

DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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Enlisted promotions won't be delayed

The Air Force is taking steps to ensure promotions to the ranks of staff sergeant, master sergeant and chief master sergeant are not delayed because people are not able to attend the required enlisted professional military education courses due to current operations, personnel officials said.

"The Air Force has temporarily delegated approval authority for promotion (to the aforementioned ranks) without EMPE completion to the director of personnel at the major commands," said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon. "We are also waiving

the maximum grade restrictions for those with waivers to attend PME in the higher grade."

Basically, this policy change allows commanders, on a case-by-case basis, to request a temporary deferment of PME prior to pinning on rank because of support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, Middleton said.

There are currently four Charleston AFB senior airmen awaiting promotion to staff sergeant who may be affected by the waiver, according to Staff Sgt. Troy

See PROMOTIONS, page 2



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James Lotz, 1 CTCS

On thin ice

Charleston AFB members (left) take on Coast Guard personnel at tug-o-war during Military Appreciation Night at the North Charleston Coliseum. See page 15 for more photos.

AF makes 1 millionth food drop to Afghanistan Oct. 31

By Master Sgt. Joe Bela
USAFE Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force aircrews delivering humanitarian daily rations to Afghanistan Oct. 31 surpassed the 1-million mark when a loadmaster on board one of two C-17 Globemaster III cargo planes symbolically tossed a lone packaged meal from the rear of his transport plane.

The mission was the 61st successful flight for the C-17s and aircrews, which continue to airdrop the meals, commonly referred to as HDRs, to displaced refugees throughout the country.

The C-17s and aircrews, temporarily sent to Ramstein AB, Germany, from Charleston AFB, have been delivering 34,000-70,000 meals almost every night since the humanitarian

aspect of Operation Enduring Freedom began Oct. 8.

"Last night was a major milestone, 1 million HDRs delivered, and we will continue to drop HDRs," said Col. Bob Allardice, the C-17 humanitarian airdrop mission commander. "This is symbolic of our continued effort and commitment to the people of Afghanistan."

"The U.S. is committed to provid-

ing relief to people who are starving," he said. "From our crews' perspective, that's a good thing and we will continue to focus on our mission."

The two C-17s delivered about 35,000 rations, including the 1 millionth, over northeastern Afghanistan using the now-proven tri-wall air delivery system.

"We knew we were going to have the 1 millionth (HDR) on board, and we were proud to be the crew to do it," said C-17 pilot "Shane," whose last name is being withheld for security reasons.

"I think every one of these flights is special, but 1 million, that's really special," Shane said. "I've been flying for 18 years and I jumped at the opportunity. Every one of us knew we had to get airborne and en route. It was going to happen. There was no way we weren't going to drop the 1 millionth."

"Pete," the loadmaster who tossed the symbolic HDR out the rear, called the historic opportunity an honor.

"I sent it out special," Pete said. "At that moment, I remember thinking, 'there's another loadmaster and I don't want to hit him with it.'"

So Pete used an overhand toss to send it on its way into the darkness, and hopefully into the waiting hands of another hungry refugee.



Photo by Senior Airman Matthew Hannen

C-17s refuel and drop off supplies at a deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sixty C-17s flew in and out of the pictured airfield during a 12-hour timeframe. CAFB C-17s recently airdropped the one-millionth humanitarian daily ration to the Afghan people. As of Wednesday, 1,170,000 HDRs had been delivered.

IN THE NEWS

HSC keeps C-17s flying: Home station checks aren't done at deployed locations; remaining maintainers pick up pace

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

While Charleston AFB's deployed maintainers are in the limelight, those still here are working overtime.

Members of the 437th Maintenance Squadron's Home Station Check Element are working 12-hour shifts to keep up with scheduled inspections and maintenance, according to Louis Hill, HSC supervisor.

The element is challenged with performing the HSC, due on each aircraft every 120

days.

"You can relate HSC to having your car fully serviced and inspected for safety," Hill said. "We do lubrication, and check and service the engines."

The element had to juggle its scheduling to accommodate increased workload and decreased manning.

"Initially, we were working five twelves (12-hour shifts) with two days off," Hill said. "When the activated reservists came online, we changed that to a three-on, two-off schedule."

Since the scheduling changed, Capt. Paul Brown,

maintenance flight commander, said the maintainers are turning out HSCs faster than ever.

