

DISPATCH

Inside

- ▶ Thrift plan / 2
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ CGOC / 11
- ▶ Earnhardt / 15

Vol. 40, No. 7

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, February 23, 2001



Photo by Ed Kelly

House fire

The home of Capt. David Siegrist, 15th Airlift Squadron pilot, at 1121 Doyle Ave., was severely damaged during a fire Saturday night. Over 80 percent of the home was damaged in the fire. Siegrist's family was home and escaped safely. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Charleston AFB gearing up for Annual Prayer Breakfast

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston AFB chapel staff is hard at work preparing for the 49th Annual Prayer Breakfast.

The breakfast, Tuesday, 7 a.m., at the Charleston Club, will host Chaplain (Col.) Cecil Richardson, Air Combat Command command chaplain, as the guest speaker.

"Col. Findley (Rusty, 437th Airlift Wing commander) requested Chaplain Richardson because he has been extremely impressed with him in the past," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Dull, 437 AW wing chaplain. "We're very excited and honored to have him here to speak."

Richardson, a prior enlisted Russian interpreter, has been in the Air Force since 1966. In addition to his

current position as ACC command chaplain, he has served as a Major Command division chief, a Chaplain Service assignment officer, executive director of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board and a Unified Command Chaplain.

The National Prayer Breakfast dates back to 1952 when the members of Congress, Cabinet members, clergy and lay people gathered to pray for the newly elected President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Since then, it has become a yearly event that allows civilian and military members to join together in prayer for the nation and its leaders.

"President Eisenhower was a five-star general," said Dull. "He thought faith played an important role for U.S. military members and he thought the National Prayer

Breakfast could meet this need for faith.

"Ideally, we go to war to create a better peace," Dull continued. "Hopefully spirituality will keep our fighting men and women from hating our enemy. I would hope that faith plays an important enough role for our troops to help them avoid some of the terrible atrocities of war."

In the past, the speakers have focused on morale, retainability and leadership, according to Dull. He said unlike many other countries armed forces, the United States places faith as a cornerstone for its military.

"We're anticipating a great turnout and I really think folks will be able to leave with some message of inspiration or hope," said Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Novotny, 437 AW

chaplain. "In the past, it has been encouraging to see how important faith is to members of the service. Everyone expects chaplains to be holy, but there's real inspiration in seeing how important spirituality is to the people who attend the breakfast."

"Col. Findley and his wife, Sandy, are very disappointed they won't be able to attend," continued Novotny. "He did say, 'Trust me, you won't be disappointed.'"

The cost to attend the prayer breakfast is \$3 for enlisted members and civilian equivalents, and \$5 for officers and civilian equivalents. The format for the meal will be a country-style buffet.

Contact your unit first sergeant for tickets, or call the chapel at 963-3717.

IN THE NEWS

Thrift Savings Plan expands, offers retirement options

By Senior Airman
Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

The Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 allows members of the military and other uniformed services to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan starting Oct. 9.

TSP is a retirement savings and investment plan that has been available to civilian federal employees since 1987.

Much like a 401(k) plan, TSP allows members to invest part of their monthly income in a special retirement fund, which is not taxed until earnings and investments are withdrawn.

"The biggest benefit of this program is it gives people another option for supplemental income after retirement," said Barbara Lang, personal financial program manager at the Family Support Center.

Unlike the military's existing retirement system, TSP participation is optional and not automatic. The amount

of money contributed and all earnings from the investment belong to the member, even without serving the 20 years required to receive military retirement benefits, according to Lang.

Under the existing system, benefits are based on rank and time in service. TSP benefits will depend upon how much money is contributed and how the member chooses to invest it. The maximum contribution per year to TSP cannot exceed the Internal Revenue Code's elective deferral limit for that year. For 2001, the limit is \$10,500. It is recalculated every year and may be higher in 2002.

In 2002, participants can contribute up to seven percent of their basic pay each month. They then can contribute all or any whole percentage of any special or incentive pay, including reenlistment or other bonuses received, as long as the total contribution for the year does not exceed the elective deferral limit.

Special pay, incentive pay and bonuses can only be

contributed if a contribution is being drawn from basic monthly pay. If servicemembers do not elect to join the program during the initial "open season" in October, they will not be able to begin contributions to TSP until a subsequent semiannual open season. Therefore, if a large bonus, such as a reenlistment bonus, is due to the member, contributions from basic pay must begin prior to its receipt.

"TSP offers a chance for me to decide what I want to invest in and how much risk I'm willing to take," said Ken Battle, an air reserve technician for the 315th Maintenance Squadron.

