

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Toys for Tots:**

Military families who need assistance for the holidays should contact the Family Support Center. The Toys for Tots program supplies families in need with toys for their children. For more information, or to volunteer, call the Toys for Tots hotline at 743-4947.

**Spotlight**

**Retirement Ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sergeant Reggie Hicks Dec. 1, 9 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Anyone wishing to make a presentation can contact Senior Master Sgt. Harold Stafford at 963-5090.

**Around the base**

**Closure:** The Commissary will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving.

**Semi-annual FOD walk:** As part of Charleston AFB's continuing Foreign Object Damage Prevention program, the base will conduct a semiannual FOD walk Nov. 29, 9 a.m. All base personnel are encouraged to attend. Participants are asked to arrive 15 minutes early.

The walk starts on the south end

of Hangar 700 and sweeps the entire length of the flightline. Line badges are not required, and transportation will be provided to return individuals to Hangar 700. Three "golden bolts" will be hidden, and the participants who discover them will be awarded prizes for attention to detail. One winner will walk away with a free turkey. For more information, call 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert Blake at 963-4705.

**Recruiters:** The "Recruit the Recruiter" Team will visit Charleston AFB Dec. 5, 10 a.m., at the base theater. They will give a one-hour briefing followed by application processing.

Staff sergeants through master sergeants with less than 16 years total service are eligible to apply. Senior airmen with three to six years total service are also eligible to apply. For more information, visit [www.rs.af.mil/RTR.htm](http://www.rs.af.mil/RTR.htm).

**GOV license:** Personnel who operate any type of government vehicle must have an AF Form 2293, Government Driver's License, by Dec. 31. Beginning Jan. 1, GOV operators who do not have an AF Form 2293 will not be

authorized to drive government vehicles. Individuals TDY to Charleston will be required to show a valid state driver's license and official TDY orders.

Squadron vehicle control officers and noncommissioned officers are responsible for ensuring their unit personnel accomplish this in a timely manner. For information or to obtain an AF Form 2293, call Staff Sgt. Jason Hodges at 963-4076.

**Dental Assisting Program:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Dental Flight is accepting applications for the next Red Cross Dental Assisting Program, which begins Jan. 8. The program includes an academic phase as well as hands-on dental assisting training.

Some duties include: Preparing a dental treatment room; taking and recording vital signs; and preparing dental materials for use. The program lasts six to seven months, with 40-hour class weeks. Benefits include certificate of training and obtaining a marketable skill. Anyone interested in applying, should pick up an application at the dental clinic reception desk.

Applications are due no later than Dec. 8. For information, call Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ramirez at 963-6841.

**Medical records:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group has decentralized the outpatient records section. The Primary Care Manager sections now keep

records for their patients. The records section will be conducting annual inventory in January. The records of military family members and retirees who have not been seen since December 1998 will be forwarded to the National Personnel Records Center. Records of retirees using TRICARE Prime and active-duty members and dependents using TRICARE standard will not be forwarded.

**Leave request:** Patricia Wright, DFAS Charleston, is experiencing a medical emergency and has been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Anyone wishing to donate annual leave can do so by completing Optional Form 630-B and forwarding it to 437 MSS/DPCE.

**Family Support Center**

**Hearts Apart:** Hearts Apart is an ongoing program for spouses of deployed service members that offers such services as e-mail, morale calls, videophone calls and free oil changes. For information, contact Tech. Sgt. Ken Gilmore at 963-5630.

**Pre-Deployment Briefing:** Monday, 8 a.m. and Nov. 30, 4 p.m.

**Troops-to-Teachers:** Monday, 10-11 a.m.

**Smooth Move:** Nov. 30, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For information or to register, call 963-4406.

**Education**

**Trident Technical College:** Trident Technical College is holding early enrollment for the spring semester until Nov. 28. Classes begin Jan. 8 and end April 30.

TTC has also created a new certificate program "Transportation and Logistics." The certificate program is taken from the Associate's Degree in Transportation and Logistics. For more information, call 963-4581.

**CLEP Testing:** The Community Education Center is offering College Level Examination Program and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support testing services on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Start times for CLEP testing are 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. DANES testing begins at 8 a.m. Test proctor services are also available for personnel authorized to use the CEC. Call 963-4575 to schedule a testing. Each test session holds a maximum of 15 personnel.



**Planning for the future:** The Base Education Center now offers the Strong Interest Inventory and Discover. These two inventories assist in identifying career objectives, educational goals and job titles that reflect your interests and preferences and can be completed at your own pace. A detailed report consistent with the information you provide will be generated.

For information about all educational services, call 963-4575 or stop by the Community Education Center (Bldg. 221)

**Charleston Profile****Senior Airman Marcus Freeman  
437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron**

Senior Airman Marcus Freeman is a jet-engine mechanic assigned to the 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron. His day-to-day responsibilities include performing minor and special inspections on C-17 engines, component changes and oil filter changes. He also performs scheduled and last minute engine changes.

Freeman said he likes his job because of the experience and his co-workers.

"I really enjoy the hands-on aspect of the job and getting my hands dirty," he said. "I also like the people I work with."

Freeman, a senior airman below-the-zone promotee, has been at Charleston since joining the Air Force almost three years ago. "I came into the Air Force to get an education and see the world," he said and is hoping his next assignment will take him to Germany or Alaska.

Freeman, who's pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Engineering, intends to make the Air Force a career and hopes to retire as a chief master sergeant.

When he's away from work, Freeman enjoys fishing and playing basketball, though family is his priority.

"My wife, Tanya, and our 10-month-old son, Marcus II, come first in my life," he said. "I enjoy spending time with them."

The family is anxiously awaiting another member. A second son, Malcolm Julian, is due to arrive in March.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith