

DISPATCH

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Vol. 40, No. 26

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, July 6, 2001

AEF keeps CAFB C-17s hopping

Charleston AFB wrapped up a successful Air Expeditionary Force rotation June 22 that began on April 26.

Air Mobility Command was handed the role of making AEF happen in October 1999. The fourth, and most recent, rotation has been the largest one yet said Lt. Col. Dave Peaire, 15th Air Expeditionary Squadron commander, Moron AB, Spain. "The AEF concept came out, and AMC had to sit down and figure out how to move all the planes, people, and cargo every 90 days," Peaire said.

According to Jim Cheesborough, 437th Air Operations Support Squadron current operations specialist, CAFB has the task of staging an operation from home base to overseas once quarterly. "Our job is to set up the stage and say when people are ready to go," said Cheesborough. "It's crew intensive and high velocity."

According to Jim Moore, another current operations

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rolla Suttmilller

C-17's from Charleston sit on the parking ramp at Moron AB, Spain, waiting for their departure time. This Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation was the largest to date, and everything from fighters, to tankers, to cargo planes made "pit stops" at the base in Southern Spain for fuel, repairs and rest. AEFs rotate people and equipment quarterly.

Tax refunds due military taxpayers too

Servicemembers who owed federal income taxes for 2000, are due a check for up to \$600, to be in the mail by September.

Lt. Col. Thomas K. Emswiler, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, said military members are eligible for the federal refund that's made headlines recently.

In an interview with the American Forces Radio and Television Service, he said the tax bill just signed by the president creates a new tax bracket of 10 percent and made the rate retroactive to Jan. 1. In the past the lowest tax rate was 15 percent.

"This change should affect everybody who earns at least \$6,000 in taxable income," said Capt. Aaron

Reed, officer in charge of Charleston AFB's tax center for 2001 and assistant staff judge advocate. "Generally speaking, the majority of taxpayers will get a refund."

The law provides the mailing of refunds start in July and be complete by the end of September.

Emswiler said anyone who had a federal tax liability for 2000 is eligible providing they weren't claimed as someone else's dependent. "Liability" means owing more the amount of non-refundable credits. Refundable credits, such as the earned income tax credit, don't count for determining eligibility or the amount of the refund.

"If you filed a joint return last year and had at least \$12,000 in taxable income, you'll receive a \$600 refund," Emswiler said. "That \$600 represents

the difference between taxing \$12,000 at 15 percent and taxing it at 10 percent as provided for under the new law.

"If you filed as head of household last year and had at least \$10,000 in taxable income, you'll get a refund of \$500," Emswiler continued. "Most taxpayers who filed as single last year and had at least \$6,000 in taxable income will get a refund of \$300."

The IRS plan is to issue refunds according to the last two digits of taxpayers' Social Security numbers, he remarked. Refunds for those with "00" will be among the earliest checks mailed in July; "99s" will be among the last in September. The process is scheduled to take three months because 96 million checks are involved. (AFPN.)

WWF
superstars
want to
meet you
on CAFB
Saturday!

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IN THE NEWS

Union, management sign master labor agreement

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB ushered in a new era of cooperation and consultation with the union that represents civilians on the base and management when they signed a new master labor agreement June 25.

The agreement, signed by the 437th Support Group commander and the American Federation of Government Employees Local 1869, will replace the MLA from 1995.

The 100-page agreement states the policies, procedures and methods that govern working relationships between the employer and the union. Both sides had eight people negotiating on the agreement. Negotiations began March 26 and concluded with the signing ceremony.

After the signing ceremony, the agreement was sent to DOD Field Advisory Services in Virginia, where it will be reviewed for legal and regulatory compliance. The agreement is not in effect until its legal review is complete. When the document comes back, it will be published and distributed, and the workforce will be trained on it in August. The agreement will be in effect for at least three years and can be renewed indefinitely if both sides agree.

"I want to thank all of our negotiators, both labor and management," said Trudy Pendergast, AFGE Local 1869 president. "We came to the table with a goal and we met our goal. It was my first opportunity to see

negotiations from beginning to end as a negotiator. It was an extremely rewarding experience and I am very proud of the document we signed."

Others were also pleased with the agreement reached.

"It's a good contract and it was negotiated in record time," said Wilma Mitchell, chief of civilian personnel office and a member of the management negotiating team. "It is a lot clearer and was well put together. We will start having classes around the first or second week of August. We expect to have 10 classes in the morning and afternoon, and we will be trying to get everyone up to speed on the changes to the document."

Signing the agreement were Col. Dennis Kaan, former 437 SPTG commander; Keith Livermore, a retired AFGE national representative and a business agent for Local 1869 and Pendergast.

"I've been negotiating contracts since 1962, and I can honestly say the integrity from both sides that went into the agreement was great," said Livermore. "I think we have a product that is going to enhance the mission. I've been doing this for some 30-odd years, and I can't believe we negotiated this contract in eight sessions of four hours. That's a miracle and is just unbelievable."

Mitchell agreed and said that the previous 1995 MLA had taken a year to negotiate.

Livermore continued, "I've been at the table sometimes where we met three-four months on a weekly basis,

eight hours a day. It just shows the effort that was put forth by both parties. Both wanted to come out with a really good contract. There is language in this contract that I plan to submit to our national office to be used as sample language in other contracts."

The negotiations were tough at times since a single word change can change the intent of an article in the agreement. "I came in very apprehensive, but went out very optimistic," Livermore added.

Kaan was pleased with the way the contract was negotiated and the outcome of negotiations.

"This contract has been sitting out there for about two years, and we elected to wait until after the strategic planning sessions," Kaan said. "We have increased the communication and education of our people. There was benefit in waiting until we completed that before we started negotiations. The contract is solid. We negotiated over some tough issues at times, but we did it professionally and we were able to laugh at the end. It says a lot about teamwork."

Pendergast was impressed with the teamwork that went into developing the new contract.

"I think the final agreement was a collaborative effort, probably the single most important document that demonstrates our partnership," Pendergast said. "It is probably the plainest document and easiest to read contract that we've ever had. It's a master labor agreement without guidelines or a rationale to explain

what you've done. You can just pick up the document, read it and understand it.

"Some of the biggest changes will be in the negotiation and consultation," Pendergast continued. "The biggest article in detail is to aid civilians and management in investigations. For example, if there is an investigation of an employee on base, we have clarified how it will be conducted and the union's role in that investigation. Our role will not be of one as just an observer, but will be one of an active participant."

CAFB has about 600 plus appropriated bargaining unit civilians (non-supervisors). AFGE Local 1869 also represents two private contractors on the base, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Defense Commissary Agency employees at Charleston and at the Naval Weapons Station, and all non-appropriated fund employees.

Mitchell said the new agreement will be a working document for both sides and should prevent past misinterpretations.

"With the last agreement, we had a book for management and another one for the civilian employees," Mitchell said. "We also kept a book in our office and another one in the union office on what this meant. With this document, we won't have a separate book, so I think it will be easier for both sides to understand and will result in a lot less misunderstandings. Ease of understanding was key to the new agreement."

Team Charleston volunteers install computers, get local school online

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Fourteen members of Team Charleston helped make computer training possible for Goodwin Elementary School by setting up a computer lab there June 25.

Ten members of the 437th Communications Squadron, three 437th Airlift Wing staff members and one 437th Logistics Support Squadron member volunteered their time to go to the school and install the machines.

According to Sharon Kapicka, Goodwin Elementary media specialist and technology coordinator, Maj. Douglas Taylor, 437 CS commander, was contacted about the lab through school channels.

"We had the computers in boxes, and were just waiting for summer break to turn a classroom into a lab," said Kapicka. "Doug (Master Sgt.

Wagman, 437 CS network administration chief) contacted me, and we set up an appointment for him to come out and take a look at what we were trying to do."

"Four of us went to the school early to survey the lab we were going to set up," said Wagman. "Even with our planning, we had to think on our feet when we actually got there Monday (June 25). Sharon (Kapicka) did a lot of before-hand things to make it easier on us, but it would have taken her weeks to set up everything on her own."

Goodwin Elementary purchased the 30 computers through a government program that grants extra money to low-income schools for projects like establishing computer labs, according to Wagman. When the team arrived, the computers were still in the boxes. Most of them had software loaded, but still needed some work to be

connected as a network.

"We took them out of the boxes, wired them and had to install some software on each one," said Wagman. "Six of them didn't have LAN (local area network) drops, so we built them. Master Sgt. Kannegaard (John, 437 CS) and Airman 1st Class Martin (Patrick, 437 CS) got right on top of it and had it done in no time."

Even though many of the volunteers were trained on computer networking, the software the school purchased was unfamiliar to most of them.

"They were all connected on the Novell network system," Wagman continued. "I'm not familiar with that systems, but it was pretty easy to get everything running. We couldn't set it up just like we do NT (Microsoft Windows NT) because they may do things differently."

The entire project was com-

plete in about 3 hours, according to Wagman. He said everyone who helped felt they were doing something good for the local community, and helping to make Charleston an Air Force town.

"I thought it was interesting that kids wanted to be involved in the project and learn about computers," said Staff Sgt. Octavia Dean, 437 AW Command Post NCOIC of information management. "I wanted to be involved."

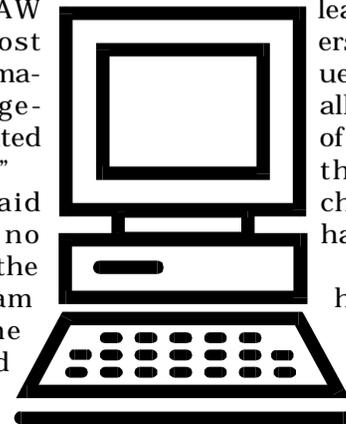
Dean said there were no slackers on the volunteer team and everyone pitched in and did whatever they could to complete the computer lab. She also said she would gladly volunteer for projects like this in the future.

Along with this project, Wagman also recently volunteered his time to teach a second-grade class at Sanders-Clyde Elementary School.

"It's like the old saying," Wagman said. "If you give someone a fish, they'll eat for a day. But, if you teach them how to fish, they'll eat for life."

"These kids may not have the opportunity to learn about computers at home," continued Wagman. "I really like being a part of a project that gives them the same chances other kids have."

Kapicka said the help from Team Charleston made it possible to have the lab available when the students return in August. Without the volunteers, she said, the lab would have been delayed.



CAFB's CGOC helps build leadership in new officers

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

A recent Company Grade Officer's Council leadership conference at Andrews AFB, Md., has given new ideas to Charleston AFB's CGOC public affairs representative.

First Lt. Zabrina Robinson, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, attended the conference and said she felt rejuvenated when the conference ended.

"What didn't I learn," said Robinson. "Everyday we had guest speakers on an array of subjects from developing aerospace leaders to Air Force intern programs. We were even lucky enough to have five chief master sergeants for a panel discussion about enlisted concerns and how we can better lead them."

Robinson said when she wasn't learning from the expertise of the guest speakers, she was brainstorming with her peers to come up with better ways of doing things.

"We were talking about Air Force and CGOC issues," Robinson said. "We worked out some new plans for fundraisers, membership drives and professional development."

Issues and concerns are closely related from base to base, according to Robinson. She said it was reassuring to hear how other bases overcame some of the same issues Charleston AFB is experiencing.

The primary function of the CGOC is to be the eyes and ears to the wing commander on young officer issues, according to Robinson. The CGOC also helps new officers get established and oriented into the Air Force.

This year, the CAFB CGOC has four goals: professional development, community service, fundraising and having fun. Robinson said the CGOC President, Capt. Randy Ackerman, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, laid out the goals for the council.

"We do Habitat for Humanity and hold a CGOC orientation once a quar-

ter, served dinner to airmen at the Stripes to Uniforms dinner, assisted in fundraising, as well as beverage serving, for the enlisted Oktoberfest and hosted breakfast and lunches for officers to interact with senior leadership and distinguished visitors," said Robinson.

The CGOC's only requirement to join is to be a second lieutenant, first lieutenant or captain. CAFB currently has 40 active members. Besides conferences and fundraising, the CGOC offers great opportunities to make lasting friendships, according to Ackerman.

"The biggest reason I started going to CGOC events was the friendships made outside of the office," said Ackerman. "Everyone works a lot and we all have our own schedules, but for one or two hours a month, we are able to come together as a council and get to know each other, as well as accomplish some amazing things. The CGOC makes things happen on this

base, as well as many other bases."

Capt. Todd Cook, 437APS, said the CGOC also provides an opportunity to network.

"First and foremost, it's a fantastic opportunity to meet and get to know your peers across multiple functions and organizations," said Cook. "Second, it allows junior officers a forum to air common concerns at the mid-manager level and a voice to forward them directly to the senior leadership. Third, this organization is a good tool for our base to use as ambassadors to the local community, interact with people outside our gates and even do charity work. Finally, it's a good place to make friends."

The CGOC meets every third Wednesday of the month from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The next meeting, July 18, will be a goodbye luncheon for the CGOC advisor, Col. Glenn Mackey, 437th Operations Group vice commander.

AEF

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specialist, approximately 40 launches going either east or west departed from home station during the rotation. "At any given time there was anywhere from six-seven C-17s in the system, on this mission, at one time," Moore said.

The C-17's role in the rotation was to swap out units, including troops and equipment, with no overlap. "We were interested in getting one unit out and sending another unit in as smoothly as possible," said Moore. "If something goes wrong in that transition, there is a domino effect on all other parts of the mission."

According to Capt. Troy Larson, AEF stage manager from McChord AFB, Wash., keeping the flow moving and fluid is the primary key to the operation. "We keep it moving by always knowing exactly where every plane is from the second it leaves the desert or the states," Larson said.

Cheesborough believes the C-17 is a great plane to fly a mission like this. "With the C-17 being the newest airlifter, it was completely fit for the job," he said.

According to Moore, "the C-17 is very reliable too."

Moron AB, located in Southern Spain, is the midway point for all AEF rotations since their inception 18 months ago. Moron is normally the home of the 18th Space Surveillance Squadron, which has about 130 members.

According to Col Don Stone, director of global readiness for the Tanker Airlift Control Center out of Scott AFB, "Every three months or so things get pretty fast and furious around Moron."

Three to five hundred active duty, guard and reserve airmen deploy to Moron for anywhere from 10-45 days. To date, the base has processed over 4,000 personnel, four million short tons of cargo, and close to 200 aircraft.

Peaire considers Moron's role in the rotation an important part of making AEF successful.

"It depends on us getting the equipment back and forth to the states and to the desert, and when you have limited

resources to do that, it makes our job that much more challenging," Peaire said. "This is where you see the AEF concept at work."

Major Joe Lanzetta, AEF stage manager, believes that crews appreciate what Moron has done for them to keep the planes moving.

"We've got a lot of feedback from the C-17 crews, and it's getting all the way back to the states," Lanzetta said. "The people back home are happy, their commanders are happy because their folks are out in the system pushing iron through the air, doing their job, and enjoying it."

(USAFE News Service. Jennifer Cavender, 437AW Public Affairs also contributed to this article.)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rolla Suttmiller

Capt. Randy Ackerman, (left) 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron and deployed maintenance supervisor, talks with KC-135 crew chiefs, Airman 1st Class Kevin Wright, (center) Grand Forks AFB, N.D., and Staff Sgt. Doug Pecor, McConnell AFB, Kan., on the flightline at Moron AB, Spain.

Car phones; help or hazard?

By SSgt Bart D. Craven
437 AW Safety

Have you ever found your attention drifting away from driving while you're on the phone? Have you ever had an accident or "near miss" when you've been talking on the phone?

According to National Transportation Safety Board people with car phones run a 34 percent higher risk of having an accident than those without one.

That number climbs even higher if they tend to use their phones a lot or are trying to balance driving, using the phone and doing something else like drinking coffee, eating or getting ready for work while driving.

Of the more than 700,000 traffic accidents reported in 1996, about 35 percent, or nearly 250,000 accidents, listed driver inattention as a chief factor in the accident. While accidents result from drivers running red lights or stop signs in town, more than a few happen out on the open road where the person almost inexplicably runs off the road or into the path of another vehicle.

The great value of cellular communications isn't in dispute, but there is a time and a place for everything. It might even be believable that at least 50 percent of these calls couldn't wait until the driver was at home or in a store or even at the office. That would still leave 50 percent of the calls as unnecessary distractions while operating a motor vehicle.

A little personal operational risk management might suggest the benefit of "using the phone" is outweighed by the risk of having an accident. Almost everyone has heard the defensive driving adage, "Watch out for the other guy." Well, every time someone has a cell phone in their ear while driving, they should be watched extra close.

According to Department of Defense Instruction, DODI Draft 6055.4/April 24, 1998, cellular phones are included on the "prohibited" use list while driving on DOD installations. They have reached the status of unacceptable risk along with the use of head phones, and earphones while operating a motor vehicle. Why? DODI 6055.4 states these devices impair driving, and mask or prevent recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, human speech and the ability to determine the direction from which sound is coming.

There may be one upside to the car phone debate. When they are in an accident, the folks with the car phones can call the authorities!



NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Profile



Photo by Senior Airman Melanie Streeter

Airman 1st Class Celina Johnson 437th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Airman 1st Class Celina Johnson is a public health apprentice with the 437th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Public Health Flight.

Currently, Johnson's work focuses on communicable diseases. Her job is to educate active duty military members about contagious diseases, how they are transmitted, how to treat them and what happens if the disease isn't treated.

In addition to her work in public health, Johnson spends a lot of time volunteering, she said.

"I don't do it to move ahead," Johnson said. "I like to use my time up as much as possible. I feel you should volunteer because you want to, not for an EPR bullet."

Involved with the Medical Group Association, Johnson also is the 2001 Air Force Savings Bonds Campaign representative for her squadron. She also volunteered to help out the Special Olympics.

"My mom volunteered to help out the Special Olympics every year while she was in the military, and I guess that's why I choose to volunteer for them," Johnson said.

Both of Johnson's parents served in the military for 20 years, setting a standard for their daughter to live up to.

"I spend a lot of time studying my CDCs," Johnson said. "I want to finish them, because as soon as I'm done, I'm heading straight for college. Eventually I want to earn my master's degree in public health and work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But that's only after I serve 20 plus years. I want to beat my parents."

In her free time, Johnson enjoys spending time with her husband, Michael, and her 3-year-old daughter, Zoe.

post card via the U.S. Postal Service increased to 21-cents Sunday. The cost of mailing heavier letters increased also, with additional ounces costing 23-cents each. Rates also increased for business mail, advertising mail, periodical, packages and a number of other categories. For more information, go to www.usps.com.

Space A: Space Available travel is available for active duty, reservists, National Guard members, retirees and their dependents. To use Space A travel, active duty members need their identification card and a valid leave authorization. Retirees need their blue identification card. National Guard and Reserve members need their identification card and DD form 1853, "Verification of Reserve Status for Travel Eligibility." Dependents need their identification card. For more information about Space A travel, call 963-3048 or 963-3083.

Commissary: Commissary customers wanting paper bags instead of plastic must now specifically request them. The policy was implemented reduce the Commissary's annual expenditure for bags, which last year reached \$7 million.

TMO: The peak season for shipments of personal property is here. Personnel should report to the TMO office as soon as they receive their orders. Three-four weeks are needed to confirm requested move dates. Personnel shipping vehicles overseas must have all proper documentation upon arrival at the Vehicle Processing Center. Required documentation now includes permanent change of station orders and either the title or letter of authorization from the lienholder or lease company before shipment can be accomplished. For more information, call 963-2255, or visit their Web site at www.charleston.af.mil/CHAS/437AW/OG/TMO/index.htm.

Family Support Center

Pre-Deployment Briefing: Monday, July 16, 23 and 30, 8 a.m. and Thursday, July 19 and 26, 4 p.m.

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

Positive Attitude and You: Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

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

TAP Three-Day Workshop: July 17-19, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: July 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Employers Panel and Mini Job Fair: July 19, 2-4 p.m.

Troops-To-Teachers: July 23, 10-11

Open House: July 23, 10-11

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

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Services Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. Reese Jones Jr. July 13, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Romeo at 963-5805.

Farewell dinner: The 437th Operations Group is hosting a farewell dinner for Col. and Mrs. Glenn Mackey July 16, 6 p.m., at Sticky Fingers, next to Northwoods Mall. Attire is casual, and the event costs \$15. RSVP by Monday to Staff Sgt. Nina Campbell, 963-5584.

SNCO induction: The 5th Annual Senior NCO Induction Ceremony will be held July 26 at the Charleston Club. Social time begins at 6 p.m., and the menu is Chicken Cordon Bleu. Attire is mess dress or semi-formal. The fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Robert Gaylor, is scheduled to speak. Tickets are \$18 for club members, \$21 for non-members and can be purchased from first sergeants until July 19.

Around the base

Giant voice: Charleston AFB Command Post will use the giant voice system to alert base personnel of tornado warnings. In the event of a tornado, command post will make a

voice announcement, sound a three-five minute steady tone and make another voice announcement. The system is tested every Friday and the first Monday of each month at noon. For more information, call 963-2531.

Closure: The 437th Military Personnel Flight Customer Service Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday. For more information, call Senior Airman Angela Hawkins at 963-4536.

Sergeants association: The Charleston Chapter of the Air Force Sergeants Association meets on the second Tuesday of every month, 4:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The groups mission is to advocate improved quality of life and economic fairness for Air Force enlisted members and their families. All Team Charleston members are welcome to attend the meetings. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tundra Gatewood at 963-6901.

Chiefs' Group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold its monthly meeting July 19, 11 a.m., in the Charleston Club. All chief master sergeants and chief selectees are invited to attend.