"I really like it," he said. "It's the best thing going for federal employees. It offers an opportunity for greater returns and let's you watch what you're investing in."

There are five different TSP investment funds. The Government Securities Investment Fund, or G Fund, consists of short-term non-marketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP.

G Fund investments pose the lowest risk to the investor and therefore often show lower rates of return than the other funds, according to the TSP Web site, www.tsp.gov.

The Common Stock Index, or C Fund, is invested primarily in an index fund that tracks the Standard and Poor's 500. While this fund may show greater rates of return, there is some risk involved as the value of stocks can decline sharply depending on changes in economic conditions, according to the site.

The Fixed Income Index Investment, or F Fund, is a diversified portfolio of low credit risk, fixed income securities that tracks the Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate index. The F Fund may show a greater return than the G Fund, however, it also poses more risks to the investor, according to the TSP site.

The Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment, or S Fund, and the International Stock Index Investment, or I Fund, are new to the TSP and

will become available in May.

In many 401(k) plans, the employer matches a set percentage of the employees' investment. Currently, the law allows the services' secretaries to designate critical specialties for matching contributions as a way to recruit and retain personnel in hard-to-fill positions. In order to receive matching funds, members in the designated career fields must agree to serve six years.

TSP can be transferred upon separation from the service to an Individual Retirement Account or other eligible retirement plan, such as a 401(k).

"Social Security may not be there for a lot of military members," said Lang. "We have to approach retirement differently from the way our mothers and fathers did."

Additional materials and information will be issued during the late summer in preparation for the first uniformed services open season beginning Oct. 9. More information on TSP can be found at www.tsp.gov.

Proper child safety seat installation to be inspected at CAFB; lives at stake

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

An estimated 85 percent of children who are placed in car seats and booster seats are improperly restrained, according to the National Safe Kids Campaign.

Charleston AFB is trying to improve this statistic locally by spon-

soring a National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Check Point Wednesday, 3-6 p.m., in the BX parking lot.

Trident Area Safe Kids Campaign certified technicians will be on hand to inspect child safety seats. Tech. Sgt. Janet Clayton, 437th Medical Group Health and Wellness Center, said the inspectors will be looking for

more than just proper installation of child safety seats.

"These folks are certified by AAA," said Clayton. "They will make sure the seat is the right size for your child, that it's installed properly, that it's not installed with front airbags and that there are no recalls for your seat. They will also have hand outs and other safety-related information available."

Car seats, when correctly installed and used, reduce the risk of death by up to 71 percent, according to the NSKC. They also reduce the need for hospitalization by 69 percent for children 4 and under. The NSKC offers the following tips for child safety seats:

- All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat
- Infants should be in rear-facing car seats until they weigh at least 20 pounds and are at least 1; never put a rear-facing infant or convertible safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger air bag
- Children over 1 and between 20 and 40 pounds can be in forward-facing car seats, or in rear facing convertible seats if the child has reached the maximum rear-weight
- Children 4 to 8 (about 40 pounds) should be in a booster and restrained with a lap and shoulder belt every time they ride;

safety belts alone do not adequately protect children this size from injury in a crash

- Usually, children over 80 pounds and 8 years old can fit correctly in a lap and shoulder belt; when the child is sitting all the way back against the vehicle seat, the lap belt should fit across the child's hips, not the stomach; the shoulder belt should cross the center of the shoulder; do not let children put shoulder belts under their arms or behind their backs; this could result in serious injuries

■ Read car seat instruction manuals and vehicle owner's manuals carefully for proper installation

- A seat should be locked tightly against the vehicle seat; it should not move more than one inch forward or from side-to-side

Clayton said a similar program at McClellan AFB, Calif., called Buckle Up Baby, was the inspiration for the program here at CAFB.

"When my kids were still in car seats, I took our car to the Buckle Up Baby program to make sure everything was installed correctly," Clayton said. "The biggest issue we found was loose seats. It's important to have child safety seats checked by someone who's an expert and knows how to look for."

For more information, call the NSKC at 963-4007.



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Streeter

Almee Hardy, wife of Senior Airman Joshua Hardy, 437th Maintenance Squadron, straps their son, Ean, in a child safety seat at the BX.

ITFS available for base students

By Senior Airman
Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Trident Technical College is offering college courses for active duty members, dependents and Department of Defense civilians through an Instructional Television Fixed System in two classrooms at the base education office.

"These are fully accredited courses," said Staff Sgt. Marva Thomas, noncommissioned officer in charge of education services. "They are exactly the same as the classes you would take on campus."

Classes are held at the main campus and then broadcast live to students at off-campus locations. The off-campus locations, like the classrooms here, are equipped with two-way speakers to allow students to interact and communicate with their teacher during class.

Students are allowed to bring snacks or lunch to the classrooms on base. Each class is available on video, so students who miss ITFS sessions can make up the work.

All assignments and required tests are administered in the classroom, so the ITFS classes don't require extra travel.

"The courses save a lot on travel time, since they are located right here on base,"

Thomas said. "They are also a good way to complete a Community College of the Air Force degree."

Classes meet two or three days a week for 55 minutes to an hour and 25 minutes.

ITFS is also available at the Berkeley and Palmer campuses, and the Naval Weapons Station.

Other distance learning courses available through TELLI include "course in a bag" and on-line classes.

The "course in a bag" system uses videocassettes and/or a computer to instruct the student. The courses are self-paced and can be viewed wherever the student chooses.

However, assignments must be turned in at a TTC campus and tests must be taken on campus as well.

The on-line courses offered by TTC require the student to have access to a computer with Internet capabilities as well as certain programs and software. These courses can also be taken almost anywhere with most assignments emailed to the instructor.

TELLI courses cost \$53 per credit hour, with most classes being worth three credit hours.

The next term begins May 23. Registration on base begins Monday and runs through Apr. 17.

George Martin in the TTC on-base representative and can be reached at 963-4581.



Courtesy/photo

Air Expo 2001

The Navy's Blue Angels will perform an exciting aerial ballet of high-speed maneuvers and turns as they take over the skies of Charleston AFB during Air Expo 2001, May 19.

The Blue Angels, separated only by inches, have flown in front of 337 million people in aerial demonstrations throughout the 50 states, and around the world since their first demonstration in June 1946.

The Blue Angels' aerial demonstration team is a mix of formation flying and solo routines in the FA-18 Hornet jet. The six pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in the demonstration. The entire Blue Angel show runs about one hour and 15 minutes. Air Expo 2001 will also display some of the Air Force's most popular aircraft to include the F-15 Eagle (fighter), B-2 Spirit (stealth bomber, shaped like a bat wing)

and the C-17 Globemaster III.

Some of the static aircraft to be displayed are the F-117A Nighthawk (stealth fighter), the B-52 Stratofortress (bomber) and the AH-64 Apache (attack helicopter).

Other acts scheduled to appear will be the Army "Golden Nights" parachute jump team and a dogfight between the Korean War era MIG-15 Russian and F-80 American fighter.

The base will open its gates at 9 a.m., and the show will start at 10 a.m. As always, admission and parking are free.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No bicycles, pets, smoking, glass containers, or roller-blading will be allowed on the flight line. For the latest information on Air Expo 2001, the public may call 963-EXPO, or check out Charleston AFB's web site at <http://www.charleston.af.mil>.

Flying acts scheduled to appear are subject to change.

2001 AFAF campaign kicks off Monday; gives back to those in need

By Capt. Bill Spangenthal
15 AS pilot

Members of Team Charleston received more than \$200,000 in loans and grants from an investment of \$60,000 through the Air Force Assistance Fund in 2000.

The 2001 AFAF campaign starts Monday and runs through March 30. The annual, on-the-job fundraising campaign raises money for four charitable organizations that benefit active-duty members, reservists, guardsmen and retirees, including surviving spouses and family members.

"A Commitment to Caring" is the campaign's permanent theme, and all money raised will go to the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation Inc., the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund or the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay

Foundation.

The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force, which can be accessed worldwide for emergency financial assistance. The top priority is assistance to active-duty members and their families, but consideration is given to assisting retirees and widows on a limited, case-by-case basis. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on extended active duty under may also be eligible for emergency assistance when circumstances warrant.

The Air Force Aid Society also offers education assistance programs and an array of base level community enhancement programs. The Family Support Center can provide full details on programs and eligibility. Information is also available on their web site at www.afas.org.

"I've seen the Air Force Aid Society help folks first hand,"

said Master Sgt. James Strong, 437th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant. "The AFAS folks really go out of their way to make sure our airmen are taken care of. They offer a great deal of assistance for everything from minor car repairs to airline tickets for family emergencies."

The Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation Inc. is located in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. The home foundation provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people who live among peers without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities. Widows and widowers, 55 and older, whose spouses were retired enlisted from the Air Force, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve are eligible. For more information, send an email to

afewh@emraldcoast.com.

The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, located in San Antonio, is a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. The fund provides support to indigent widows and widowers of Air Force officers. For more information, visit their web site at www.airforcevillages.com.

Not all indigent widows or widowers are able, or want to move into a retirement home. For those eligible, there is the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. The LeMay foundation provides rent and financial assistance to officers' and enlisted widows or widowers in their own home and community. For more information, visit their web site at www.afvw.com/lemay.html.

"I'm going to donate during the campaign this year," said Staff Sgt. Michael Sheldon, 15th Airlift Squad-

ron. "Nobody wants a hand out, but the AFAS helped me once in the past and it's good to know they're there for us in an emergency. Now I'm in a position to return the favor, and I'm going to make good on it."

Donations to the AFAF campaign can be made by cash, check, or payroll deduction. Contributors may designate their contributions to one or more of the four charities, and 100 percent of their AFAF contribution is passed to their chosen charities. Contributions to the AFAF are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes as an itemized deduction.

Squadron representatives have more information about the campaign and they will accept donations. More information is also available at the AFAF campaign web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund. Once at the site, click on "Fundraising."

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement ceremony: The 437th Airlift Wing Safety Office is sponsoring a retirement ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Michael Higdon, Mar. 9, 10 a.m., at the base education center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Allison Bethea at 963-5597.

Around the base

TMO: The Traffic Management Flight's Personal Property Office will be closed today in order to relocate. The new office will open Monday in Bldg. 503, Rooms 113-115. For more information, call 963-2261 or 963-2255.

Black Heritage Month: The Black Heritage Month closing ceremonies will be today, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Retired Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton, former Air Education and Training Command commander, will be the guest speaker. There will be a seafood buffet and a live band. Tickets prices are:

E-6 and below-\$14
E-7 through E-9-\$16
O-3 and below-\$16
O-4 and above-\$17
Civilians-\$16

Non-club members will be charged a \$3 surcharge. For more information, call your unit Black Heritage Month representative or your first sergeant.

Trident: Trident Technical College is holding early enrollment for

the summer semester Monday through April 17. Payment of tuition will be due before May 22. The term dates are May 23-Aug. 8. For more information, call 963-4581.

Spring semester: Class registration for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's spring term is now through March 19. Classes run March 19-May 19. Classes are open to everyone and are held at the base education office. For more information, call 767-8912.

DACOWITS: Dr. Jean Leuner from the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service will be speaking Tuesday at the Charleston Club. DACOWITS was established in 1951 by then Secretary of Defense, George Marshall. The committee was formed to assist and advise on policies and matters relating to women in the military. The committee also makes recommendations on quality of life matters that affect all military personnel. There will be different discussion groups for different ranks. Some of the topics for discussion include women's health, career progression and leadership. Space is limited. For more information call Capt. Margaret Martin at 963-5874.

Navy Brig: The Company Grade Officers' Council is sponsoring a tour of the Navy Brig



Base Consignment Shop sponsors Base Yard Sale

The base Consignment Shop is sponsoring a base yard sale, May 12, 8 a.m.-noon, at the picnic grounds near the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Tables for the sale can be reserved through the Consignment Shop for \$10 starting March 13.

The Consignment Shop is located in Bldg. 203 on Graves Avenue. It is run by the Officers' and Enlisted Spouses' Associations.

The shop's customers have reported purchasing everything from rare coins to expensive leather jackets at low prices. The shop also has uniform items to include BDUs, blues and service dress uniforms.

The shop is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. It is also open the first Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

YARD SALE

March 2, 9 a.m. The trip is limited to 40 people. The deadline to sign up is Monday. For more information, or to sign up, call Capt. Warren Wright at 963-3662.

Dining In meeting: The next meeting for the Enlisted Combat Dining In will be March 7, 3 p.m., at the wing conference room. The planning committee is still in need of volunteers. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. James Moody at 963-6009 or Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Lautenslager at 963-2610.

Air National Guard: The Massachusetts Air National Guard has many openings for a variety of AFSCs. Information on Palace Chase, Palace Front and cross training is available. For more information, call Master Sgt. Deborah Shilaikis at DSN 636-9567.

Family Support Center

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

Pre-Deployment Briefings: Monday, March 5, 12 and 26, 8 a.m. and March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 4 p.m.

Newcomer's Tour: Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: March 7, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and March 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Financial Fitness: March 12, 2-4:30 p.m.

Educational Opportunities Assistance: March 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

TAP 3-Day: March 13-15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Employers Panel and Mini-Job Fair: March 15, 2-4:30 p.m.

Sip-n-Chat Chucky Cheese Trip: March 17, 6:30 p.m.

Investing Fundamentals: March 19, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Resume II: March 20, 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Troops-to-Teachers: March 20, 10-11 a.m.

Home Buying: March 26, 10 a.m.-noon.

Smooth Move: March 29, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Positive Parenting: March 29, 1:30-3:30 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.

Charleston Profile

Tech. Sgt. Rick VanSchoor 437th Supply Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Rick VanSchoor is the NCOIC of fuels accounting in the fuels management flight, 437th Supply Squadron.

His duties include tracking the use of fuel for aircraft and ground equipment, providing for timely delivery of fuel to customers and ensuring Charleston AFB maintains a large enough supply of this mission critical resource. He was recently named the 21st Air Force Senior Technician of the Year. Additionally, he has also taken on duties as the flight LAN administrator.

VanSchoor has been busy in his off-duty time as well. After completing his bachelor's degree in workforce management from Southern Illinois University, he applied for and was subsequently accepted for entry into Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Ala., into which only a small number of airmen are accepted annually.

"Everyone had been telling me that my package was strong but I just wasn't sure my scores were strong enough," said VanSchoor. "So you can imagine my surprise when I got selected."

VanSchoor is originally from Cleveland, Ohio, and came to CAFB in 1992 after an assignment at Homestead AFB, Fla. He and his wife Barbara, who is a former military member, have two children, Allison, 8, and Aaron, 6. When not busy with work and family, VanSchoor can be found enjoying learning and working on classic automobiles.



Photo by Senior Airman Donald Church

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

Published by Diggle Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 437th Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service.

Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, Air Force, or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All photos are Air Force photos unless identified otherwise.

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.

Advertising

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Charleston, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or e-mailed to sales@islandpapers.com. Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active duty military members and their spouses, retirees and Reservists.

Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604.

Mail to: 437 AW PAI

102 East Hill Blvd.

Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154

or send to:

dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander
Col. Vern M. "Rusty"
Findley II

Chief, Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

Editor
Senior Airman Jason Smith

Staff Writer
Senior Airman Melanie Streeter

Photo Support
Base Visual Information Center

Key visitors learn about premier airlift wing

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

We had a number of visits last week from Air Mobility Command leadership. True to form, Charleston AFB remains a very busy place with many visitors. We continue to excel in hosting these important visits.

We hosted Maj. Gen. George "Nick" Williams, 21st Air Force commander, who visited the base Feb. 14-15 when he flew in on a C-17 "banner mission." Gen. Williams joined a number of squadron commanders for breakfast and received an update on the United Kingdom's C-17 training program. He also received a number of other briefings, toured the new dining facility and had lunch with several Charleston area civic leaders.

The 437th Medical Group hosted Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jim Roudebush, command surgeon of U.S. Transportation Command and Headquarters Air Mobility Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Jim O'Brien, command surgeon enlisted representative. They met with clinic staff and toured areas of the base Feb. 15-16.

Lt. Gen. Ronald C. Marcotte, AMC vice commander, also visited Feb. 15-16. He received a number of briefings and toured the 437th Maintenance Squadron, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron and several construction sites, including our very successful Hunley Park housing renovation project.

AMC command chaplain Col. Richard Montecalvo and Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Turley had a staff assistance visit with the chapel staff Feb. 15-21. They had a chance to celebrate several masses and met with each of the respective groups.

With what has become a CAFB standard, all were impressed with our people and programs. They were quick to praise our people for all the good things they do everyday. We made a great impression on them. I'm sure we'll see them back again. A special thanks to our protocol staff and the project officers for their very hard work.

This week we hosted several congressional staffers from the staffs of Sen. Strom Thurmond, Sen. Fritz Hollings and Rep. Henry Brown, 1st Congressional District. In addition, one of the staffers was from the influential Senate Armed Services Committee. Today also marked the first official visit of Congressman Brown to the base since his election to office. Congressman Brown, like Senators Hollings and Thurmond, is a strong supporter of the base.

We welcome these types of visits because they give us a chance to highlight those facilities and programs in need of support. More often than not, our elected representatives have come to our aid and funded much needed facilities like the on-going runway improvements



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Lt. Col. Bruce Alexander, 437th Services Squadron commander, meets with Lt. Gen. Robert Marcotte, AMC vice commander, at a construction site.

to North Auxiliary Air Field, Hunley Park housing, and the new supply warehouse. We like to show them successful projects like Hunley Park and others that have improved the quality of life for our airmen.

Capt. David Siegrist's, 15th Airlift Squadron, home caught on fire Saturday (see page 1 photo). He asked his commander to pass along his thanks to everyone at Team Charleston. He was impressed with the quick response by security forces and fire fighters to limit damage to his home and the many unsolicited offers of help within and outside his squadron. I was equally impressed by the quick response by our civil engineers, services, security forces and the 15 AS.

Simply put, he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from everyone, not just his neighbors and squadron. He has recently made the commitment to stay in the Air Force and this incident validated his initial thoughts that the Air Force truly takes care of its own. Thanks Team Charleston!

The month-long celebration of Black History Month comes to a close today with a banquet tonight at the Charleston Club. Retired Gen. Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton, the former commander of Air Education and Training Command, will be the featured guest speaker. Gen. Newton will also spend some time learning more about the wing and the C-17.

Last week, I mentioned that we had a number of officers selected for lieutenant colonel. Selected for promotion were: Richard Anderson, Ricky Cornelio, Joseph Heirigs, Richard Keyes, Richard Oddo, Herbert Phillips, Glenn Rosseau, Donald Shaffer, Petra Sharrett, Matthew Whelan, Tamara Link and Judith Rosen.

We did quite well on this latest promotion board with a selection rate of 71 percent, besting the AMC and Air Force selection averages. We also beat the Air Force and AMC averages with a selection rate of 21 percent for attendance at various professional military education schools. Congratulations again.

I heard from Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, Monday night, and he was just about to board an airplane in Malaysia. He had just completed an "eye-opening" tour of China and is learning a lot on the trip, but misses CAFB. He will be completing the brigadier general officer orientation soon and will return in the very near future.

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.



Why the Super Bowl?

By Master Sgt. Dan Murphy
437 AW Public Affairs

I had the distinct pleasure of providing public affairs assistance to MacDill AFB, Fla., during the two weeks leading up to Super Bowl XXXV. Air Mobility Command tasked five of us to go and tell the Air Force story.

For those of you thinking it was a waste of time, I want to try and help you understand why it was important we were there.

Here in AMC, it is the Year of Retention and Recruiting and the Super Bowl was a perfect fit for this initiative. Where else could we catch the eye of more than 100 NFL football players and let them help us tell the Air Force story? In this day and age where so many of the youth have never been exposed to the military and look up to the pro athletes as heroes, why not actively pursue them?

There were many events held the week before the Super Bowl from golf tournaments to concerts and parades. What I saw happen that week was the NFL players starting out being thanked by the military for coming to MacDill AFB, to the

NFL players thanking the military for what we do.

The players were engulfed in the Air Force from the first day they drove on base.

The aircrews standing by at their static displays were at first overwhelmed by the number of players who they had only seen on television before. It wasn't long before the players were overwhelmed by the aircrews and the enormous responsibility each one of them possessed.

The players were introduced to some of the traditions we hold dear in the military. One such tradition is the "coin." Tim Dwight of the Atlanta Falcons was given a MacDill AFB coin, but purposely not given all the rules to see what he would do. The first person he attempted to coin was the Air Education and Training Command commander, Gen. Hal M. Hornburg. Dwight held out his coin to the general and stated he was being coined. Hornburg reached out and stole Dwight's coin before he could react. Dwight was amazed and looked around for help. Many Air Force members immediately told him the rule about never letting anyone take your coin. Hornburg relented and gave Dwight back his coin and summoned another of his own coins to go with it. Last seen, Dwight was headed toward Gen.

Michael Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff. Within minutes, every player within earshot wanted a coin so they could be part of the fun.

Many of these same players stopped while they were in the middle of a round of golf to film short public service announcements for the Air Force. When thanked for doing the PSA, almost every one of them responded with, "no, thank you for what you do."

Another one of the NFL players in attendance was Chad Hennings of the Dallas Cowboys. Hennings is a USAF Academy graduate and former A-10 Thunderbolt pilot. I witnessed a conversation between Hennings and Irving Fryar, of the Washington Redskins, where Hennings was explaining what it was like to fly the A-10 and be shot at after Desert Storm. Fryar could not believe he had been shot at and people were still being shot at over there. Hennings told and retold that story many times over the course of the week. The one thing it always came back to was how proud he was to serve and how much he would recommend any young person to do the same.

The day before the Super Bowl, 750,000 people lined the streets in Tampa, Fla., for the annual Gasparilla Parade. The Air Force, for the first time, would have its own float among the 110 present for the parade. The parade is

much like those held during Mardi Gras, with the throwing of beads and doubloons. The Air Force had their own beads colored Air Force blue with an attached medallion with the Air Force website and toll-free number emblazoned on it. The recruiting potential among nearly three-quarters of a million people was mind-boggling. All the while, Air Force aircraft flew their own parade overhead getting the crowd warmed up for the other parade. Every 12 minutes another type of aircraft roared low over the crowd bringing them to their feet and letting them know the Air Force was on duty.

The culmination of two weeks of hard and demanding work ended with watching, like millions of others around the world, the flights of the B-2 Spirit Bomber and the Air Force Thunderbirds over Raymond James Stadium to the roar of the crowd. Who didn't have chills and a lump in your throat listening to America the Beautiful and the Star Spangled Banner and knowing we in the military are part of something bigger than ourselves in the greatest country in the world.

We ended it the way we started it; displaying our tremendous troops who are serving the nation every day and providing a world class fighting military force - America's Air Force: No one comes close!

FEATURE

CGOC lends a helping hand to Sea Island Habitat for Humanity

Story and photos by
Senior Airman Melanie
Streeter

437AW Public Affairs

The four goals of the Company Grade Officer's Council are professional development, community service, raising funds, and having fun. By volunteering to work with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity on John's Island, three of the four were realized.

Capt. Warren Wright, 437th Airlift Wing; Capt. Joe Trechter, 437th Communications Squadron; 1st Lt. Rich Tanner, 15th Airlift Squadron; 1st Lt. Erika Tanner, 437 CS; 1st Lt. Randy Ackerman, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; 1st Lt. Grant Meadows, 437th Maintenance Squadron and Airman Kim Blaisdell, 437th Operations Support Squadron, rolled up their sleeves and went to work putting up drywall.

Habitat for Humanity is "an international, ecumenical Christian housing ministry whose goal is to eliminate substandard housing from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience," according to the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity Web site.

The homes aren't given away. Potential homeowners have to meet a series of requirements to be eligible for the program.

First, they must have a need for decent housing. They then must have the ability to pay the modest monthly mortgage payments, as the home is not a handout. The family also must be willing to "partner" with Habitat by investing

at least 500 hours of "sweat equity," working on the construction of the home alongside volunteers.

The habitat project on John's Island is much like any other subdivision, Trechter said. Each group or corporation sponsors a home by contributing money or volunteers.

The CGOC decided to get involved as a way to meet their goal of community service.

"The idea would come up from time to time when I was at McGuire (AFB, N.J.)," said Ackerman. "But something would always come up and we never seemed to get involved. When I got here, I decided to give it a go and brought it up at a meeting."

CGOC members coordinated with Karen Colie, outreach director for Sea Island Habitat. She let them know that volunteers were working on site six days a week, and all the group needed to do was show up and habitat would put them to work.

"It seemed like a great idea to help meet our focus on community service," said Trechter.

So Dec. 6, 2000, the crew went to the site and started hanging drywall in the 1,200 square foot home.

"It was a team effort," said Wright. "We went in there not really knowing what to do or how to do it. But by the end of the day we were almost experts. We were one group working toward a common goal, much like the Air Force is made up of many individuals working as one."

And the crew from the CGOC did quite a good job, according to Steve Yeomans, construction superintendent for Sea Island Habitat. "It usually takes at least three days to drywall a house and these guys were all but finished after just one day. They can come back anytime," he said.

The Sea Island Habitat for Humanity project is the third oldest of nearly 1,700 affiliates of Habitat for Humanity, according to the organization's Web site. It has completed nearly 108 single-family residences on John's Island.

But, the site explains, it's about more than the houses. By requiring the homeowners to



Members of a youth group from Belmont, Mass., tie rebar for a home's foundation. The group, with the Belmont 1st Church, includes 33 high school-aged youth and five adults. The CGOC is just one of many groups that contribute to the ongoing Habitat for Humanity project.

contribute hours of "sweat equity," the program helps them gain a sense of self-reliance, self-esteem and also teaches them new skills.

The homeowners' down payment of \$600 and monthly mortgage payments of \$250 are used to finance more houses through a revolving "Fund for Humanity."

By bringing together diverse groups of people - individuals, churches, companies, foundations and organizations - the project helps participants to build new relationships, which in turn, help build and revitalize communities.

This building of strong communities is what the founder of Habitat for Humanity International, Millard Fuller, calls the "theology of the hammer." The theology of the hammer calls for faith and love

to be put into action; both to build homes and to continue working with the homeowners to ensure their success.

"The fact that it was an effort where we were helping people help themselves, not giving them a handout, was the most rewarding part," Trechter said. "It felt like more of a community event because the volunteers work right along with the homeowners who will eventually benefit from all of

the hard work."

Because the project was such a success, the CGOC has decided to make volunteering at the Habitat site a quarterly event. At present, the council is aiming for another trip in March, but first the members must coordinate with their squadron commanders to set up an ideal date.

Although the CGOC is an officer's organization, anyone who wants to join in and help out on the next Habitat project is welcome and encouraged to do so.

More information on Habitat for Humanity International can be found at www.habitat.org. Information about Sea Island Habitat for Humanity can be found at www.seaislandhabitat.com. For more information, call Ackerman at 963-4589.



Youth from the Belmont 1st Church, Belmont, Mass., break ground for the foundation of another Habitat for Humanity home.



A member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, from Bethlehem, Minn., makes headers for windows.



MAGNOLIA PLACE DINING FACILITY

On the Menu



Today

Lunch: Cream of broccoli soup, barbeque chicken, yakisoba, parmesan fish, rice, potatoes, vegetable stir-fry, brussels sprouts, fried okra, gravy
Dinner: Sloppy joes, chicken a la king, steamed rice, tater tots, corn, carrots, cauliflower

Saturday

Lunch: Tomato vegetable soup, baked ham, beef and broccoli, hot wings, rice, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, stewed tomatoes, brown gravy
Dinner: Grilled chicken breast, fried shrimp, baked potatoes, macaroni and cheese, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, cheese sauce, cocktail sauce

Sunday

Lunch: Tomato vegetable soup, yankee pot roast, italian sausage, fried chicken, filipino rice, parsley-buttered potatoes, baked beans, asparagus, peppers and onions, gravy
Dinner: Roast turkey, liver with onions, peas and pepper rice, potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower combo, wax beans, lima beans

Monday:

Lunch: Cream of broccoli soup, baked fish, baked chicken, beef stew,

rice pilaf, buttered potatoes, green beans, carrots, peas, chicken gravy
Dinner: Roast pork, veal parmesan, egg noodles, mashed potatoes, fried okra, cauliflower, mixed vegetables

Tuesday

Lunch: Tomato vegetable soup, pork steaks, chicken a la king, lasagna, steamed rice, potatoes, beans, spinach, stewed tomatoes, cream gravy
Dinner: Chili macaroni, chicken enchiladas, spanish rice, potatoes, mexican corn, squash, bean combo

Wednesday

Lunch: Cream of chicken soup, chicken adobo, grilled pork chops, meat loaf, potatoes, rice, succotash, beans, gravy, cheese sauce
Dinner: Roasted beef, spaghetti with meat sauce, oven-glo potatoes, mashed potatoes, asparagus, corn-on-the-cob, cauliflower, garlic toast

Thursday-Asian Meal

Lunch: Egg drop soup, sweet and sour pork, five-spice chicken, beef and broccoli stir fry, fried rice, steamed rice, fried cabbage, tempura vegetables, vegetable stir fry
Dinner: Barbecue chicken, meat loaf, rice pilaf, mashed potatoes, corn, carrots, green beans, brown gravy



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Streefer

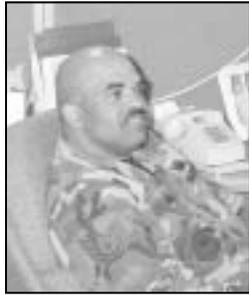
Staff Sgt. Crystal Ferguson, a technician in the Avionics Integrated Systems Shop, 437th Maintenance Squadron, connects the chassis of a heads-up display to the cathode ray tube. The shop performs intermediate level maintenance on various C-17 avionics systems.

Fitness & Sports

Sports line

5K Fun Run/Walk: The HAWC is sponsoring a 5K Fun Run/Walk Saturday, 8 a.m., at the fitness center. Everyone is invited to participate in this free event. The first 25 people will receive free t-shirts. For more information, call 963-3347 or 963-4007.

Golf tournament: The Logistics Officer Association is sponsoring a golf tournament Thursday, 8:30 a.m., at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The format will be a four-person captain's choice with an Infiniti I 30 par-three hole-in-one prize. Trophies will be awarded for the top three teams, closest to the pin and longest drive. Lunch is included in the \$15 tournament fee. Green and cart fees also apply. There will be a complimentary beer cart. A post-tournament raffle will be held. Sign up by calling the golf course at 963-4177 or 2nd Lt. Wade Cornelius at 963-4665.



(Above) "I don't get into racing. I wouldn't know what to tell you except that it's a tragedy."

--Tony Jones



(Left) "It's a great loss to NASCAR racing. I've followed him since I was a little kid and looked up to him. Personally, I don't think racing will be the same again."

--Garth Horton



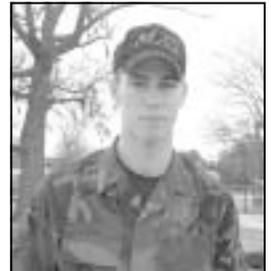
(Left) "He should have been wearing a HANS. It probably would have saved his life. It was a tragedy; but a good race."

--Janet Osborne



(Above) "Just because you were the best that ever was, doesn't mean for you to be the worst tragedy in history, all for a harness."

--Sonya Martin



(Right) "I'm not a big race fan, but I think it's a big misfortune. He was a legend."

--Jonathan Todd