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## Tops in Blue plays Charleston, entertains thousands

*More than 2,500 pack Gaillard Auditorium to see talented performers*

**By Senior Airman Jason Smith**  
437 AW Public Affairs

Tops in Blue performed a free, 90-minute show called "The Magic of Music" for more than 2,500 attendees Tuesday at the Gaillard Auditorium in Charleston.

The show started with a patriotic song, followed by a moment of silence for Sept. 11 victims. Col. Karl Young, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander, then spoke, thanking the local community for their support of Charleston AFB and the U.S. military. Brig. Gen. Gerald Black, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, echoed Young's sentiments.

Tops in Blue took center stage, entertaining the crowd with a medley of songs and well-rehearsed dance rou-

tines. According to a Tops in Blue press release, the show's goal is to guide audience members through a magical journey of yesterday and today's Broadway, pop and dance music.

"I thought it was a really great show and really entertaining," said Jenny Minor, wife of Capt. Kevin Minor from the 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. "They sang very well."

Minor said it was her first time seeing the show, and she will attend future shows.

Tops in Blue has been entertaining audiences for more than 45 years. The group represents the Air Force as one of the oldest and most traveled entertainment groups of its kind. The all active-duty special performers are selected for their entertainment abilities.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Tops in Blue, an Air Force special unit, entertained a Charleston crowd Tuesday at the Gaillard Auditorium. Show-goers leaving the auditorium had words of praise for the performance.

## Navy ship-naming ceremony honors fallen Air Force hero

**By Lt. Col Ed Memi**  
437 AW Public Affairs

Air Force war hero and Medal of Honor recipient, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class William Pitsenbarger, was honored at a Navy ship-naming ceremony Nov. 28, at Detyens Shipyard, Charleston.

Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman, was awarded the Medal of Honor for treating and protecting scores of

wounded infantrymen, while under intense enemy fire and mortally wounded himself, in a rain forest stronghold near the Vietnamese capital of Saigon in 1966.

Pitsenbarger's heroism was honored when a chartered ship operated for the Navy's Military Sealift Command, the ocean transportation provider for the Department of Defense, was named MV A1C William H. Pitsenbarger. The ship will preposition Air Force ammunition at sea near potential war or contingency sites, adding greatly to the U.S. military's combat r e a d i n e s s .

Pitsenbarger will operate from the Diego Garcia area in the Indian Ocean.

Air Force Gen. John W. Handy, commander in chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mo-

bility Command, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

A pair of F-15Es from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., flew over the ship when Richardene Brewer, wife of Navy Rear Adm. David L. Brewer III, commander of Military Sealift Command, broke the ceremonial bottle of champagne, officially naming the ship.

"This ship will live up to its heroic namesake, going into harms way if necessary to deliver the ammunition that the Air Force needs to carry out its worldwide mission," said Rear Adm. Brewer during the hour-long ceremony. "We welcome this outstanding ship to the Military Sealift Command fleet."

Handy spoke of the tremendous heroism Pitsenbarger demonstrated repeatedly. He told of one mission where Pitsenbarger had figured out a way to extract a wounded soldier in a minefield at great risk to himself, earning him the Air Force Airman's Medal afterward.

"Freedom does not come without a price. Like William H. Pitsenbarger, this ship will carry the essence of

America's warfighters," Handy said. "Every single steel plate is a symbol of the American hero for which she is named and the iron resolve that he displayed that bitter day. Her cargo will be used to defend freedom around the world."

The Pitsenbarger will carry Air Force containerized ammunition. The ship can carry about 885 container equivalents; 720 under deck and 135 in compartments above deck. Both cargo areas are air-conditioned and dehumidified to ensure the ammunition stays protected from the elements.

The Pitsenbarger has five cranes on the deck that allow the ship to on- and off-load ammunition without shoreside cranes. This critical feature gives Pitsenbarger the flexibility to off-load in undeveloped ports.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mike Lenahan, program manager for the Air Force Afloat Preposition fleet, Hill AFB, Utah, oversees the three container ships for the Air Force. The Pitsenbarger is



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Buytas

A worker paints the name "A1C William H. Pitsenbarger" onto a ship Nov. 27 at Detyens Shipyard, Charleston.

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## IN THE NEWS

## OSA, ESC

## Two organizations always looking for members

By Senior Airman Jason Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

Two community-minded Charleston AFB groups are looking to recruit new members.

The Officers' Spouses Association and Enlisted Support Club organize and participate in many support programs, both on and off base. While both organizations have long lists of accomplishments, new members are always needed to replace PCSed members and to expand the groups' deeds.

"Membership currently consists of a group of 14, and our organization always welcomes new members," said Amanda Ambrose, ESC point of contact. "Together we can accomplish so much more for the base and our community. The expansion of our group provides a wider support network for all involved. The 'tons-of-fun' involved is greatly enhanced with the addition of different personalities, talents and abilities."

OSA's membership is higher than ESC's with 47 members. Vickie Peaire, OSA president, said the group is still looking for more members to maintain the group's World War II missions of supporting military officers' spouses by promoting friend-

ship, and unifying interests and activities of members.

"We provide support through our monthly coffees, which include a meal and a program," said Peaire. "We also provide a monthly newsletter that keeps our members informed on events and items happening around the base. We are also able to offer college scholarships to high school seniors and military spouses who want to continue their education."

The ESC and OSA have both established themselves locally by participating in and contributing to a variety of programs. According to Ambrose, the ESC has raised funds and contributed to the Air Force Widow's Home, CAFB Airman Leadership School and Community College of the Air Force graduations, CAFB Youth Center Programs, Family Support Center Readiness Program, Security Forces Defender Challenge Team and the Air Force Ball, just to name a few.

The OSA has donated financial help to groups such as the American Red Cross, Holiday Cheer Program, Youth Center, Family Services, Air Force Village, Camp Happy Days and the Florence Crittenton Center. Peaire said OSA also charters a Boy

Scout Troop on the base.

Both organizations take time to socialize and have some fun also. The ESC holds regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the FSC, as well as in the homes of members. Ambrose said the group has hosted Phillip Simmons, local master blacksmith. They have also recently traveled to the Halloween Display on the Square, the James Island Christmas Light Display and the Charleston Ghost Walk.

Future plans for the group include hosting first sergeants to speak about their missions, speakers from the Medical University of South Carolina who will talk about the challenges and special needs of families, and Spoleto.