Education Center: The Air Command and Staff College is offering a seminar for majors, major selectees, and

GS-11s and above. The Air War College is offering a seminar for lieutenant colonels, lieutenant colonel selectees, and GS-13s or above. Both courses begin Aug. 6 and run through mid-June 2002. For more information, call 963-4575.

Smart Card: The 437th Supply Squadron issues and updates smart cards daily at the Parts Store, Bldg. T-80, and at Customer Service, Bldg. 302. During swing- and mid-shifts, the cards are issued at the parts store only. For more information, call Consolidated Customer Service at 963-4826 or Master Sgt. Debra Baczweski at 963-4836.

SIU: Southern Illinois University is having open fall registration, now-Aug. 13, for its one-year Workforce Education and Development program. Enrollment is open to military members, dependents, retirees and civilians. The program starts Aug. 28 and runs through August 2002. For more information, call 552-7320.

Reserve: The 96th Flying Training Squadron, Laughlin AFB, Texas, has part-time Reserve openings for instructor pilots in T-1, T-37 and T-38 aircraft. For more information, call DSN 732-4837 or commercial (830) 298-4837.

Rate increase: The cost of sending a

COMMENTARY

Leadership changes abound at Team Charleston

By Col. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

The past few weeks have been very difficult for the wing, as we changed over a number of group and squadron commanders. It is always tough to say goodbye to the great people; however, we are fortunate to bring on-board outstanding new leaders to replace those departing.

Our new 437th Logistics Group commander, Col. Tommy Hixon, and his wife Robin, are no strangers to the Charleston area. This assignment marks their third assignment to the base having served as a maintenance officer for Detachment 1, 48th Fighter Interceptor Group, commander of the 637th Aircraft Generation Squadron and then deputy commander of the 437 LG. He started here as a lieutenant and now returns as a colonel. As a career maintenance officer and no stranger to the C-17, he will bring a great deal of depth and knowledge to the group. The Hixons are poised and ready for this assignment. We are excited to have them on-board.

We are also fortunate to bring on-board Col. David Snodgrass, a B-52 and B-1 master navigator with more than 3,000 hours, and his wife, Julie, as the commander of the 437th Support Group. No stranger to overseeing support group operations, he once served as the deputy commander of the 7th Support Group at Dyess AFB, Texas. He most recently served as the special assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They are glad to be out of the Pentagon finally after four and a half years and to come here

where the "rubber meets the road." They will also bring a wealth of experience to the wing.

I will retire Lt. Col. Andy Murphy July 13, 3:30 p.m., in Valor Hall at the 14th Airlift Squadron. Andy has served his country for more than 20 years and is one of the most knowledgeable folks that we have ever had on the C-17. As the acknowledged expert on the C-17, he ran our standardization and evaluation shop in the 437th Operations Group and we will miss his extensive expertise. He has been a big part of a lot of history on the C-17. We congratulate him as he begins a new chapter in his life.

We will also bid farewell to Lt. Col. Jon Roop, commander of the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, one of the toughest command billets on Charleston. He has done a great job here, as you can tell with all the construction of the many new facilities on the base. Being a base civil engineer is a tough, tough job and Jon has done superb. We expect even greater things from him as he heads off to the Air War College.

A special congratulations to Maj. Dan Baldessari, 17th Airlift Squadron, who recently became the new president of the Lowcountry



Photo by Ed Kelly

Col. Tommy Hixon accepts command of the 437th Logistics Group from Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander. Command of the 437th Support Group also passed to Col. David Snodgrass. Several squadrons have also seen changes of command in recent weeks.

chapter of the Airlift/Tanker Association. As many of you know, one of the highlights of being an A/TA member is getting to attend the national convention, to be held Oct. 18-21 in Dallas, Texas. The chapter also sponsors a number of awards and scholarships and has monthly general meetings. We have a strong chapter locally, with about 230 members, but we are always looking for more members. If interested in joining, please call Master Sgt. Jim Scanlan at 963-2794.

Maj. Ron Whittle, 17th Airlift Squadron, recently won the 2000 General P.K. Carlton Award for Valor for Air Mobility Command. The official award will be presented at the annual Airlift/Tanker Association convention, but I presented a letter of appreciation at Monday's staff meeting. He received this recognition for his professionalism in rising to the challenge of overcoming a multitude of obstacles during a humanitarian support mission to Mozambique, Africa. His quick thinking and timely actions enabled life-saving equipment and supplies to be delivered. He and his crew did a superb job in contending with bad weather and worked extensively with the command and control elements to ensure the mission was a complete success. This is a

great testament to the aircrews' ingenuity and ability to think on their feet during a rapidly changing situation. Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our June promotees recognized as part of the monthly promotion ceremony held last week. It is always a great honor to recognize our people's accomplishments in a public forum. Promotion is a significant milestone event in one's military career.

I heard a number of compliments praising the base newspaper staff, Senior Airmen Jason Smith and Melanie Streeter, for their special June 15 edition highlighting the contributions of swing- and midnight-shift workers. It was a good idea to pay some recognition to those midnight warriors whose pride, passion and professionalism gets the job done 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I hope everyone had a pleasant Fourth of July holiday. We were able to go to reduced manning the day before to give us some time with our families and friends. It is always tough to slow down a little when the wing's pace is so hectic from day-to-day, but we were successful. Keep up the good work, and keep charging forward as we continue to show the world that we are the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet!

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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The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581 or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

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





Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Riverdogs: Next home games Wednesday-Thursday vs. Augusta and July 13-16 vs. Macon. For more information, or for tickets, call 577-DOGS.

Swamp Foxes: Next home game July 14, 7:30 p.m., vs. Norfolk. For tickets call 554-6060.

Battery: Next home game July 13, 7:30 p.m., vs. Richmond. For tickets call 971-GOAL.

Summerville Speedway: Saturday, Bumper To Bumper presents a motorcycle demolition derby and fireworks spectacular for the annual Fourth of July Celebration at the Speedway. For more information, call 871-8331.

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

Entertainment:

Live music: The Maxx performs tonight, 5-9:15 p.m., at Maritime Center, 10 Wharfside Dr. Tickets cost \$5 at the door. For more information, call 856-9922.

Duck Race: Carolina Youth Development Center's annual rubber duck race is scheduled for Saturday, 4 p.m., Old Santee Canal Park, Moncks Corner. \$5 duck adoption or \$25 6-quack. For more information call 744-5358 or 761-5360.

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 or send an e-mail to dispatch@charleston.af.mil.

WWF superstars to visit CAFB

Wrestlers to tour C-17, eat at dining facility Saturday

By Senior Airman Jason Smith

437 AW Public Affairs

Three superstars from the World Wrestling Federation will be visiting Charleston AFB Saturday, 3-5 p.m.

Molly Holly, Spike Dudley and Faarooq, from the Acolyte Protection Agency, are scheduled to arrive, via humvee, at the flightline at 3 p.m. Everyone with a restricted area badge is invited to meet the superstars as they tour a C-17 and take time to interact with their fans.

The superstars will make their way to the new dining facility around 4:30 p.m. to have dinner with the troops. Everyone authorized to eat at the dining facility is invited.

The superstars specifically requested to eat at the dining facility so they could have the opportunity to meet and talk with the airmen of CAFB.

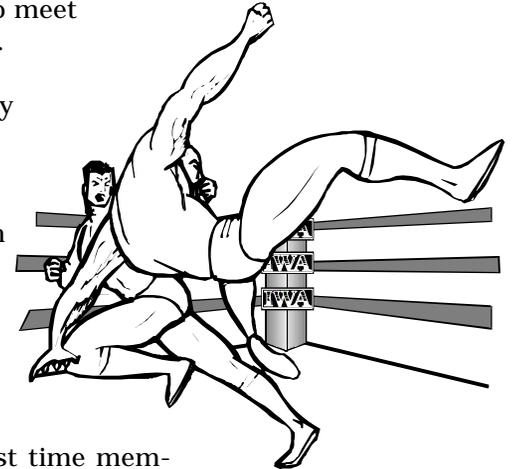
The WWF is holding a match at the Charleston Coliseum Saturday evening. Spike Dudley and Molly Holly are sure to see some action as the Hollys, Dudleys and Hardys will take on Edge and Christian in a four-way tag-team title match.

Faarooq, along with his APA counterpart Bradshaw, is scheduled to take on Bull Buchanan and The Goodfather of the Right to Censor.

Saturday's event will be the first time members of the newly acquired World Championship Wrestling will compete against WWF members in a local arena.

The show's headliner is a tag-team match pairing Olympic hero Kurt Angle and "Stone Cold" Steve Austin against Kane and the Undertaker.

Tickets are available at the Coliseum or through Ticketmaster while supplies last.



FEATURE

CAFB's ALS: shaping leaders one airman at a time

By Senior Airman
Melanie Streeter

437 AW Public Affairs

A room full of anxious strangers stares blankly at an instructor. No one speaks, not even to say hello. It is the first day of Airman Leadership School.

This is what Master Sgt. Edie Getz, Tech. Sgt. Vanessa Smallsbryant, Tech. Sgt. Andrea Leies, Staff Sgt. Greg Fennessy, Staff Sgt. Becky Arguello and Staff Sgt. Kellie Gilmore face with each new cycle of airmen who enter the hallowed halls of Professional Military Education for the first time.

"ALS is a five-week course, and it's designed to help senior airmen be not just supervisors, but leaders," said Getz, flight chief of Charleston AFB's ALS. "During those five weeks we have 186 hours where the students literally prepare themselves for leadership responsibilities."

ALS curriculum focuses mainly on leadership, communication and profession of arms.

"They (students) learn how to counsel people," Getz said. "They learn how to not just reprimand people, but also how to reward people for doing a good job. They learn how to write EPRs (Enlisted Performance Reports), just about everything imaginable that they would need to know to be good supervisors and leaders."

Fennessy, an ALS instructor, said he feels a key area of the

course is communication skills.

"You have to effectively communicate before you can lead," Fennessy said. "The definition of leadership is the art of directing and influencing people to accomplish the mission. But to do that involves more than just that definition. It involves your possession of the traits of a leader. It involves you taking those traits and not only possessing them, but behaving based on them."

Getz said she believes the format in which ALS is taught is a factor in how students learn.

"The classroom is more discussion based," Getz said. "It not like a fifth-grade classroom where everyone sits in rows, with the teacher lecturing. I don't think that format really works with adults."

Airmen attending ALS take their lessons in either the theater-style auditorium or in classrooms designed to accommodate groups of 12 students each. The classrooms are set up with students sitting at tables arranged in a semi-circle around the instructor's desk. Getz said this allows students an opportunity to learn from each other as well as the instructor.

"Students get to share experiences," Getz said. "They might have already known something, but didn't know what to call it. Plus, they get to know each other, they get to know people from all of the different areas on the base, and when they go back to work, they can call each other for help."

"While the theory of the concepts taught at ALS is nice, the practicality of their application is what really helps the students to learn," Getz continued.

