

DISPATCH

Inside

- ▶ IDEA / 2
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ Grandma / 11
- ▶ Softball / 15

Vol. 40, No. 33

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Aug. 24, 2001

The Lowcountry is in need of blood. Every day, Charleston area hospital patients routinely need 150 pints of blood. The Red Cross is desperately trying to meet these needs by saying...

'I want your blood'

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB members rolled up their sleeves Monday to help the American Red Cross with its efforts to keep the Lowcountry blood supply ahead of, or at least equal to, the blood demand.

Salon C at the Charleston Club looked like a makeshift hospital from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. during the blood drive.

Usually, the Red Cross holds its drive every nine weeks at the Community Education Center. A faulty air conditioner at the education building and some quick planning enabled the Red Cross to move locations to make sure they could accept much-needed blood.

Candy Oliver, Red Cross donor recruitment consultant, said the AFB blood drives are always important and tend to be successful compared to many other blood drives in South



Senior Airman Anne Russell, 1st Combat Camera Squadron videographer, donates blood during Monday's blood drive.

Carolina.

"We hold three or four blood drives every day," said Oliver. "Typically, we receive 27 pints of blood for each drive. CAFB averages about 120 pints per blood drive."

Once the blood is drawn from base members, it is shipped to Columbia, S.C., for testing. Tests on the blood include a wide range of HIV, Hepati-

tis, liver enzyme and syphilis tests. Once the blood has been screened, it usually returns to Charleston, according to Oliver.

"Since Charleston has a transplant center, most of the blood comes back this way," said Oliver. "One liver transplant can take up to 125 pints of blood. With more surgeries available now, we need more blood. The prob-

lem is the demand for blood has increased, but the number of people donating has stayed the same."

Blood lasts for about 42 days before it can no longer be used, according to Oliver. The shelf life isn't really an issue now since most of it won't last more than a few days before it's been

See BLOOD, page 3

Base-wide power outage

There will be a base-wide power outage, including Hunley Park, Aug. 31, 6 a.m.-2 p.m. The outage is necessary to perform annual maintenance and upgrades to the base electrical distribution system. This planned outage will prevent future outages that could be longer in duration and cause great damage due to unpredictability.

Many base agencies will be closed during the outage. Contact agencies and units to check their status before arriving for appointments.

To prevent food items from going bad, take precautions to avoid opening refrigerator and freezer doors.

If it rains Aug. 31, the outage will take place Sep. 7.

For more information, call Capt. Elwood Henry at 963-5018.

Chu looks at improving DOD personnel rules

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The DOD's senior personnel official said modifying current "up-or-out" retention rules and establishing longer tours of duty might better serve members and their families, according to an American Forces Press Service Release.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told reporters Aug. 8 that the DOD is looking at personnel rules

that impel service members to move frequently to secure promotions and possibly leave jobs they enjoy and are good at, or leave the force, according to the release.

Staff Sgt. Scott Shafer, 437th Security Forces Squadron K-9 handler, is a prime example of the policy Chu is addressing. Shafer, who was promoted to staff sergeant in May, said he loves his job and he isn't ready to be promoted because he wouldn't be allowed to be a dog handler anymore.

In the K-9 career field, ken-

nel masters are usually staff or technical sergeants, depending on the base, according to Shafer. If Shafer were to make technical sergeant, he would either be made the kennel master, or sent to work for a security forces flight without his dog. Shafer said either scenario doesn't fit his plans and goals.

"There's nothing I want to do in this field except be a K-9 handler," said Shafer. "If I made tech., (technical sergeant) I would lose my dog. If

See CHU, page 3

IN THE NEWS

IDEA

17 AS airman finds way to save C-17 money, AF rewards him with 10 grand

By Master Sgt. Dan Murphy
437 AW Public Affairs

Senior Airman Michael Morris, 17th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, submitted an AF Form 1000 to the IDEA Program to eliminate the logistic rail bridge assembly on the C-17 Globemaster III.

The idea was accepted and will save the Air Force \$68,048.50.

Morris was presented a check for \$10,000 from Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, Aug. 13.

The logistic rail bridge assembly was developed to help pallets remain aligned while loading onto the C-17.

"They were two big pieces of metal no one ever used," said Morris. "They were mounted on the cargo door, weighed about 15 pounds and are shaped like a hockey stick."

The intent was to prevent the pallet from turning sideways and damaging the rails in the plane, said Morris.

"I went around and polled a lot of loadmasters," said Morris. "Some of the older guys said they knew what it was but they never used it. I checked with a lot of the new guys just out of school, and they said they didn't know what it was."

The savings will come about on the remaining aircraft still to be produced.

The cost per assembly of \$1,360.97 for 50 aircraft would save the Air Force an estimated \$68,048.50, or more, based on further buys of the C-17, according to the package submitted by Morris.

Morris acknowledged he did most of the research himself but turned to somebody in the family for guidance.

"My dad is a former C-17 loadmaster who retired from the Air Force," said Morris. "I also had some help from Staff Sgt. Rene Delarosa in Stan-Eval (17th Airlift Squadron Standardization and Evaluations). He helped me out a little bit in writing it."

Morris submitted the idea in Janu-

ary and had to wait for the package to make its way through the correct levels to be adopted.

"It took a while with many e-mails back and forth," said Morris. "I submitted an AF Form 1000 through the IDEA website. It was all done on the web."

The hardest part was to find the right person to send it to for approval.

"It's pretty tough," said Morris. "You have to find who the approving officials are. I started right at the top at the headquarters with AMC/DOV (Air Mobility Command Director of Operations Standardization and Evaluations) and Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hondel. I found out he was the final approving official. So he approved it and sent it on its way."

Morris has been in the Air Force for only three years and plans to keep suggesting new ideas.

"I have one out in the system right now working," said Morris. "Hopefully in October when Boeing and the Air

Force get together for their annual talk about the C-17, that's when they are supposed to talk about the next one (idea). That one is actually going to save more money than this one did."

The Air Force pays out 15 percent up to \$10,000 for any idea adopted.

"They tax it at 28 percent and you end up with \$7,200," said Morris. "That's the maximum you can get."

Morris plans to use the money he will receive responsibly.

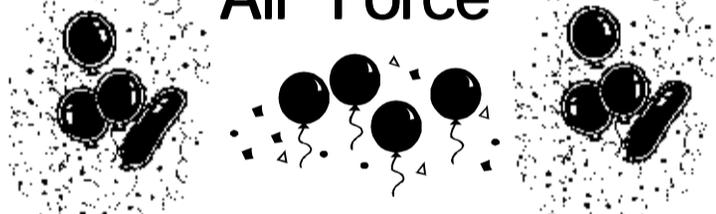
"I'm going to use the money to hopefully get debt-free," said Morris. "That's my plan. If I get the next one, it will be my pleasure money."

The IDEA Program has been around for a long time and can be used by anyone to improve a work area.

"It's not too tough to submit one," said Morris. "It just takes a lot of patience, a lot of e-mails and research."

The C-17 program and the Air Force appear to be in good hands with this second-generation loadmaster counting the pennies.

Happy Birthday Air Force



Charleston AFB will host the Air Force Ball Sept. 14, 6 p.m. Ticket prices are: E-1 through E-4-\$10; E-5 and E-6-\$18; E-7 and above and all officers-\$22.

More information and tickets are available through squadron POCs as follows:

437th Aerial Port Squadron - 1st Lt. Zabrina Robinson at 963-3070; Master Sgt. William Brown at 963-2266; Master Sgt. Oscar Thompson at 963-3357; and Staff Sgt. Kelly Burgess at 963-3238

437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron - Capt. William Reynolds at 963-6173; Capt. Elaine Washington at 963-6747

437th Airlift Wing - Capt. Hugh Hamilton at 963-5874

437th Civil Engineer Squadron - Staff Sgt. Jeffery Smith at 963-5262

437th Communications Squadron - Capt. Jon Bakonyi at 963-2935

437th Logistics Group - Capt. Robert Whetzel at 963-2395

437th Medical Operations Squadron - Master Sgt. Frank Lisenbee at 963-6780

437th Medical Support Squadron - Airman 1st Class Brian Thompson at 963-6898

437th Mission Support Squadron - Master Sgt. James Brady at 963-4410

437th Operations Support Squadron - 2nd Lt. Michael Morrison at 963-5625

437th Security Forces Squadron - 2nd Lt. Sara Fisher at 963-3612

437th Services Squadron - 2nd Lt. Veronica Parnell at 963-6257

14th Airlift Squadron - Joyce Anchors at 963-2158

15th Airlift Squadron - 2nd Lt. Eric McUmbert at 963-2266

17th Airlift Squadron - 1st Lt. Lance Hofer at 963-2914

Early morning workout at Charleston AFB

**Story and photo by
Gary Grove**

Southern Division, NFEC PA

The morning of Aug. 17 brought sunshine, clear skies, calm air and a great opportunity for the construction crew of the new corrosion control facility on Charleston AFB to lift more than 200,000 pounds of steel at one time.

Termed a "critical lift" by construction engineers, the Hightower Construction Company, a subcontractor for the \$18.1 million project, brought in a 275-ton, 200-ton and 175-ton crane to hoist the final 220,000-pound truss into place at the front of the building.

The three cranes lifted the truss more than 85 feet in the air before it was lowered into place at a height of 65 feet.

As of Aug. 16, the project was 35-40 percent complete, with the construction right on track to open on or before June 2002.

The entire project is being directed under the watchful eye of the CAFB Resident Office-In-charge of Construction of the Southern Division of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Southern Division's headquarters is located in North Charleston.

This new corrosion control

facility is a Design-Build project, with the Austin Company being the prime contractor. Hightower Construction is the subcontractor who has done the concrete footings, the structural steel, including the trusses, and will complete the siding and roof.

When completed, the new

facility will be used for C-17 aircraft and aerospace ground support. It will provide an enclosed environment for scheduled wash and corrosion control maintenance to include scuff sanding, feather edging, paint removal and painting portions of, or an entire aircraft.



A 220,000-pound truss is lifted on the roof of the new corrosion control facility Aug. 17. It took three cranes to lift the truss more than 85 feet. Construction on the facility is on schedule, and the projected opening is June 2002.

CAFB reservists save life: 315 crew on routine training mission takes on flight to Texas, Maryland, Pennsylvania to get boy to Children's Hospital alive

By Debra Baldwin
315 AW Public Affairs

What started out as a routine weekend training mission turned out to be a one-time shot at life for a seven-year-old Washington, D.C., boy.

The boy, badly in need of a



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Plants
Critical Care Team members administer in-flight care to a 7-year-old boy being transported on a Charleston AFB C-17.

heart transplant, got a ride from the Children's National Medical Center in Washington to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa., onboard a Charleston AFB based C-17 aircraft.

The process of moving the patient from Washington to Pittsburgh began Aug. 18 when a doctor at Children's Hospital called Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. The doctor knew the medical center had one of two Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenator machines in existence, and the only one certified for flight. He asked if it would be possible to get support to save the life of the young boy.

"This was unusual in that there are only two places in the United States that have the equipment necessary to

make this type of move," said Mark Mahar, senior duty officer at the Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center, Scott AFB, Ill. "We usually do one to three of these a year. Our regulations allow us to get involved if there is no other outlet available. That was the case here. We knew that it was necessary to take action."

The mission was coordinated through the JPMRC and the airlift control center at Scott AFB. It was determined that a C-17 training mission, scheduled at Charleston, could be reconfigured to meet the flight and medical requirements.

"Members of my unit were scheduled for a routine training flight when we got the call for an urgent mission," said Col. Sharyn Rotterger, 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander. "The flight and medical crews

quickly reconfigured the aircraft and prepared for the takeoff to San Antonio, where they would pick up a critical care team and the needed equipment."

The equipment was six feet long and weighed over 1,000 pounds. It would hold the boy and all life-sustaining equipment.

"This was the first time I had seen this machine," said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Plants, 315 AES medical technician. "We had to pick it up and move it from the ambulance onto the aircraft."

Upon arrival at Andrews AFB, Md., the ECMO was unloaded as quickly as possible into an ambulance and taken to Children's Hospital. The child was transferred from his by-pass machine to the ECMO stretcher and taken to the aircraft.

While the critical care team prepared the boy for transpor-

tation, the 315 AW members prepared for his flight to Pittsburgh.

The flight crew called ahead to the 911th Airlift Wing in Pittsburgh and arranged for parking and support. When the aircraft arrived, they were met by an ambulance and a police escort for the trip to Children's Hospital, some 30 miles away. The critical care team escorted the boy to the hospital along with their equipment and returned two hours later.

The 911 AW made phones available to the reservists who needed to call their employers to tell them they would not be at work the following day.

The aircraft and crew returned to CAFB 23 hours after takeoff for Texas.

"We were totally exhausted but excited too, because any time you can help a child it is wonderful," said Ray.

CHU —————
continued from page 1

that happened, I would get out and become a K-9 handler with a law enforcement agency outside the military."

Shafer said he would stay in the Air Force if he were allowed to keep his dog as a technical sergeant, but he sees a problem with the chain of command if that happens.

"Usually, master sergeants are sent to be in charge of a flight (security forces shift boss)," said Shafer. "If I made tech. and was allowed to keep my dog, a higher ranking tech. or master (master sergeant) would have to be the kennel master. I wouldn't want to work for a staff sergeant as a tech."

Chu echoed a similar situation to the one Shafer was in by citing a personal experience in the release.

"You have a situation now where you might have a guy who is maybe ideally suited to be the best tanker out there. He loves it, but in order for him to advance, he has to leave that job," Chu said. "The worst day of my life was the day I got promoted and I can't fly anymore."

Master Sgt. Darl Tremain, 437th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, said he experienced a similar situation where a promotion made him eligible for a job he didn't want to take and then placed him in a job that he was over qualified for.

Tremain said while he was working for the 437th Logistics Support Squadron he was awarded a line number for master sergeant. He became eligible for an overseas position.

"My daughter had just started school, and we had just bought a house," said Tremain. "Since I was now eligible for a spot working with

Navy contractors in Japan, and no one else wanted it, I had to decide between taking it and getting out. I realize that's the life I chose and I know there's always the possibility I may have to go somewhere I don't want to be."

Tremain took the position and returned stateside to Arizona, where he was the lowest ranking master sergeant.

"Because all the other master sergeants out-ranked me, I was doing work that I had been doing since I was a staff," said Tremain. "I told my boss that I wanted to do more and I was capable of doing more. I started working as a first sergeant part time, and then cross-trained when I had the opportunity.

"It turned out to be a blessing in disguise," Tremain continued. "I'm back here at CAFB, doing a job I love."

Tour lengths were also a major concern for Chu. According to the release, Chu questioned the practicality of having troops, especially commanders, serving in billets for two years or less. He said enabling service members to stay at one location longer would not only allow them to become more proficient, but would also ease the burden on military families.

"One of the reasons I do think we get people declining assignments that in the past have been seen as plum jobs is because the families have said, 'We've had it, you know? We're not moving,'" said Chu in the release.

Chu, who was sworn into office June 1, is the Secretary of Defense's senior policy adviser on recruitment, career development, and pay and benefits for 1.4 million active-duty members, 1.3 million Guard and Reserve members and 680,000 civilian employees.

BLOOD —————
continued from page 1

shipped, tested, shipped back and needed.

Senior Airman Anne Russell, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, was on hand to donate blood at Monday's drive. Russell said she donates at base blood drives every time she's not too busy.

"Combat camera gives us extra time off to support the blood drive," said Russell. "If I can get the time off work, then I donate."

Helping keep the blood supply above a critical level is one of many reasons people donate blood. Master Sgt. Jose Garcia, 437th Communications Squadron chief of telephone systems, said helping others is important to him.

"My biggest reason for donating is to help out fellow human beings," said Garcia. "I've donated easily two gallons of blood since I've been in the Air Force. When work permits, I donate."

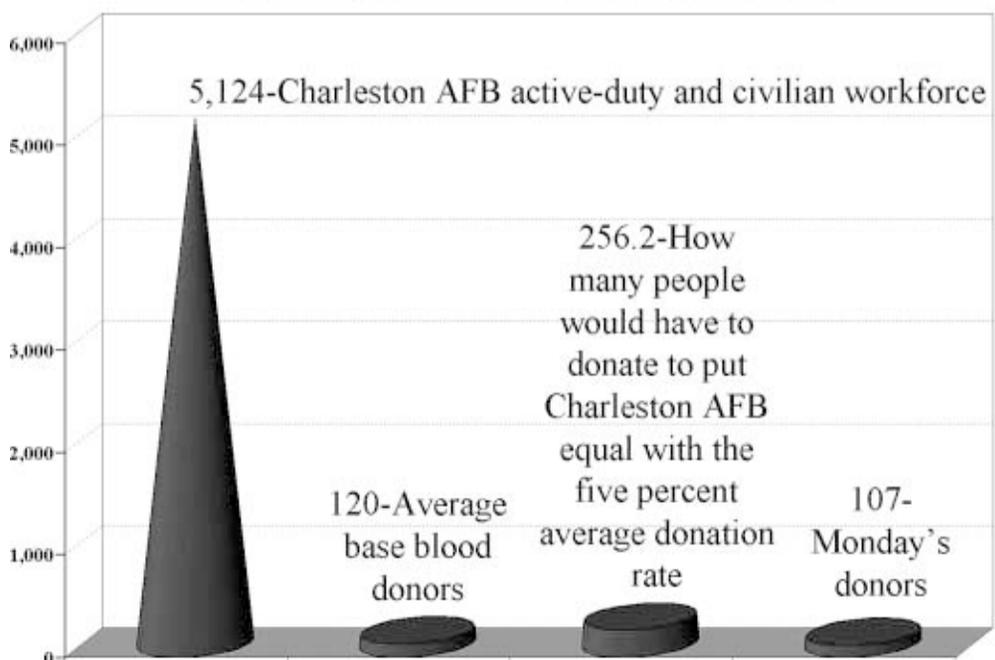
Along with helping his fellow human beings, Garcia also said donating blood was good for him.

"There was a new study that people have too much iron in their blood," said Garcia. "Donating gets rid of some of that extra iron."

CAFB will need even more members to donate blood for the next drive. Oliver said those who were in England for a period of six months or more from 1980 to the present will not be eligible to donate blood due to Mad Cow Disease factors. Many regular donors could meet ineligibility criteria, meaning more first-time blood donors will have to step forward to keep the Lowcountry's supply at a workable level. More information about eligibility will be available before the next blood drive.

"The most important thing I want people to think about is they never know when they might need blood," said Oliver.

Charleston AFB blood donations



NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Profile



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Staff Sgt. Cody Cole 437th Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Cody Cole is the shop supervisor for the 437th Maintenance Squadron Wheel and Tire Shop.

Cole, who sewed on staff sergeant in May, has been at Charleston AFB for four years, and this is his first base.

The wheel and tire shop's daily activities include breaking down C-17 wheels, cleaning and inspecting them, and building them back up. Cole said the whole process takes about four hours per wheel. Since the shop has been receiving 15 wheels per day, on average, they stay extremely busy.

Once the wheel and tire shop is done with a wheel, it is inspected by the 437 MXS Non-Destructive Inspection Section before being returned to the aircraft.

Cole said he does his job with pride, and he plans on making the Air Force a career. He has even set a goal of becoming a first sergeant in the next seven or eight years.

Right now, Cole is working toward his Community College of the Air Force degree.

"I want to finish my CCAF and then pursue a bachelors of some kind," said Cole. "I'm not sure what exactly I want it in right now. I'll let the cards fall where they may."

Once Cole retires, he plans on becoming a high school football coach. He said he thoroughly enjoyed his time as a high school football player, and he looks forward to returning as a coach.

When he's not working, Cole said he enjoys watching football. More importantly, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Frances, and their 9-month-old son, Austin Michael.

"He's the joy of our lives," said Cole.

Community Education Center. The college would also like to know what other classes students are interested in. The college will form classes to meet students' needs as long as eight people sign up. For more information, call 552-5959.

DRMO: The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office can help meet mission requirements. All DOD organizations can screen free excess assets at www.drms.dla.mil. For more information, call the 437th Supply Squadron at 963-4826.

Consignment Shop: The Consignment Shop has extended its hours to include Tuesday nights, 6-8 p.m. Consigning on Tuesday nights will be available from 6-7:30 p.m. The shop is still open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Consignment Shop is located in Bldg. 203, Graves Avenue, and can be reached at 963-3294.

Reunion: Members of the 435th Organizational Maintenance Squadron are having a reunion for members assigned from 1975-1985. The reunion will be held Oct. 12-14 at Myrtle Beach. For more information, call Stanley Miller at (910) 867-6508, or e-mail him at flymiller@mindspring.com.

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Services Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Brenda McCoy Wednesday, 3:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Romeo at 963-3813.

Retirement: The 437th Medical Group is hosting a retirement ceremony for Maj. Jeanette Cramer Wednesday, noon, at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Capt. Pam Stephenson at 963-6519.

Retirement: The 437th Supply Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. Charles Hoke, Aug. 31, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Harold Stafford at 963-5085.

Retirement: The 437th Logistics Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Junior Mathis Sep. 14, 2 p.m., at the Community Education Center. For more information, call Richard Hutchinson at 963-5980.

Around the base

Comedy: The Charleston Club presents the comedians Red Bone and Big-E, with Denise Bellamy as Ke' Ke' Shepard, and a special audience guest member as Sand Man Sims, tonight, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For

more information, call 571-7877.

Sea Corps: The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has openings for a limited number of 11-17-year-olds to join the crew of Hunley-Yorktown Division. An Orientation Program will be held aboard the USS Yorktown, Patriot's Point, Mount Pleasant, Saturday, 10:00 am. Reservations are necessary. For more information, call 571-4725 or 442-1853.

STU: All single, unaccompanied airmen are invited to attend a Stripes to Uniforms cookout Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., on the dorm campus between Bldgs. 473 and 466. There will be free hot dogs, burgers and sodas. Airmen can bring one blue shirt and one BDU shirt and have stripes sewn on for free. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Carmen Taylor at 963-6238.

Commissary: The Charleston AFB Commissary will be closed Sep. 4 in observance of Labor Day. The Commissary will resume normal hours Sep. 5, and is holding a case lot sale Sep. 7 and 8.

A/TA: The quarterly Airlift Tanker Association meeting will be Sep. 11, noon-1:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. There will be buffet lunch at noon, followed by the meeting. Those planning on attending the A/TA convention need to be at the meeting. The deadline for signing up for the lunch is Sep. 7. For more informa-

tion, call Jan Fuquea at 740-7541.

Dining out: The 14th Airlift Squadron's Order of the Pelican is holding a dining out, Nov. 9, at the Charleston Club. All present and former Pelicans are invited to attend. For ticket information, call Capt. Eric VonTrotha at 963-2980 or 1st Lt. Cassius Bentley at 963-4767.

Scholarship: The Aerospace Education Foundation is offering a scholarship for Air Force spouses. Applications are accepted until Nov. 1. The \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in early January. Applicants must be the spouse of an Air Force active-duty, Reserve or Guard member. Applications are available at the Community Education Center. For more information, call 1-800-291-8480.

AFSA: The Air Force Sergeants Association has more than 155,000 active-duty, retired, Guard and Reserve members. The mission of AFSA is to advocate improved quality-of-life and economic fairness to support the well being of enlisted personnel and their families. The Charleston AFB AFSA meets on the second Tuesday of every month, 4:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tundra Gatewood at 963-6901.

College: The City Colleges of Chicago is now offering Intro to Computers and Accounting classes at the

Palace Acquire: The Air Force Personnel Center is accepting applications through Aug. 17 for vacancies in the Palace Acquire Intern Program. The Palace Acquire Program targets college graduates and offers two-three years of formal, on-the-job training in a variety of career fields. For more information, go to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cp/recruit/paq.htm>.

Student jobs: The Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Department of Education recently opened www.studentjobs.gov for high school and college students to find temporary employment with the government.

Clinic: Children under 12 must be escorted by a parent or adult guardian at all times while in the base clinic. Children must remain in the waiting area under adult supervision while their parents are receiving medical care. If necessary, medical appointments will be rescheduled until parents find appropriate childcare.

Family Support Center

Pre-Deployment Briefing: Monday, 8 a.m., and Thursday, 4 p.m.

Resume II: Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

SMOOTH Move: Thursday, 8:30-noon.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

COMMENTARY

CAFB lends hand to Jackson ANG C-17 Ceremony

By Col. Karl Young
437AW vice commander

We sent a combined 437th and 315th Airlift Wing aircrew and a C-17 down to the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard Base, Jackson, Miss., Tuesday and Wednesday to participate in ceremonies to celebrate the assignment of the C-17. The Charleston C-17 was the star attraction and was used in the ceremonies and for an orientation flight of congressional staffers, civic leaders and local news media. Even the governor came out for the festivities to learn more about the C-17!

The aircrew and other support members on the flight were **Lt. Col. Pete Hirneise, Lt. Col. Paul Sykes, Maj. Scott Clawson, Capt. Nathan Gary, Chief Master Sgt. William Hamilton, Tech. Sgt. Chris Lemons, Senior Airman Rudy Dyess and Senior Airman Bruce McCormick.** It was a hugely successful event, and special thanks go out to the aircrew for making this important day extra special for our partners in the ANG. I know they are very excited about getting the C-17. Keep up the good work!

It was my pleasure to attend the Senior NCO Academy Graduation at Maxwell AFB, Ala., Tuesday. The Air Force Senior NCO Academy conducts a quality educational program that contributes significantly to the professional development and motivation of our senior enlisted leaders. I always enjoy supporting our people in their next step in professional development!

Graduating from the academy were Master Sergeants **Michael David**, 437th Communications Squadron; **Richard Graves**, 437th Security Force Squadron; **Matt Harless**, 437th Airlift Wing; **Byron Pitcher**, 15th Airlift Squadron; and **Steven Wiggins**, Detachment 3, Navy Brig.

Tickets went on sale last week for the Air Force Ball scheduled for Sept. 14, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. We have a great speaker, retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, the famed candy bomber from the Berlin Airlift, lined up. We also have the Air Force band, Airmen of Note, scheduled to perform during the evening. We expect about 500 people to attend, so please contact your group representative now to reserve your place at one of the most spectacular events of the year. It is a great chance to dress up and have fun. You won't be disappointed!

To raise some money to offset the cost of this event, there will be a 9-Pin No Tap Air Force Ball Bowling Competition today, 11 a.m., at the Charleston AFB Bowling Center. The price is \$10 per person. There will be a team competition and a number of prizes will be awarded. Please contact Capt. Warren Wright at 963-3662 if interested.

As chairman of the environmental protection committee and a participant in the Earth Day fair for the past two years, I encourage everyone to participate in the golf tournament Sept. 6 to raise funds to offset the costs of hosting the annual Spring Earth Day Fair for 1,200 fifth-grade students throughout Charleston County. The shotgun start is at 8:30 a.m. at Wrenwoods Golf Course. There are more than \$2,000 in prizes; everything from golf passes at some top courses in the local area, to dinners at



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, throws out the first pitch before the Aug. 15 Riverdogs game. Many Charleston AFB members attended the game with free tickets for military appreciation night.

local restaurants and hotel accommodations are up for grabs. It will cost you \$25 plus cart and green fees. The price includes a lunch and beverage. You can register with Al Urrutia, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight at 963-4978. Come on out and support our folks.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15 and continues until October 15. The Hispanic Heritage Committee is led by Mario Acevedo at 963-2405, and Master Sgt. Edison Velez Jr. at 963-2519. They are looking for volunteers to help them with the many planned events.

The first event kicks off Sept. 15 with a Piñata Party at the Youth Center, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be free food and refreshments. The kickoff luncheon is Sept. 18 and will feature guest speaker Jose Luis Villagas, vice president of BV broadcasting (a local Spanish language radio and TV company). The cost is \$8. There will also be a planned free Hispanic film festival Sept. 29 and a closing dinner dance Oct. 13 with musical entertainment and guest speaker David Silva, deputy director of the C-17 program at Robins AFB, Ga.

The committee has done a great job of pulling together a number of exciting events to honor the contributions of America's fastest growing minority. Watch the *Airlift Dispatch* for future articles.

Congratulations to 1st Lt. **Carrie McGrew**, officer-in-charge of readiness in the 437th Services Squadron, for graduating at the top of her class as a distinguished graduate in the six-week Services Initial Skills Course held at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and Tyndall AFB, Fla.

A team from the Air Expeditionary Force Center will visit Charleston AFB Sept. 12 to brief many of us on the new Cycle 3 "Teaming" Concept. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about this new AEF concept. 1st Lt. Charles Rock from the 437th AW Plans Office is collecting any concerns and questions people may have about this new concept so that the scheduled briefers can address questions. Please contact him at 963-5592 with your ideas and questions.

Col. Rusty Findley, 437 AW commander, is TDY until August 31, attending the 2001 National Security Leadership Course at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. The National Security Leadership Course, designed for senior executives in national security, is a two-week course that examines the interplay of various historic, geopolitical, institutional, and economic forces and factors that shape United States national security strategy and the resulting impact on DOD policies and programs.

Have a safe weekend, and continue to keep doing great things for your Air Force. Keep playing ATWIND too!

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

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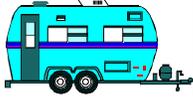
Action Line

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.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.





Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Riverdogs: Monday and Tuesday, 7:05 p.m., vs. Columbus. Wednesday and Thursday, 7:05 p.m., vs. Augusta. These are the Riverdogs' last regular-season home games. Their last four games are away games against Columbus Aug-31-Sep. 3. For more information, call 577-DOGS.

Battery: Saturday, Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m., vs. Richmond, and Sep. 8, 7:30 p.m., vs. Nashville. For more information, call 971-GOAL.

Summerville Speedway: Holiday Inn Express 250 - NASCAR Late Model event, Super Mini-Cup cars plus four NASCAR divisions, bicycle, scooter and Mini Truck races. Gates open at 5 p.m., racing starts at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 871-8331.

Southern 500: NASCAR Winston Cup Southern 500 Sep. 2 at Darlington Raceway. For ticket information, call 395-8499.

Triathlon: Kiawah Island Triathlon Sept. 9, 8 a.m. The triathlon consists of swimming, biking and running. Entry fees are \$50 for an individual and \$70 for a relay team. For more information, call 853-9987.

Tickets for sports events, as well as many other attractions in the area, may be available at a discount price for active-duty military, reservists, military retirees, Department of Defense civilians and their dependents from the Outdoor Recreation Center. For more information and for prices, call the Information, Tickets and Tours Program at 963-5271.

Entertainment:

Ghost walk: Charleston Ghost walk, 90-minute tour of Charleston's haunted areas, nightly at 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Adults are \$15 and

children 8-14 are \$8. For more information, call 1-800-729-3420.

Fort Sumter cruise: Cruises to Fort Sumter, including one-hour at the fort, daily. Cruise times vary. Cruises depart from Patriot's Point and the Aquarium Wharf. Adults are \$11, children 6-11 are \$6 and children 5 and under are free. For more information, call 1-800-789-3678.

Live music: The Frogmoores play Art's Bar and Grill Sunday, 10:30 p.m. For more information, call 849-3040.

Live music: Eurogression is playing Cumberlands Tuesday, 10 p.m. For more information, call 577-9469.

Events:

Storytelling: Free storytelling and puppetry with Brian McCreight, Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Hutson Street, between Meeting and King Streets.

College: Limestone College is holding an information session for adults who are interested in resuming or beginning college Wednesday, 6 p.m., at the Cummins Building, 4500 Leeds Ave. For more information, call 740-2900.

Labor Day Weekend at Short Stay: Swimming, boating, volleyball and horseshoes will be some of the activities at Short Stay for a Labor Day Weekend celebration Sept. 1. There will also be a street dance from 8-11 p.m. Anyone with a military ID is welcome to join in the activities. Gates open at 7:30 a.m. A gate fee of \$1 per person applies. For more information, call 743-1366.

Listings are published on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor of the Airlift Dispatch. Events listed are subject to change without notice. Those interested in attending an event should call ahead to confirm the date and time. To submit an event for Off duty, send a fax with all pertinent information and a call-back number to 963-5604.

FEATURE



All photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Rita Buck said she was overwhelmed by the time and effort given by the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron to renovate her home.

437 AGS renovates 'grandma's' home

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Sixty members of the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, with help from some reservists from the 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron, donated their off-duty time and energy Aug. 17 to renovate the home of 78-year-old widow, Rita Buck.

"What they've done is wonderful," Buck said. "It now feels like a home. Before it was just a place to sleep."

Tech. Sgt. Bill Wright, the 437 AGS dorm manager, headed up the renovation efforts after hearing Buck's story from his mother, Patricia.

Buck, who has no children and lost her husband, Don, a World War II and Army Air Corps veteran, to cancer in 1979, spent her days and

nights alone in a home without an air conditioner and a stove that didn't work. Buck depended on the kindness of neighbors for food and an occasional break from the heat.

"She reminded me of my own grandma and I just wanted to help," Wright said.

Wright's grandmother, Lucille Boyd, was brutally murdered in her home on her 75th birthday in Richmond, Va., in 1995.

Wright set out to get an air conditioner for Buck and received one donated by Charleston City Councilman Wendell Gilliard. That was just the beginning.

Once Wright got to know Buck and discovered how alone she was, he "adopted" her as his own. He encouraged other members of the 437 AGS to get involved, and they did.

Volunteers from the 437 AGS

sought donations from local businesses and began to do a full renovation to her Goose Creek home.

"The response has been overwhelming, but I'm not surprised," said Senior Airman Scott Pinto, 437 AGS assistant dorm manager. "Something like this brings out the best in people."

The AGS volunteers replaced carpet, painted the house inside and out, replaced a storm door and did some landscaping, among other things.

"I'm out here to support my guys and help someone in need," said Staff Sgt. Joe Combs, 315 AGS.

"I've done this before and the self satisfaction makes it all worth it."

Mike and Rhonda Kilgore, who own Subway Sandwich Shops in Goose Creek and Summerville and are friends of Wright, also got into

the act by donating lunch for all the volunteers.

"Bill talked about this project his squadron was doing and we told him to let us know if there was anything we could do to help," Rhonda Kilgore said. "This is about helping out those in need and giving back to the community."

Maj. Gerry Frederick, 437 AGS commander, said he was proud of his troops and glad they could help.

"The reality is there are lot of folks out there there who need help and though we can't help them all, we can make a difference taking them on one at a time," he said.

Buck was overwhelmed by the kindness shown to her by her new family.

"I never had grandchildren," she said, "Now I have 550, and I love them all."



Master sergeants Sam Schmitt (left) and Ron Burgess, both from the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, replaced the old mailbox with a new one which is identified with Rita Buck's last name, address and the 437 AGS patch.

Donations made by

Members of the
437 AGS

Subway

Lowe's

Home Depot

84 Lumber

Super Carpets



Senior Airman Tim Clark, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, paints the window panes of Rita Buck's home Aug. 17.

Citadel sponsor program offers cadets needed rest

Citadel has largest class in recent years, not enough sponsors to accommodate

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

More than 705 people are going to try a very difficult college experience this fall.

The Citadel welcomed their largest freshman class in recent years Saturday, as students began a difficult journey toward their degrees.

To help this large class cope, the Citadel's Cadet Activities Office is looking for families to sponsor cadets in their home for a few weekends during the school year. Sponsors can give the cadets a welcome relief from the challenging "boot camp" style fourth-class system. The cadets, often separated from their families for the first time, are faced with a regimented lifestyle that affords them very little free time and even fewer luxuries and privileges under the stringent military system, similar to what many airmen faced at basic training.

The program is designed to give

out-of-state cadets a home away from home since they lack the support structure of their family nearby. Sponsors are matched with cadets from similar geographic areas or interests and hobbies.

"What most freshman cadets want is just a place to relax, have a stress-free meal and someone to listen and talk with them," according to a pamphlet provided to sponsors.

Many freshmen might even use the time to get some sleep and do their laundry while at a sponsor's home, according to school officials. The first opportunity for cadets to leave the campus and spend time with their sponsor families will be Sep. 2.

"I'm out of sponsor families already and we still have about 70 out-of-state freshmen who want to be matched with a sponsor family," said Mary Ann Dorton, deputy director of Cadet Activities at the Citadel.

Around eight percent of the cadets dropped out from last's year incoming freshmen class, and school officials count on the sponsor program to make life better for those cadets who choose to tough it out.

The school has set times and days, usually on weekends, when freshmen can spend time with their sponsor families. Overnight stays do not occur since most cadets must spend

their nights on campus during the first semester. The freshmen start arriving in the middle of August where they are met by the upperclassmen who arrange for intense physical conditioning and military training.

"Military members can identify with what many of these cadets are going through as they have been through similar experiences at the Air Force Academy or other military colleges," said Dorton.

The sponsor program also offers a great opportunity to interest cadets

in joining the Air Force. Although many of them may have already decided whether or not to join one of the military services, an Air Force sponsor could have an impact on their final decisions.

"Oftentimes, our cadets think that life in the barracks is similar to what life would be in the military," said Col. Frank Shealy, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 765 commander. "We like our cadets to see first hand that the Air Force truly is a great way of life."

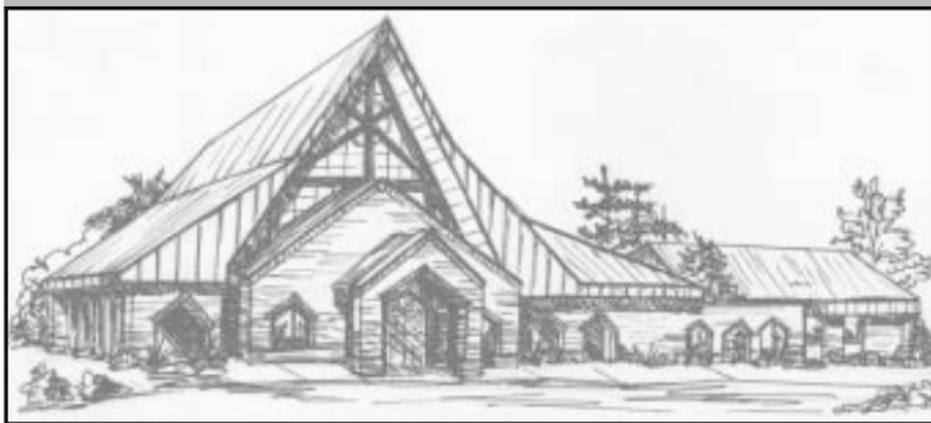


Photo by Russell Pace, Citadel

Freshmen, or "knobs," at the Citadel live in a boot-camp style atmosphere. Freshmen are called knobs because their shaven heads look like door knobs.

Families interested in sponsoring cadets need to complete a form identifying their hobbies and interests. To enroll in the program, or for more information, call Dorton at 953-5111.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Phone: 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services

Saturday -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

Weekdays -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

Protestant Services

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

Thursday -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-8041.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Kiss of the Dragon" – Jet Li

Liu Jiuan, China's top government agent, arrives in Paris from Shanghai to carry out a sensitive, top-secret mission. Liu is in Paris to assist Richard, an unorthodox police official with a small army to back him up. The mission goes horribly wrong, as the man Liu had come to help betrays him. **(R) 98 minutes**

Saturday, 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sep. 1, 2 p.m.

"Cats and Dogs" – Jeff Goldblum

There's a secret war being waged in the homes and neighborhoods of Earth that humans don't even know about; an eternal struggle between two great armies – the Cats and the Dogs. Cats plan to destroy a new vaccine, that if developed, would destroy all human allergies to Dogs. The Dogs try to stop the Cats from destroying the vaccine. **(PG) 87 minutes**

Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m.

"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" – Computer generated

Aki Ross, her mentor, Dr. Sid, and the few humans who remain on Earth must find a way to survive an alien invasion and reclaim the planet. **(PG-13) 106 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

CAFB's 2001 intramural softball season ends

MXS, CS/SVS land top spots heading into tournament play

**By Staff Sgt.
Melanie Streeter**
437 AW Public Affairs

The 2001 Charleston AFB Intramural Softball season is over, and teams launched into tournament play this week.

The 437th Maintenance Squadron team, MXS, finished the regular season in first place, with a 25-5 record. The second place 437th Communications Squadron and Services Squadron combined team, CS/SVS, also finished the season with a 25-5 record, but lost to MXS several times in regular season play.

The 24-6 437th Supply Squadron team, SUP, took third place.

The 437th Security Forces Squadron team, SFS, and the 17th Airlift Squadron's Flyers wrapped up season play with 21-9 records. SFS was awarded fourth place

because they defeated the Flyers twice during season play.

Sixth place went to the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron's 18-12 CES. The 437th Logistics Support Squadron and Mission Support Squadron's combined team, LSS/MSS, took seventh with a 16-14 record.

The 437th Aerial Port Squadron's 15-15 APS ended the season in eighth place.

The 1st Combat Camera Squadron and 437th Operations Support Squadron combined team, 1CTCS/OSS, tied the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron's AGS 1 at 14-16. 1CTCS/OSS beat 437 AGS 1 several times during regular season play, earning them ninth.

The 437th Transportation Squadron's 13-17 LGT finished in 11th place. MED GP, the 437th Medical Group team, and 437 AGS 2 finished 12th and 13th.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements
Rick Baker, CS/SVS pitcher, launches a ball toward home plate in tournament play Tuesday evening. The number-two ranked team lost to number three SUP, 11-16, and went on to face fourth-ranked SFS. Tournament results were not available at press time.