They are also considering a visit to the Flowertown Festival in Summerville and a candlelight tour of Charleston homes.

The OSA holds a monthly coffee on the third Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., with a social hour and a dinner and program following. The group also holds an occasional Wednesday morning coffee. Coffees are usually held at the Charleston Club. Some of the recent entertainment included speakers on the

Charleston colonial days, Charleston crafters and basket weavers, and Bunko games.

The OSA has many events scheduled for the near future. Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club, they are holding a Christmas brunch with a soloist and ornament exchange. In January they are holding a Bunko night, followed by guest speaker Amelia Rose, a prominent watercolor artist, in February.

Membership requirements are very simple for both organizations. Those interested in the ESC can call Ambrose at 963-5780, or e-mail her at amanda.ambrose@charleston.af.mil for more information. Those interested in OSA can call Peaire at 851-6889 for more information.

"Our ESC offers a most rewarding opportunity for newcomers and old timers alike, to unite and support one another in trying times, as well as to share in those enjoyable times that life presents daily," said Ambrose in closing.

Peaire echoed Ambrose's sentiments by saying, "In times of turmoil and uncertainty, the OSA stands by its membership and will always be there to provide comfort, support and any other type of friendship an officer's spouse may need."

## SHIP

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the newest container ammunition ship. The Air Force munitions are loaded into side-loaded 20-foot International Standardization Organization containers that are carried on these ships. The ship can hold containers with a net explosive weight of about 6 million pounds, which can weigh about 7-8 million short tons. Military Sealift Command obtains the ships for the Air Force.

"A typical ship has a crew of about 20 people, but there is constant maintenance required and everything is on a time schedule just like your car," said Lenehan. "The ship will go to a designated port and will occasionally slow steam and operate all the cranes to maintain a certain state of readiness."

"During Enduring Freedom, we've already had to use ship cranes to download some of these containers (on the other two container ammunition ships) at some austere ports," he added.

Pitsenbarger will join a fleet of more than 35 Afloat Prepositioning Ships under

MSC's operational control. At-sea prepositioning of combat equipment has become increasingly important as U.S. bases overseas continue to close.

Griff Hume, program officer for the Military Sealift Command at the Washington Navy yard, said that after the modifications such as fire protection systems are done at Detyens Shipyard, located on the old Charleston Navy base, the ship will head to the terminal at Sunny Point for loading next month.

"We chose to hold the naming ceremony here because the repairs were being done locally on the ship," said Hume. "Once the ship was delivered, we did not want to delay anything and it made more sense to bring the ceremony here."

The civilian-crewed, 621-foot container ship is owned by RR & VO L.L.C. and operated by Red River Shipping Corp. of Rockville, Md., for MSC. MSC charters the ships for five years. **(Information for this story was also taken from a Military Sealift Command press release.)**

## Air Force Ball attracts more than 500

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437 AW Public Affairs

Air Mobility Command Director of Operations, Maj. Gen. Roger Brady, highlighted Charleston's and AMC's accomplishments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the guest speaker for the Air Force Holiday Ball Nov. 30 at the Charleston Club.

Set amongst a backdrop of patriotic red, white and blue, the once-postponed Air Force



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements  
Airman basic Winnie Thompson, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, Col. Mike Stampley (middle), 315 AW vice commander, and Col. Karl Young, 437 AW vice commander, cut the Air Force birthday cake.

Birthday Ball drew a crowd of more than 500. Diners enjoyed a large buffet meal and musical entertainment by the South Wind band before hearing Brady's remarks. The wing's most junior enlisted member and senior ranking person cut the Air Force's 54<sup>th</sup> birthday cake, symbolizing the cooperation that exists between the ranks.

"We are funded in the Air Force to keep about 80 percent of our aircraft flying and that's a very high number by Air Force standards," Brady said. "Your maintainers are maintaining your aircraft well above that rate. Virtually every C-17 that we have that is not in depot, getting phase repair or new modifications, is flying. That is a tremendous feat, well above what we're funded and manned to produce."

"Being a warrior isn't about wearing a flight suit, but rather how you feel about your job," Brady continued.

Brady also thanked spouses, families, civilian employers of reservists and community leaders for their

support of military members.

Brady talked about AMC's quick response immediately following the terrorist attacks Sept. 11. He compared the effort to a similar one in 1998 in response to actions taken by Saddam Hussein.

"We moved more cargo and flew three times as many missions as that earlier effort," said Brady.

Brady also mentioned how quickly the base responded in planning and delivering humanitarian daily rations to the refugees.

"There has never been a better time to be an American," Brady said. "I was reading in a newspaper the other day about whether people should have parties for the upcoming holidays. Of course, you ought to; there is no nation in the world that has more to celebrate. I'm delighted that you are celebrating."

Col. Karl Young, 437 AW vice commander, and Col. Mike Stampley, 315 AW vice commander, also made opening and closing remarks for the Air Force Ball.

# Aircrews deliver 2 millionth HDR: *Charleston AFB C-17 loadmaster tosses milestone meal out over Afghanistan*

By Master Sgt. Joe Bela  
USAFE News Service

C-17 Globemaster III aircrews surpassed the 2 million mark when they delivered their cargo of humanitarian daily rations and returned to Ramstein AB, Germany, Nov. 30.

A two-ship formation of C-17 transport planes airdropped the pre-packaged meals, which are stored in a refrigerator-sized cardboard box that disintegrates as it exits the rear of the plane.

The yellow packages each contain two meals with the 2,200 calories needed to nutritionally sustain one person for a day.

C-17 aircrews and planes from Charleston AFB and McChord AFB, Wash., were sent to Ramstein AB to fly humanitarian missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The airdrops began Oct. 7.

Maj. Leon piloted the plane carrying the 2 millionth packaged meal.

"We've hit a milestone," he said. "We probably have a few more milestones to conquer along the way, but we also have a mission to perform. If there are milestones to hit along the way, so be it."

Staff Sgt. Rene, the CAFB loadmaster who tossed the symbolic 2 millionth HDR, called the event a distinction.

"I was asked if I wanted to deliver the 2 millionth HDR, and naturally I jumped at the chance," he said. "Being on the flight was a milestone, but having the opportunity to throw out the HDR was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"Flying (humanitarian airlift) is a mission that the C-17 has done for years, and it will continue to do in the future," Leon said.

"There's the war effort and there's the humanitarian side of any conflict," he continued. "One breaks the will of the opposing force. The other builds the spirit of an innocent and displaced populace."

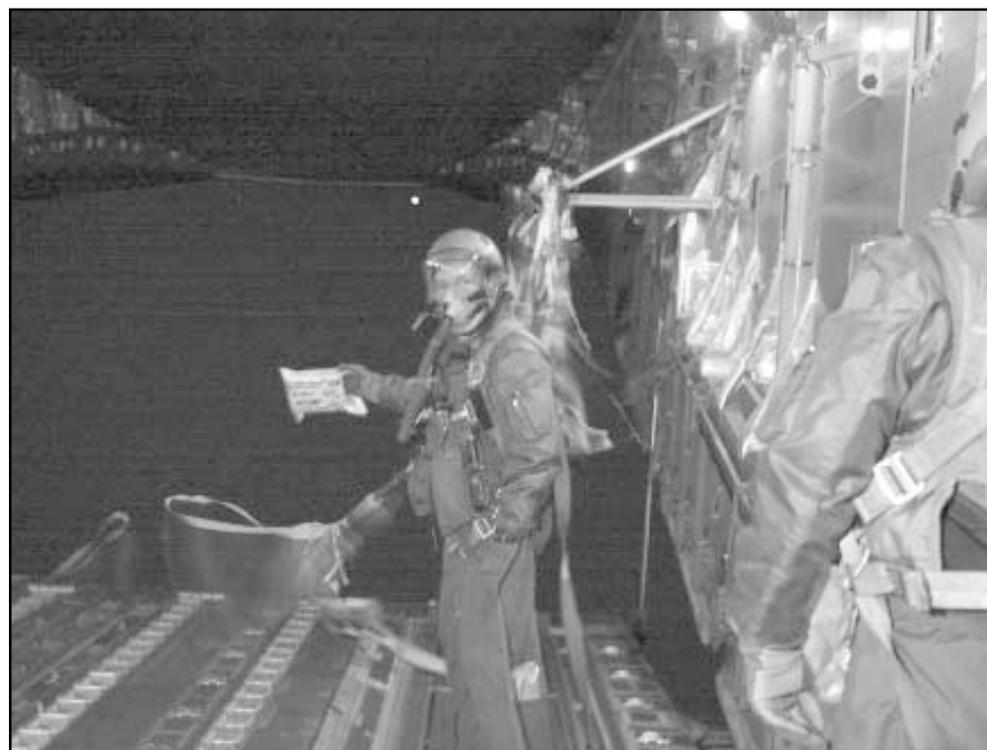


Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed

Staff Sgt. Rene prepares to toss the 2 millionth humanitarian daily ration from the rear of a Charleston C-17 Globemaster III as it flies over Afghanistan. The loadmaster is deployed to Germany to support the humanitarian mission.

## Environmental awards details

Besides being named as runner up in the Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Environmental Flight award, the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight recently brought home the Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality and Pollution Prevention, Individual category Awards.

The awards are named for White, who, while serving as Air Force chief of staff in 1957, set the Air Force on a path to support DOD environmental programs.

"We're pretty proud," said Jeff Garrett, environmental flight chief. "We're kind of getting used to winning or coming in second in the flight awards, but the quality and P2 (pollution prevention) awards are new to us. We're glad to get it."

The quality award is given to the unit conducting the best or most improved quality program during the fiscal year, according to Garrett.

Some accomplishments of the quality section and the flight include creating a Geospatial Information System, having 20 no-notice inspections with no violations and being the first federal member of the South Carolina Environmental Excellence program.

The flight also hosted the largest Earth Day celebration in the Air Force, educating over 1,200 school children with 30 local environmental exhibitors teaching and promoting environmental awareness.

For Nicole Shope, winner of the P2 award, the recognition is a good ending to her first year as a federal employee.

"I was really thrilled to win," Shope said. "I know my counterparts at different bases also do an outstanding job. I feel like a lot of it, too, was a base effort. I like what I do, and there are a lot of motivated people on base who make my job easier."

Garrett said the flight isn't resting on its laurels.

"We're proud, but it's a subdued pride," said Garrett.

## 437 CES named AMC outstanding CE unit

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
437 AW Public Affairs

Air Mobility Command recently awarded the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, large category, making the 437 CES the command's pick to compete for the award at the Air Force level.

Being named the outstanding unit in the large category came as a surprise, according to Glen Easterby, 437 CES acting base civil engineer.

"At the luncheon, they announced the individual and flight awards and the runners up, and then they got to the unit award," Easterby said. "They started with the small unit, picking out bullets from the package to describe the winner. Well, we had submitted the award for the small category, and what they were reading wasn't from our package, so I figured we hadn't won. Then they moved on to the large award, and I realized they were reading from our package."

According to Easterby, AMC reclassified units to make the awards categories more even, but the 437 CES wasn't aware it had been reclassified when the package was submitted.

"Lt. Col. (Maria) Dowling, (437 CES commander), presented a good package so we could be competitive," Easterby said. "It was so well written, we were able to compete in the large category, even though we didn't know we were."

Some of the squadron's accomplishments include directing 12,000 tons of debris to build an offshore reef in South Carolina, saving \$500,000 in disposal costs; achieving a 98 percent on-time completion rate for over 6,900 job orders in Military Family Housing; and saving money on energy costs. The squadron replaced 940 heat pumps with more efficient geothermal units, and the new demand-limiting system implemented over the summer saved the base \$80,000.

The 437 CES is also the home of outstanding flights and individuals. The explosive ordnance disposal flight won the Senior Master Sgt. Gerald J. Stryzak Award; Chief Master Sgt. Carla Sharman earned the Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Ahearn Enlisted Leadership Award; the environmental flight was named runner up for the Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Environmental Flight Award and brought home two Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Awards; the resources flight was named runner up for the Maj. Gen. Robert C. Thompson Award; and the operations flight was named runner up for the Maj. Gen. Clifton Wright Award.

## EOD award details

Air Mobility Command recently awarded the Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Stryzak Award to the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight.

The award recognizes the EOD flight that distinguishes itself as the year's top performer through sustained superior mission support and outstanding achievement.

The flight's accomplishments include resolving 16 emergency explosive incidents, working 30 Secret Service taskings, handling four joint explosives operations and sending personnel to nine training courses. Flight members logged 663 days TDY supporting both operational and training tasks and were part of a team that protected 256 heads-of-state, searched 1,200 vehicles and 500 pieces of press equipment during the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York.

Other highlights for the year include providing support for both the Republican National Convention and Presidential Inauguration, and accompanying the Secretary of Defense on a nine-country Middle East tour following the bombing of the USS Cole.

According to Tech. Sgt. Willie Campbell, EOD flight superintendent, the caliber of people who work in EOD makes a big difference at award time.

"It all boils down to taking care of your people," Campbell said. "We make a point of trying to recognize their accomplishment."

Winning an award doesn't change much for the flight members.

"Every year everybody has a chance to win," said Senior Airman Kevin Hammer, EOD flight. "The job doesn't change, we still perform at our best whether we're recognized or not. Winning just gives us a standard to uphold for the next year."

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Charleston Profile



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

### Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amanda Fountain 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amanda Fountain is a precision measurement equipment laboratory apprentice in the 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Flight.

Fountain's job is to ensure the accuracy of test equipment used at Charleston AFB to troubleshoot and repair the C-17 and its various systems by setting and adhering to the standards dictated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. This ensures that no matter what equipment is used, a volt is a volt; an amp is an amp and so on.

In addition to her duties at work, Fountain participates in a number of squadron and base activities. Lately, she said working on the squadron's holiday party has been one of her more time-consuming projects. She is also a member of the First Six, participated in the "Pumpkin Patrol" to ensure children's safety on Halloween, marched in the Veterans Day parade and helped with the Senior NCO induction ceremony.

Though only at CAFB, her first base, since May, Fountain already has her sights set on the future.

"In two years I hope to go to school full-time in the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program and try for a commission," Fountain said.

In her free time, Fountain said she enjoys spending time with her husband, Brannon, and 8-month-old daughter, Kayleigh.

draw a total of \$500 regardless of TDY length, unless they make a payment.

**A/TA:** The Airlift/Tanker Association is awarding \$200 tuition grants for enlisted A/TA members in the rank of airman basic-technical sergeant pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree. Information packets are available at the Community Education Center. Applications can also be requested via e-mail at 437mss.dpe@charleston.af.mil.

**Construction:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group is undergoing significant renovations at the Clinic and Behavioral Sciences buildings. Construction is scheduled to take place through June. The Clinic staff apologizes for any delays that may occur during the renovations.

### Family Support Center

**Pre-deployment Briefing:** Monday, Dec. 17, 24 and 30, 8-8:30 a.m., and Thursday, Dec. 20 and 27, 4-4:30 p.m.

**TAP 3-Day Workshop:** Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Educational Opportunity Assistance:** Tuesday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Positive Parenting:** Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

**Smooth Move:** Dec. 18, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

**Resume II:** Dec. 18, 9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

**Troops-To-Teachers:** Dec. 18, 10-11 a.m.

**TSP Briefing:** Dec. 18, 3-4:30 p.m., and 6-7:30 p.m.

**Sponsorship Training:** Dec. 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

### Spotlight

**Red ribbon:** Congratulations to Beth Eidson's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for winning the Red Ribbon Week door decorating contest at Hunley Park Elementary School. Cindy Tighe's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class received an honorable mention. The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Operations Squadron Drug Demand Reduction Office sponsored programs at the school throughout the week.

### Around the base

**Early closure:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron will close at 3 p.m., today, for a squadron function.

**Nativity:** The chapel is hosting the Nativity of Emmanuel, or NOEL, program Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. The program features crafts, stories, songs and more for children ages 3-12. Registration is required. This time may be used by parents to shop, wrap presents or just relax. The Chapel staff will need help with the program. Anyone wishing to volunteer can call the Chapel at 963-2536 or Mary Davis at 552-0303.

**Discount:** K-Mart is offering a 10 percent discount Saturday and Sunday for all items, with the exception of alcohol, tobacco and sale merchandise. Active-duty, retired and Reserve members may present their military ID at the checkout to receive the discount.

**Closure:** The Military Personnel

Flight Customer Service Office will be closed Monday-Wednesday while the system for new identification cards, the Common Access Card, is installed. The office will be closed for all services. For more information, call Master Sgt. Ronnie Cullum or Staff Sgt. Shonna Billings at 963-4545.

**Commissary:** Effective Tuesday, the Commissary will be operating under new hours. The new hours of operation are Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and closed Mondays.

**OSA:** The Officers' Spouses Association is holding an ornament exchange Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Entertainment will be provided by Charr, a jazz and gospel singer, and a farmer's breakfast will be served. The cost is \$8.50 for club members and \$11.50 for non-members. People whose last names begin with A-M can call 875-2505 for reservations. Those whose last names begin with N-Z can call 207-7379.

**CLEP:** There will be a preparatory math CLEP class held Dec. 17-19, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Community Education Center. Students who successfully complete the class will be administered the CLEP General Mathematics exam Dec. 20. The class is offered to Air Force personnel assigned to Charleston AFB. Others eligible to use the Community Edu-

cation Center may sign up for the class on a space available basis. For more information, call 963-4574.

**AFCOMAP:** The Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program is sponsoring a professional development lunch Dec. 18, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. All military and civilian employees are invited to attend. Retired Lt. Col. Lester Pittman, Middle East expert and scholar, will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Lt. Col. Ivan Sherard at 963-6911.

**Chiefs' group:** The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group is holding a monthly meeting Dec. 20, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from Bank of America will address the group, and lunch will be provided. All chiefs and chief selectees are invited to attend.

**Holiday messages:** From now until Dec. 31, Circuit City stores are videotaping holiday wishes of family members whose sponsors are serving overseas. The messages will be put on DVD and sent to the service member. A valid ID is required to use this free service.

**BOA card:** Standard Bank of America government travel cards used to have an ATM withdrawal limit of \$500 per month. A new \$500 limit has been set until a payment is made, meaning a member can only with-

### DOD announces new method to send mail to 'Any Servicemember'

The Navy has developed a Web-based alternative to benefit members of all services. The program can be reached at the Navy LIFELines Services Network at <http://www.LIFELines2000.org> or <http://AnyServiceMember.Navy.mil>.

The "Any Servicemember" program allows participants to select from one or all branches of the military.

To receive a message of support, servicemembers log onto one of the Web sites and choose messages for their branch of service and home state. Those sending a message that wish to receive a response may include a return e-mail address. Since all messages are viewed on the Web, the military's regular e-mail service is not affected.

## COMMENTARY

## Air Force Ball to become an annual tradition

By Col. Karl Young  
437 AW vice commander

Everyone who attended the Air Force Holiday Ball Nov. 30 had a great time. I heard a number of comments that we ought to make this a regular tradition that is celebrated every year. After the success of this event, I'm sure it will become an annual tradition. Good food and company made the evening extra special. We also appreciated hearing words about our accomplishments from our guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Mobility Command Director of Operations. It always means so much more when our headquarters praises our accomplishments.

Capt. Warren Wright and his Air Force Ball committee, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Protocol, Honor Guard and the entire club staff did a superb job in arranging for a first-class event for everyone to enjoy. Thanks for all your hard work.

At Monday's staff meeting, I was honored to recognize the 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron for receiving the Air Force 2000 Maintenance Effectiveness Award. The squadron has received this award a number of times. Their pride, professionalism and passion are evident in the way they maintain our various telephone systems, security systems, base network infrastructure, microwave landing systems and radio systems.

Air Mobility Command recently launched a new award that recognizes top performers as part of AMC's Year of the Warrior Spirit campaign. The award, in the form of a unique coin, gives immediate recognition to individuals demonstrating warrior spirit. The goal of the award is to encourage everyone to act and think like warriors in performing their jobs. The gold coin bears the images of three mobility pioneers. The base has received its allotment of coins, enough to present to only about one percent of the base population. I encourage everyone to work hard, and maybe some day I'll be presenting this coin to you at staff meeting for your own outstanding ideas or actions.

The Air Mobility Command Hennessey evaluation team inspected our dining facility Monday and Tuesday. The team reviewed every aspect of our world-class dining facility, and we expect to do well in the competition. We heard lots of praise from the team about our dining facility and its staff. We're very proud of the quality food and service that they provide daily.

I am continuing to spread the message to our community leaders about the great deeds and accomplishments of Team Charleston. I attended a St. Andrews Society evening banquet Monday that had a number of high profile community leaders present. Many came up to me to thank the

Air Force for what we do every day. I felt truly honored and am glad to report that public support of the military has never been higher.

It was my pleasure to recognize our December Diamond Sharp recipients Tuesday. Receiving top honors for impressing their first sergeants were: Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Roger Moore, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jessica Fruth, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron; Airman Trevis Humphrey, 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron; and Staff Sgt. Craig Carpenter, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron.

If you missed the Air Force Tops in Blue performance Tuesday at the Gaillard Auditorium, then you missed a truly great show. The patriotic musical group impressed a large crowd with their 90-minute show called "The Magic of Music." It was once again a huge success, and the public loved the show. The 437 SVS "Can-Do" crew arranged another outstanding event for Team Charleston. Thanks!

The base held its annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony Wednesday at 6 p.m. by the wing headquarters building. There were Christmas carols, some free prizes provided by the 437 SVS, and enough holiday cheer to go around for everyone in attendance. It got me in the right mood for the holidays!

If you're an avid golfer like me and want to do

something nice for the community, then please participate in the Marines Toys for Tots Golf Tournament at Wrenwoods Golf Course Saturday. Shotgun start is at 9 a.m., and the cost is \$15, which includes cart, lunch and beverages. You will also need to bring an unwrapped toy. Hope to see you there.

The pace of holiday parties has really picked up since December rolled around, and I appreciate the opportunity to get out and meet our people. I enjoy the company and camaraderie of the many squadrons and groups, and I'll try to attend as many social events as possible.

Likewise, with the holiday season and the continuing, long-term support we are providing in support of Enduring Freedom, it is now more important than ever that we keep safety paramount in everything we do. We've settled into a battle rhythm for the long haul and it is easy to become complacent with safety. We've seen some incidents recently where good judgment and attention to detail were lax. I ask for your support in ensuring that everything we do is done in the safest manner possible. Now is not the time to cut corners! More importantly, an unwise choice can lead to death or serious injury, and we want everyone to be with us for the long haul. Your country needs you more than ever! Have a good, but safe, weekend.

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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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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## What 'Warrior Spirit' means to me: Decisions

By Tech. Sgt. Karen Pettit  
AMC Public Affairs

Cold, worn out, sick and hungry men of Gen. George Washington's army gathered at McKonkey's Ferry Dec. 29, 1776, to make the most important decision of their lives.

They had just returned from the dramatic Christmas Day attack on Trenton, but the recent victory paled in comparison to the previous summer's retreat from the British that exiled them to the harsh, but safe camp on the Delaware River.

Knowing they wouldn't be safe for long now that the British were marching to exact their revenge, the men contemplated their next move. Everything seemed so hopeless.

Their enlistments expired the next

evening, and Washington knew full well the British counted on his men leaving.

Washington not only asked the men to stay, but he offered payment of \$10 for each as an incentive. Not one man stepped forward to accept.

Again, Washington pleaded as if speaking soul to soul: "My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than could be reasonably expected; but your country is at stake, your wives, your houses, and all that you hold dear. You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you probably never can do under any other circumstances. The present is emphatically the crisis which is to

decide our destiny."

Money did not motivate them, even though they had nothing. It wasn't the commissary. It wasn't the housing. It wasn't the medical care. It was the call to duty, to their profession of arms, to the fact that people needed them like never before. These men not only stayed the month, but also stayed the entire campaign.

The Spirit of '76 is the same spirit we possess now, and one that AMC plans to highlight in the coming year. Whether we're on a frozen riverbank in Pennsylvania or in a command post cell in Illinois, we will serve because our country needs us. Our families need us. Future generations of Americans need us. That's what Warrior Spirit means to me.



## Off duty--Around town



### Sports:

**Stingrays:** Today, 7:30 p.m., vs. Columbus, and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., vs. Florida. For more information, call 554-6060.

**Lowgators:** Monday, 7 p.m., vs. Roanoke, and Thursday, 7 p.m., vs. Mobile. For more information, call 764-4013 or 416-1162.

### Entertainment:

**Live music:** Weight, Azwethinkweiz and Jettingham perform tonight, 10 p.m., at the Music Farm. Tickets are free in advance, \$5 at the door. For more information, call 722-8904.

**Theater:** "Sand Mountain," two comedic holiday plays directed by Greg Tavares, will be performed tonight-Monday, 8 p.m., at Theatre 99, 30 Cumberland St. Tickets are \$12. Sunday is pay-what-you-can day. For more information, call 853-6687.

**Theater:** The Company Company presents "Good Time Variety Hour," a family holiday special tonight-Sunday and Thursday-Dec. 15, 7 p.m., and Saturday, Sunday and Dec. 15-16, 3 p.m., at the Footlight Players Theater, 20 Queen St. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors, children and groups of 10 or more. For more information, call 722-4487.

**Ballet:** Robert Ivey Ballet presents "Peter and the Wolf," "The Angel Tree" and "The Snow Pas de Deux," tonight, 7 p.m., and Saturday, noon, at the Sottile Theatre, 44 George St. Tickets are \$8, and group rates are available. For more information, call 556-1343.

**Concert:** Charleston Symphony Orchestra presents the Masterworks Series program with the CSO Chorus conducted by David Stahl in Handel's "Messiah," Saturday, 8 p.m., at the Gaillard Auditorium, 77

Calhoun St. For more information and for ticket prices, call 577-7400.

### Events:

**Holiday home tour:** Take a holiday tour of Charleston homes and gardens Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Tickets are \$30. For more information, call the Gibbes Museum at 722-2706, ext. 39.

**Second Saturday:** The Charleston Museum offers Science Sensations, a family program celebrating the new Marie Curie exhibit with experiments and crafts activities Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the museum. The special event is free after the cost of regular admission. For more information, call 122-2996, ext. 236.

**Book sale:** Friends of the Library sponsor sale of hard- and soft-cover books, videos, CDs, children's books, cookbooks and more Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Mount Pleasant Library, 1133 Mathis Ferry Rd. The sale continues Sunday, 2-5 p.m. For more information, call 805-6977.

**Wreath workshop:** Create a holiday wreath from natural materials Sunday, 1-4 p.m., at Old Santee Canal Park, 900 Stony Landing Rd. The workshop costs \$15 or \$13.50 with a park pass. For more information or to register, call 899-5200.

**Marion Square festivities:** Holiday Magic on Marion Square features children's choirs; gospel, classical, folk, jazz and bluegrass music; skits; storytelling; face-painting; crafts and photos with Santa daily, Saturday-Dec. 24. The event runs Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and 4-8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sundays, 1-5 p.m. The event is free. For more information, call 724-7305.

**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

*He was just a kid, really, when he made the ultimate sacrifice. In the jungles of Vietnam, he risked his life to save others. Thirty-five years later, his comrades gathered in Charleston ...*

## Remembering a friend, honoring a hero

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437 AW Public Affairs

A chartered ship, operated for the Navy's Military Sealift Command, was named MV A1C William H. Pitsenbarger during a ceremony at a local shipyard Nov. 28, to honor Pitsenbarger, a Medal of Honor recipient.

On April 11, 1966, 21-year-old Pitsenbarger was lowered more than 100 feet from a hovering helicopter through dense jungle near Cam My, Republic of Vietnam, into extremely heavy gunfire. Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman with the 38<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Bien Hoa Air Base, volunteered to evacuate U.S. Army casualties. Affectionately known as "Pits," he was nearing his 300<sup>th</sup> combat mission.

When the rescue helicopter was riddled by enemy fire, Pits had a choice — to climb into the litter basket and depart with the helicopter or stay behind. He chose to stay behind and assist the wounded.

In normal rescue procedures, one helicopter went in for recovery while the other stayed out of the line of fire as a backup. The helicopters would alternate taking

casualties in and out of the area. Between 3:30 and 5 p.m., the two twin-rotor HH-43B Huskies made five flights in and out of the area. They saved nine wounded soldiers and ferried them about seven miles away to the village of Binh Ba.

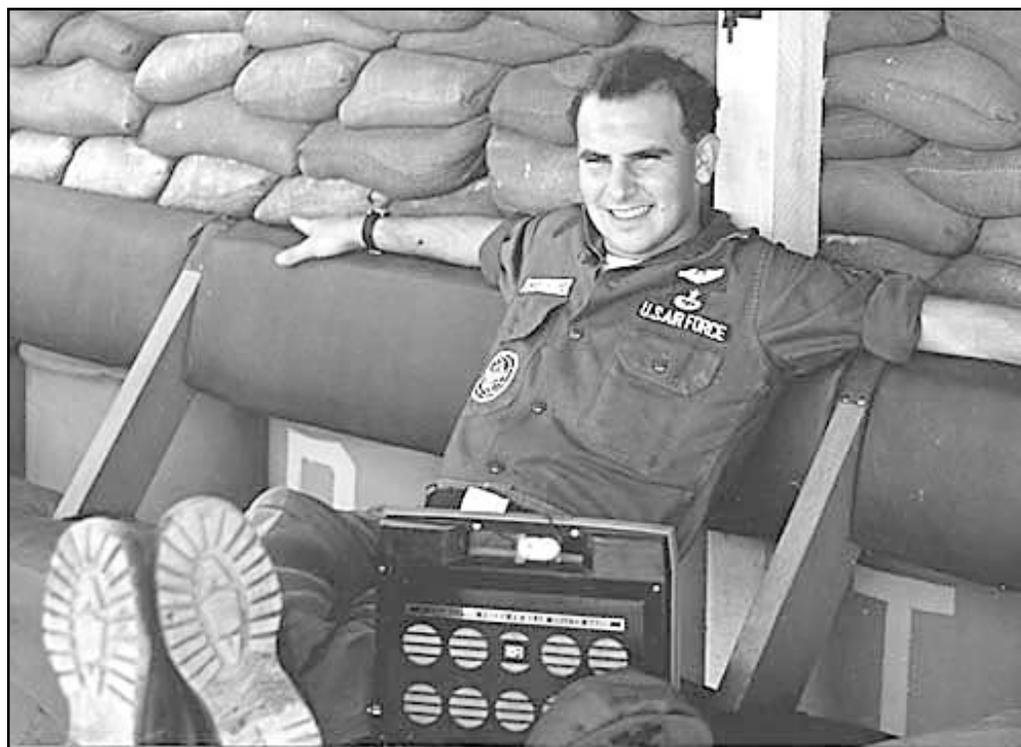
After extracting several wounded soldiers, Pits was left behind when the hoist cable was cut after enemy fire rained down on the helicopter. He continued to treat the wounded and joined infantrymen with a rifle to hold off the Viet Cong. Despite being wounded three times, Pitsenbarger continued to simultaneously treat the wounded and ward off the enemy until he succumbed to the bullet of a sniper. When his body was recovered the following day, one hand still held a medical kit and the other, a rifle.

"When we went in to recover the casualties, my helicopter had already flown three missions that day as the primary, so we were refueling and he got in before me," said Retired Chief Master Sgt. David Milsten. The Orangepark, Fla., resident was Pitsenbarger's NCOIC, a staff sergeant then, and part of two teams that went in to rescue wounded Army soldiers.

"It was my job to go down that day, but he was so 'gung-ho,' and we always fought over who went in first, and he was able to get in before me," Milsten said. "I stayed aboard my helicopter while he went in. It was a two-person job to get the litters in since the chopper was so small. It took one on the ground and the other had to stay with the helicopter to drag the litters onboard.

"We made four or five trips in," Milsten continued. "We had just brought back a case and had moved up and out of the hole when Bill's chopper had got hit real bad. There was extensive damage to the aircraft and I don't know how that pilot had made it out of that hole." He added that they had lost their hydraulics and rudder, and the aircraft was stuck in full-power mode.

"We went in behind them because we thought they



*Courtesy photo*

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class William Pitsenbarger relaxes in Vietnam. Pitsenbarger is the lowest ranking Air Force member to earn the Medal of Honor.

were crashing," Milsten said.

Pitsenbarger was still on the ground treating the casualties.

"The whole time he was on the ground, with a little circle of Army soldiers shooting outward," Milsten said. "Bill was right in the center of the circle working with the wounded and arranging the evacuations."

As soon as the helicopters left, Pits joined in the fight. Several hundred North Vietnamese Vietcong regulars surrounded them.

"I talked to a lot of the Army survivors and they said the fighting was extremely heavy, and that it was hard to imagine anyone going down into that inferno on the ground willingly," Milsten said.

In an Airman magazine interview, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Johnny Libs, a Charlie Company platoon leader, said, "We were in the fight of our lives, and I just couldn't understand why anybody would put himself in this grave danger if he didn't have to."

Milsten explained that one of the things all pararescuemen in Vietnam had was a burning desire to help people.

"Bill had a double dose of that," Milsten said. "He would try to fly every mission that he could get."

Pitsenbarger's friend, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Harry O'Beirne, a fellow pararescueman now living in Huntsville, Ala., had the unfortunate task of retrieving Pit's body the next day.

The battle had been costly for Charlie Company on the ground, where only 14 of 180 men had escaped injury; most were killed.

"It was very busy that day, as I had about 100 wounded that needed to be cared for," O'Beirne said. "I also had many dead bodies that I was trying to stack and get out of there."

Army soldiers came along and took him to Pitsenbarger's body.

"I cleaned him up, found out that he had been shot four times and

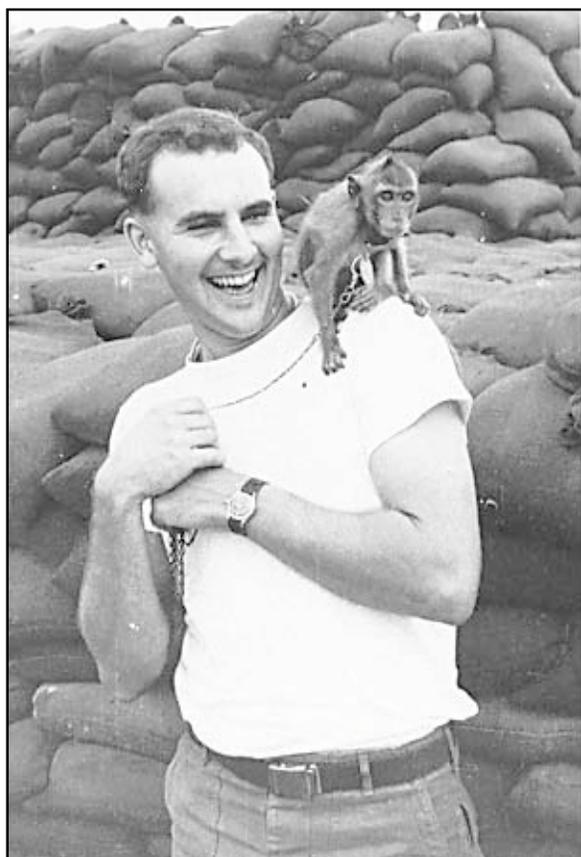
put him in a body bag and took him out of the jungle," O'Beirne recalled.

"Pitsenbarger was the only PJ on the ground that night and the enemy had overran their position," continued O'Beirne. "It was one hell of a fight. To give you an idea, try to picture 800 guns firing at the same time for five hours. There was a tremendous amount of noise and all these bullets were cutting the trees down, and throw in grenades, artillery shells, smoke and tear gas and you have a hell of a problem.

"Pits was crouching back and forth getting the weapons and ammunition off the dead guys and passing it to those still alive," O'Beirne explained. "You had young kids firing on fully automatic and they were running out of ammunition. They were yelling and screaming for water and ammunition and Pits was taking the weapons or ammunition from anyone who couldn't fire and then would pass it around. Pits was a remarkable person."

Following Pitsenbarger's heroic sacrifice, Army Sgt. Fred Navarro, a squad leader during the fight and one of the wounded whom Pits was trying to help, detailed Pitsenbarger's actions in a taped statement for the Air Force and recommended him for the Medal of Honor. Through the award process, the recommendation was downgraded to the Air Force Cross, the second highest Air Force Award. Pitsenbarger's parents received the award on his behalf on Sept. 22, 1966 — making him the first Air Force enlisted man to receive that award.

Pitsenbarger's story was later revisited and the award upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Pitsenbarger's father accepted the Medal of Honor on his son's behalf Dec. 8, 2000, 34 years after that heroic night in Vietnam.



*Courtesy photo*

Pitsenbarger clowns around with his 'buddy.' Though originally awarded the Air Force Cross, Pitsenbarger's heroic actions were later recognized with the Medal of Honor.

## 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. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

**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 963-2676.

**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.

#### **"13 Ghosts" – Tony Shalhoub**

When Dr. Zorba dies, he leaves his house to his nephew, who moves in with his daughter. With the house comes 13 ghosts. There's a fortune hidden somewhere in the house, and someone wants it.

**(R) 91 minutes**

### Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

#### **"The Last Castle" – Robert Redford**

A three-star general wrongly court-martialed and sentenced to a military maximum-security prison rallies the 1,200 inmates to revolt against the corrupt warden. **(R) 131 minutes**

### Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.

#### **"Domestic Disturbance" – John Travolta**

Frank Morrison, a divorced father, discovers that his son Danny's new stepfather, Kurt, is not what he made himself out to be. Danny tells his father that he saw Kurt murder someone, and now Danny must live in the same house with a killer. Nobody believes Danny, except his father. Frank sets out on a mission to rescue his son from a life-threatening situation. **(PG-13) 90 minutes**

### Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.

#### **"K-PAX" – Kevin Spacey**

## Fitness & Sports

# Kary carries torch

## *TRANS staff jogs Olympic flame in downtown Charleston*

By Senior Airman Jason Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

Although the 2002 Olympic Games won't be held at Charleston AFB, one Team Charleston member can say he was an active part of the pre-games ceremonies.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Kary, 437<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron, was selected to carry the Olympic Torch through an area of downtown Charleston Thursday.

"My father nominated me through a Chevrolet and Coca-Cola program," said Kary. "It was a 100-word essay on why the person he nominated embodies the Olympic spirit."

The New Castle, Pa., resident received a package from Salt Lake City soon after his father nominated him. Inside was a letter explaining that he had been selected to carry the torch in Charleston. Kary said there was also a spot on the letter for him to accept or decline the once-in-a-lifetime chance.

"I said 'yes'," said Kary. "At first I thought 'what have I ever done to deserve this.' I felt like maybe I shouldn't do it. After seeing some

of the things I've actually done in print, I decided to go for it."

According to the Salt Lake 2002 Web site, 11,500 torch bearers will have a hand in the torch's journey from Athens, Greece, to Salt Lake City. The torch's 65-day American trek started Tuesday in Atlanta. The torch will travel throughout different areas of the United States until it reaches Salt Lake City Feb. 8.

The torch will actually cover 13,500 miles by many different modes of transportation, including air, ship and dog sled, according to an Associated Press news release. Of those 13,500 miles, runners will complete 5,950. That means Kary's .2-mile stretch is a fair amount of distance for one person to carry the torch.

"You don't actually have to run it though," said Kary before the jog. "You can jog, walk, wheel, crawl; whatever it takes to get it done."

At press time, Kary said he wasn't sure the method he'd choose to cover the distance, but he was definitely ready to get it from his starting point to 75 Calhoun St.

"I won't know who I'm receiving it from, or who I'm passing it to until it actually happens," said

Kary. "I know where I start and where I finish."

Kary has already reaped the benefits of being an Olympic Torch Bearer. He attended a convention in Seneca, S.C., three weeks ago, and returned from a parade near Greenville, S.C., Dec. 1.

"We (50 torch bearers) were on a float in the Poinsettia Parade," said Kary. "That's Greenville's big Christmas parade. It was a great time. I got to meet a lot of the other runners from different areas of the state."

A package including an Olympic sweat suit, gloves, hat and shoes

also arrived at Kary's house from Salt Lake City.

"We are only allowed to wear what they sent us," Kary said. "The shoes are incredible. They have some foam that melts when it gets warm so that it forms to your feet better."

Kary's parents also flew in to watch him in the ceremony.

"Man, it's wild," Kary said. "I never do things to try to win awards or be honored or anything, but it's great to be a part of this."

For more information about the Olympic Torch, go to [www.saltlake2002.com](http://www.saltlake2002.com).



Photo by Marika Gessner

Kary waves to the crowd on a float in the Poinsettia Parade, Greenville, S.C. Kary and other Olympic torch bearers were asked to be in the parade.

### Week 14

Name/Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Saturday, Dec. 15

Arizona @ **New York Giants**  
Oakland @ San Diego

#### Sunday, Dec. 16

Atlanta @ **Indianapolis**  
Cincinnati @ **New York Jets**  
Denver @ Kansas City  
Jacksonville @ **Cleveland**  
Minnesota @ Detroit  
New England @ Buffalo  
Philadelphia @ Washington  
Tampa Bay @ **Chicago**  
Miami @ **San Francisco**  
Green Bay @ Tennessee  
Dallas @ **Seattle**  
Pittsburgh @ Baltimore

#### Monday, Dec. 17

St. Louis @ New Orleans  
Monday night total points: \_\_\_\_\_  
Swami's Monday night points: **55**

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.

Send your picks to: [Swami@charleston.af.mil](mailto:Swami@charleston.af.mil)

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

\*\*Picks must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 14, 4 p.m.\*\*

## Swami thinks 'Sabetta' could spell 'best at'

By The Swami

*Pigskin Prognosticator*

Call it beginners luck again. For the second week in a row, a newcomer to the Swami scene has taken the top prize.

Dave Sabetta turned in the best record of the week and the best one so far this year.

Sabetta even impressed the Swami with his 14-1 record.

The Swami thinks Sabetta may have some inside information and possible financial ties to the outcomes of certain games.

Sabetta spoke with the Swami and said, "I should have been 15-0. My only loss was the sorry Redskins losing to the sorry Cowboys. Who would have thunk that?"

Sabetta was one of a few who even picked Arizona to beat Oakland.

The foursome of Travis Anderson, the Lovegod, Ron Desautels and Mo Fleming were handed losses by the amazing Sabetta.

Desautels was in the drivers seat until Monday night's game between Jacksonville and Green Bay. Desautels picked Jacksonville to win. The Swami does not know what he was thinking about in picking the Jaguars over the Packers.

In what was an easy week for most of the 68 entries, only two finished with losing records. The two losers this week are Speedy (once again) and Lawrence "Mr. Skyking" Strother. These two chumps had records of 7-8. The Swami wants Speedy to know that losing every week will not earn him any kind of top-draft pick next season. Maybe Speedy and Dutch are planning a "Worst of the Swami Pickers" dual, biography.

The Swami had a decent week at 11-4. The Swami is still very much in the hunt for the top spot, and he is confident of his week 13 picks. It looks like another easy week of picking.

Buffalo should finally get

their second win. The Swami feels sorry for all the Charleston AFB people who have to watch the Panthers lose every week. Maybe the television networks will finally feel sorry for CAFB folks and put on a decent game.

Two of the best matchups this coming week should be the St. Louis-San Francisco and Chicago-Green Bay games.

The Swami believes the Bears and 49ers have both been flukes all year. They have not played a good team yet. They will get their jocks handed to them after they both lose this week.

Since there won't be an Airlift Dispatch Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, Swami followers should watch for the Dec. 21 edition which will have pick sheets for all the remaining weeks of the regular season.

The Swami could write for the newspaper all day, but he has other important things to go do, like wash his beautiful mullet. Keep playing the Swami.