The curriculum is arranged to allow plenty of time for hands-on experiences.

"Most lessons have some sort of application-level exercise that goes along with them, so not only do they get the theory behind them, but they get to put their hands on it, on what it's like to effectively communicate, what it's like to take part in a team," Fennessy said. "They actually get exercises that show these concepts at work."

Smallsbryant said she believes one of the greatest things students take away from ALS is an awareness of the responsibilities they will face as leaders.

"It helps them to realize that probably the greatest

responsibility they're going to take on as a supervisor and a noncommissioned officer is to be able to manage themselves, manage their time and, most importantly, manage other people so they can lead," Smallsbryant said.

Getz said facing something new with every class is what makes the job interesting for her, and each new class poses new challenges and new rewards.

"The greatest moment is when you're standing on that stage and you see the pride in the students faces at what they've accomplished," Getz said. "I remember one airman who was terrified to speak in front of people. She didn't do very well on her first speech, but by the time she gave the final one, she scored a 96. The look on her face said she was confident she could overcome things she'd never dreamed before."

"And then there are the students who aren't academically gifted," Getz continued. "They come in here thinking, 'It's been five years since I was in school,' and they struggle for every point. Sometimes it's those people, who graduate with a 75, who have the biggest smile when they get their diploma, because they didn't think they could do it."

The biggest challenge Getz said she faces is time management.

"Some people might think we just get up here and teach lessons all day, and that's it," Getz said. "But that's not true. About six-seven hours of preparation go into each lesson. And that doesn't include the administrative stuff that goes on or personal requirements that have to be met. Sometimes instructors are here until 6-7 p.m. helping a student who is having a hard time."

Fennessy said one of the biggest challenges he faces is the attitude and perception students sometimes bring to the course.

"We have to spend a lot of time getting over students perceptions of the 'real' Air Force," Fennessy said. "If it were already working right, there wouldn't be a need for this course. Getting past perceptions of standard operating procedures to what should be done is a challenge."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Fennessy

A Charleston AFB Airman Leadership School student flag detail practices reveille and retreat, striving for perfection. ALS students perform military ceremonies as part of the profession of arms curriculum.

Air Mobility Command stood up its first ALS in 1991, according to the ALS fact sheet. In late 1994, CAFB began running two seminars per session, with 24 students per class, 12 per seminar. In May 1998, the school started running three seminars of 12 students each, for a total of 36 per class. Each year, the staff teaches six-eight classes.

ALS is a 24-academic-day program, and upon completion, students are awarded eight college credits toward their Community College of the Air Force degree. The course is mandatory for promotion to staff sergeant. To be eligible for the class, senior airmen must have at least four years time in service and be selected by their commander.

During the five-week course, each student presents three speeches, writes three papers and takes four objective tests, according to the ALS curriculum overview. Students are graded on the final speech and paper and on two final objective tests. To graduate, students must maintain a 70 percent average.

The course culminates with a formal dinner and ceremony at the Charleston Club. According to the curriculum overview, students run the entire graduation ceremony, from seating guests, to emceeding, to presenting a patriotic ceremony. At each graduation four awards are given out: the John L. Levitow Honor Graduate Award, the Distinguished Graduate award, the Leadership Award and the Academic Achievement Award.

For the staff and students of ALS, it isn't about the awards. According to the ALS vision statement, it's about ALS staff and students working side by side to create the world's strongest leadership force, one airman at a time.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Fennessy

Tech. Sgt. Vanessa Smallsbryant, Airman Leadership School instructor, scrutinizes the uniform of one of her students.

Military retirees over age 65 to benefit from TRICARE for Life

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Military retirees over the age of 65 can expect to save about \$2,000-4,000 a year in health care premiums according to retired Maj. Gen. Richard D. Murray, president of the National Association for Uniformed Services and guest speaker for the base's annual retiree appreciation luncheon held June 26 in the Charleston Club.

About 200 retirees toured several information booths that allowed them to update their ID cards or get their blood pressure checked before joining Murray and base leaders for a luncheon in their honor. Most of the retirees were over the age of 65 and many were looking for answers about health care.

The medical benefit provided by the new legislation is called TRICARE For Life. Eligible beneficiaries who continue to receive medical care from their current Medicare providers will have TRICARE as their second payer, beginning Oct. 1, for medical care that is payable under both Medicare and TRICARE. After Medicare makes its payment on a beneficiary's medical claim, Medicare will submit the remaining charges to TRICARE.

For medical care that is a covered benefit under Medicare but not TRICARE, the beneficiary will be responsible for any Medicare cost share

or deductible. For medical care that is a benefit under TRICARE but not Medicare, the beneficiary will be responsible for any TRICARE cost share or deductible. Medicare-eligible beneficiaries may obtain care from a military treatment facility, or they can use TRICARE-authorized civilian providers.

DOD will come out with instructions shortly on how the new entitlement will work.

"After being in this job for the past three years, I've realized the importance of associations in Washington," Murray said. "This past year, the grass roots efforts of retirees in all states complained to their congressional representative that resulted in them asking us why retirees were so upset about their healthcare. This enabled us to explain to staffers that we were on the bottom of the totem pole and we were the only federal employees that did not have our medical care in the mandatory portions of the budget."

Fifty percent of the DOD budget contains discretionary items. The medical program in DOD had an impossible task of being adequately funded since it was in competition with the purchase of tanks, planes and ships, Murray explained to the retirees.

"TRICARE for Life funding solves that problem," said Murray. "Our

medical care will be in the mandatory portions of the budget like everyone else."

"The 2001 National Defense Authorization Act that provides TRICARE medical and pharmacy benefits to age 65 and older uniformed services beneficiaries helped quiet many concerns about our health care program. It has gone a long way to restore confidence and faith in the Military Health System," said H. James T. Sears, executive director, TRICARE Management Activity, in a recent news article.

"Your medical care will be funded the same way our military pay is funded each year," Murray said. "It won't be a year-to-year budget. The retiree has gone from last place in medical care for federal employees to first place."

The bill had overwhelming support in congress and provides \$6.8 billion annually for the next 10 years.

He attributed some of the success in getting TRICARE for Life funded to a lawsuit in Florida by retired Col. Bud Day, a Medal of Honor recipient and former Prisoner of War. "He came up with the lawsuit after he walked into the hospital at Eglin AFB and they said they could no longer take care of him since he was over the age of 65," Murray said. "He said show it to me in writing."

Day has since written a letter to

Congress thanking them for funding TRICARE for Life.

"We're working with DoD to make sure it's implemented properly," Murray said. "It will save me about \$4,000 a year."

Murray says retirees and associations have more work to do and offered the following advice provided by an Army general who once said, "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if you don't care who gets the credit."

Another great success was the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, which improved the availability of prescriptions. The program went into effect April 1. New legislation passed last October provides TRICARE pharmacy and medical benefits to retirees and their eligible family members who are age 65 and over and eligible for Medicare Part A.

To participate in TRICARE For Life and the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, Medicare-eligible beneficiaries age 65 and over do not have to "sign up" or enroll. However, they do need to be enrolled in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Retirees are automatically enrolled through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Family members holding valid ID cards are also enrolled in DEERS.

For additional information, call the TRICARE service center at 740-5660.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

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

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

Catholic Services

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

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

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

Protestant Services

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

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

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

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

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2102.

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.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

"What's the Worst that Could Happen?" – Martin Lawrence

A billionaire catches a thief robbing his mansion. To get even with him, he takes the thief's lucky charm ring, telling the cops it's his own ring. Deprived of his good luck charm, and faced with a future of bad luck, the thief begins wreaking revenge on the tycoon. So, the story becomes a battle of wills as the thief tries to get his most treasured possession, his luck, back from a man who has everything. **(PG-13) 98 minutes**

Saturday, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

"Shrek" – Cameron Diaz

A hideous green monster, Shrek, sets out on a quest to find his perfect wife, an equally ugly princess, and terrifies everyone he meets during his adventures. Based on the picture book by William Steig. **(PG) 89 minutes**

July 13, 7:30 p.m.

"Moulin Rouge" – Nicole Kidman

Satine, the Sparkling Diamond, star of the Moulin Rouge and the city's most famous courtesan is caught between the love of a young writer, Christian, and another man's obsession. **(PG-13) 128 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Sports line

Golf: The 437th Operations Group is holding the 7th Annual Charitable Fundraiser Golf Tournament July 13, 8:30 a.m., at Wrenwoods Golf Course. There is a \$20 entry fee that includes lunch and range balls. Cart and green fees also apply. Sign up at the golf course, or call Aaron Ludwick at 963-3999.

Aquatic aerobics: Aquatic aerobics is a new, widely accepted method of physical exercise that allows participants to exercise more independently due to the buoyancy in the water and reduced gravitational force. Aqua aerobics is successful in the treatment of chronic pain management, back rehabilitation, sports medicine, post-op knee joint and shoulder therapy and sedentary lifestyles. The Health and Wellness Center offers aquatic aerobics Wednesdays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-noon, at the base pool. For more information, call 963-4007.

Charleston AFB NCOs to bike across Iowa

Story and photo by Senior Airman Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Two Charleston AFB NCOs will embark on the ride of their lives July 22 as part of the Air Force team in the Iowa Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

Master Sgt. Kerry Wright, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Frank Pain, 437th Supply

Squadron, will be participating as part of Team Shaw in the event.

Wright and Pain will cycle a total of 505 miles during the weeklong event as part of Team Aim High Air Force, made up of base teams from all over the U.S. There will be 156 Air Force riders among the approximately 15,000 cyclists participating in the event. The riders will travel 50-95 miles a day and stop in

small communities along the route to camp before moving on. The ride starts in Sioux City, Iowa, July 22 and ends July 28 in Muscatine, Iowa.

Wright has been biking seriously for about three years. This will be his first time participating in a multi-day event, but he has participated in 100-mile, or century, rides in the past.

"I expect it's going to be a lot of fun," Wright said. "I know by the third day or so I'll be really tired, but it should be a good time."

Pain started biking in 1987. This will be his first time participating in the RAGBRAI.

"I heard about it years ago and always wanted to do it, but I was always somewhere else and couldn't participate," Pain said. "This year I got the application and money in about three days before the cutoff and made it."

Pain said he wishes

there were more interest in cycling on base. He currently serves as secretary for Coastal Cyclists, a cycling club with about 100 members, in Charleston.

While cycling may seem an expensive investment on the surface, in reality it isn't too costly, Pain said.

"People hear I bought a \$1,700 bike, and they look at me like I'm crazy," Pain said. "But to take up golf, there's the initial investment in clubs, which can be really expensive, and then you have to pay every time you want to play. The roads are pretty much free."

To prepare for the event, Wright and Pain have been cycling two or three times a week, for a total of about 100 miles, according to Pain.

Both Pain and Wright know they have a long ride ahead of them.

For more information about cycling, call Pain at 963-4861 or go to www.coastalcyclists.org.



Tech. Sgt. Frank Pain rides about 100 miles per week to prepare for the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride.