is not the same person who first entered the program. "I'm more physically fit, more confident, more professional, and more assured of myself and my abilities," he said.

The cadets also have advice for anyone who is considering the program. Acklin's advice: "If you want to be a future officer, don't let money stop that dream. If you want it bad enough you will find a way."

While all four cadets came from Charleston AFB, they will certainly have very different futures. Mosely will be working in acquisitions as a primary career, although he will begin as a maintenance officer at Robins AFB, Ga. Osgood, who previously worked on both the C-141 and the C-17, will also serve as a maintenance officer at Dover AFB, Dela. Hataway will take a different route and serve as a computer officer at Offutt AFB, Nebr., as his first assignment. Finally, Acklin will be an air battle manager, and will head to Tyndall AFB, Fla. for training.

Despite the wide range of backgrounds and futures, these cadets will be forever linked by their days in ROTC, during which they earned their gold bars.

## Charleston Profile

### Tammi Britton

#### 315<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron

Tammi Britton is an Air Reserve Technician in the 315<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron orderly room. As an ART, she is a civil service employee and a technical sergeant in the Air Force Reserve.

Her duties include maintaining personnel information files, the weight management program, and unit assembly training logistics for the 315 MSS and wing staff agencies.

Britton, a Charleston native, has 12 years of military service and has been stationed at Charleston since April 1997.

Britton's personal goal of "being able to excel in opportunities that come my way" was reflected by her selection as the Air Force Reserve Command Gerrit D. Foster Military Personnel Technician of the Year for 1999.

Britton is an ordained minister, and her two sons, 9-year-old Drake and 3-year-old Nicholas, are active in the Seed of Faith Church. She also volunteers time at Pepper Hill Elementary tutoring students.

Britton enjoys Charleston because her family is here and "it's great to see Charleston grow from past years."



Staff Sgt. Raymond Padgett