"The HSC is scheduled for three days, which means the aircraft is out of commission for that time," Brown said. "Last month, we averaged 2.1 days per aircraft."

The cut in HSC time frees up aircraft, allowing them to perform the many missions associated with Operation Enduring Freedom.

Helping the 437 MXS maintainers reduce HSC time are 14 activated reservists, who left their civilian lives behind to support current operations.

"It's been an interesting time," said Tech. Sgt. Darrell Daily, 315 MXS. "It's much different from my civilian job."

As a civilian, Daily drives trucks for Walmart Stores Inc. The married father of six said he likes the schedule, and his wife and children are handling the change well.

Having been a reservist since 1986, Daily was also activated during Operation

Desert Storm. He said he is thankful for the leadership the military has up and down the board.

"I think we've probably got as good a leadership now as we could have in this circumstance," Daily said.

In addition to the activated reservists, several maintainers from McChord AFB, Wash., spent time here while several of their base's C-17s went through HSC.

"They were here picking up HSCs from McChord aircraft positioned here," Brown said. "While they were here they helped out with teamwork. They inserted completely, not just working on their own C-17s but on ours as well."

Teamwork is nothing new to CAFB's maintainers.

"We've always been a team," said Staff Sgt. Luis Robles, crew chief and HSC supervisor. "It's always been 'Let's get up and get it done. Do it right and as fast as possible.' We're always ready when called upon to do our

job."

Despite the higher operations tempo and increased working hours, morale in the element remains high.

"I've been fine," said Senior Airman Fred Duran. "Working three-on, two-off is not as stressful as working five twelves. Morale's gone up a lot with the different schedule."

More experienced members of the HSC team aren't surprised by the high morale.

"When something like this happens, everyone pitches in," said James Cook, engines work leader. "We know we have a job to do, and we get it done. This is what we're trained to do."

Cook said he thinks knowing how they fit into the scheme of things helps everyone focus.

"If these maintainers don't maintain, the planes aren't going anywhere," said Cook. "When aircraft take off, we know we're helping people, as far as the humanitarian missions go, and also that we're helping fight terrorism."



Staff Sgt. Luis Robles, 437 MXS, inspects the C-17's tires before towing the aircraft to the flightline for an engine run.

PROMOTIONS

continued from page 1

Jarrell, NCOIC of promotions and reenlistments. Jarrell said he's seen no problems with master and chief master sergeant selectees not being able to fulfill the PME requirement.

"It's not the troops' fault they haven't been able to get into the PME classes, so they shouldn't be punished for it," Jarrell said. "If all other quality issues are good, then, yes, I think they should be promoted."

Master Sgt. Edie Getz, CAFB's Airman Leadership School flight chief, already challenged with the recent high percentage of promotions, said squadrons are generally proactive about ensuring those needing PME are available for classes. But with current operations being what they are, she said she expects the number of personnel affected to increase as time goes on.

"Every school is already producing at max capacity to train the staff-sergeant selects before their line numbers come up," Getz said. "When we came up with our schedules to facilitate training these folks, we knew that the only way we could get them trained in time was to ensure each student would be able to come to a particular class. Even with that plan, we must still produce above our capacity for 2 of our 8 scheduled classes.

"Obviously, with the change in the

world situation, our plan to get these folks trained before their line numbers come up will probably not work due to deployments of airmen who are scheduled for particular classes," Getz added.

Getz agreed with Jarrell that the waivers are appropriate.

"Even if these folks are in promotion withhold with the knowledge that they would be back-paid, I believe that it would be a morale issue to have these people deployed to far away locations, without the stripe they earned, waiting until who-knows-when to be back-paid," Getz said. "The plan to promote them with the assurance that they would receive training at a later date would ensure a stable workforce, improved morale and still keep with the intent of PME.

The MAJCOM personnel offices will be responsible for monitoring EPME completion within 12 months of sew-on or return from deployment, whichever is sooner, she said.

"Professional military education is critical to the success of our enlisted corps," said Senior Master Sgt. Carol Dockery, chief of enlisted promotion and evaluation policy at the Pentagon. "This modification does not diminish the importance of PME. In fact, staff sergeants will not be put into a supervisory position until they have completed airman leadership school."

(AFPN. Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)

TRICARE for Life implements improvements for beneficiaries

The Department of Defense recently implemented sweeping improvements to the TRICARE program.

A new TRICARE entitlement, TRICARE for Life, began for uniformed services retirees, eligible family members and survivors who are Medicare-eligible and who have purchased Medicare Part B before Oct. 1.

TRICARE for Life is a permanent healthcare benefit that generally acts as a secondary payer to Medicare. There are no enrollment fees or monthly premiums for TRICARE for Life, although the monthly fee for Medicare Part B remains in effect.

TRICARE for Life medical benefits provide the following coverage:

- If the medical care received is a benefit of both Medicare and TRICARE, Medicare will pay the Medicare allowable amount for the care received, less any applicable cost share or deductible; TRICARE will pay Medicare cost shares and deductibles for the service rendered; Medicare and TRICARE cover most, but not all, of the same medical services

- If the medical care received is a benefit of Medicare, but not TRICARE, Medicare will pay its usual amount, and the beneficiary will be responsible for the Medicare cost shares

and deductibles; an example of this type of coverage is chiropractic care

- If the medical care received is a benefit of TRICARE, but not a benefit of Medicare, Medicare pays nothing; TRICARE will pay the TRICARE allowed amount for the service received; in this case, the beneficiary must pay the applicable TRICARE cost shares and deductibles; an example of this type of coverage is the prescription drug benefit.

TRICARE for Life generally pays as a secondary payer when a service is a benefit of both Medicare and TRICARE. The plan pays as a third payer when a service is covered by a Medicare supplemental policy or other health insurance and as a primary payer when a service is a TRICARE covered benefit, but not a Medicare covered benefit.

Several other enhancements were recently made to the TRICARE program, including the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, and the Prime Active Duty Family Member Copayment Waiver.

TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members is a program in the works, anticipated to come online April 1, 2002.

(This article was submitted by the 437th Medical Group.)

Commissary focus group improves quality of life

Store officials on hand to address patrons' perceptions, wants, needs

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB's Commissary is constantly trying to improve customer satisfaction and the quality of life for its patrons.

One way the Commissary stays in touch with customer concerns is through focus group meetings.

Originating in May 2000, the meetings are held quarterly. According to Leona Lookabill, CAFB Commissary manager, it is important for Defense Commissary Agency leadership to stay in touch with store patrons and ensure the Commissary becomes an active part of the base community.

"It is important that we seek all opportunities to listen to our customers and be able to reach non-shoppers who are eligible for the Commissary benefits," said Lookabill. "The staff at the CAFB Commissary has a positive feeling about the meetings. Our level

of involvement is vital to our efforts to successfully deliver the Commissary benefits to our patrons."

The purpose of the focus group meetings is to address patrons' perceptions, wants and needs, according to James Rice, CAFB Commissary grocery manager. The meetings also help management identify weaknesses and receive feedback for new programs and services.

While the meetings are open to all active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired members and their families, Rice said the meetings have as few as three and as many as 10 attendees. Even with only a small percentage of CAFB's population attending the meetings, positive changes have been made that affect everyone who uses the Commissary.

"The first implemented request was to offer a second express line during the 11 a.m.-1 p.m. time frame for military members in uniform and

cash only express during peak business," said Rice. "This change occurred one day after it was brought up at one of our meetings.

"The second idea we used was providing a Grab-N-Go case near the entrance to expedite those in a hurry," continued Rice. "This was accomplished in two weeks due to having to wait for delivery of a second cooler. There are lots more also."

The meetings are very informal, according to Rice. After introductions, the Commissary store director informs every one of upcoming changes and events, and then turns it over to the attendees to ask questions and voice concerns.

Lookabill said the forum is basically as broad as the attendees want to make it. The store director, manager and all department managers are present. Some of the topics discussed include physical condition of the store, employee courtesy, and

meat and produce quality. Most of the feedback is positive, but when a negative point is brought up, it is looked into and taken care of immediately.

The Commissary advertises the date and location of the focus group meetings in the entrance of the store. Information can be found at www.commissaries.com. The Commissary can also add those interested to a focus group update e-mail list. To get on the list, call 963-5709.

The next focus group meeting is scheduled for February. Store officials will release more information about the meeting when it's available.

"We like the fact that we're able to interact with our patrons in a comfortable setting and discuss items of concern," said Lookabill. "So many times, people may voice a problem, but to the wrong people. This is their time to bring it to the ones who can fix it. We would, however, like to see more participation from the base."

Maintenance crews share in relief efforts

By Master Sgt. Joe Bela
USAFE News Service

Media coverage of America's humanitarian missions over Afghanistan has drawn much attention to the C-17 planes and aircrews delivering food to refugees as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

But behind the scenes, unnoticed by most, are the people who keep the cargo planes flying. These maintainers specialize in technical jobs ranging from electronics to hydraulics and refrigeration, performing their work day and night in all types of weather.

The team of 30-plus members, with job skills in maintenance, aircraft generation equipment and supply, typically prepare five C-17 aircraft a day for their airdrop missions into Afghanistan.

"We've got every AFSC (Air Force Specialty Code) as far as aircraft specialties go. We do it all, the maintenance, the scheduling of jets and the coordination," said Master Sgt. John Kiegel, production superintendent for the crew from Charleston AFB, deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany, to support the humanitarian aspect of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Kiegel said supporting this kind of mission typically requires more than 50 mainte-

nance people to "turn around" the aircraft, making them ready for the next mission.

But with a little more than 30 people supporting the operation, the team stays quite busy.

"Our turn-around time is anywhere between four-six hours. But, when the planes are diverted because of the heavy fog here at Ramstein,

that gives us maybe two or three hours to get them ready for the next mission," said Staff Sgt. Donald Mykamp, a C-17 crew chief whose job requires basic knowledge of every system on board the transport planes in order to fix discrepancies on the spot.

"Sometimes, we're doing the maintenance and the planes are being loaded for the next mission. It makes it kind of hard. The loadmaster is rushing, and we're rushing, but somehow we still make it happen," Mykamp said.

Each maintenance specialty is faced with unique challenges.

"Once the aircraft actually lands, we'll chalk (secure) the aircraft. We'll go up into the cockpit, check if there are any write-ups (discrepancies) and come out," said Senior Airman Pedro Vazquez, a communication navigation systems technician who troubleshoots radios and navigation systems on board the C-17.

Getting the planes out on time requires adaptability on everyone's part, and that's

something this Charleston crew has grown accustomed to. The team has had to cope with long working hours, sometimes performing tasks typically not associated with their jobs back at Charleston.

"Some of us are used to the deployments and long working hours. For others, it's their first deployment, and it will take time," said Mykamp.

"We also have people here that aren't used to working out of their AFSC, but they're jumping in; they're learning," Mykamp continued. "They're saying, 'Hey, how do you do this? Show me how to do this,' and it's working out pretty good."

Despite the hard work and long hours, Vazquez said he's glad to be supporting the humanitarian operation because he knows the Air Force is trying to help people.

"I don't really know if they (the Afghan refugees) appreciate what we're doing," he said, "but I know I'm doing my best to help them. Anyway, that's my thought."

The maintainers realize they play a very important part in the success of any mission, even though they're not as visible to the media and public as the aircrews.

"We're doing something great here," said Mykamp. "Even though we're not going up with the jets, we see these aircrews fly out and come

stay on the ground. We're still part of the mission. We help but get a little bit out yourself doing."



Staff Sgt. Matthew Allen (left), and Airman 1st Class Luis Noriega, both of the 437th Airlift Generation Squadron, work on installing a starter motor for a C-17. Though the C-17's aircrews have been getting a lot of attention for their part in the humanitarian aspect of Operation Enduring Freedom, the aircraft could never leave the ground without the work of the maintainers.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Be...

NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Profile

Senior Airman Michael Bassford
 437th Airlift Wing


Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Senior Airman Michael Bassford is a claims paralegal for the 437th Airlift Wing Claims Office.

Bassford's day-to-day duties include processing claims for damaged and lost household goods, damage to government quarters as a result of theft, vandalism or unusual occurrence, and claims for damage to privately-owned vehicles.

"We follow a claim from when it gets here until the military settles it one way or the other," said Bassford. "The amount we can approve depends of what type of claim it is. There are different limits for different types of claims."

While Bassford said his job keeps him busy, the recent civil engineer cross-trainee finds time to volunteer for other duties related to the increased Force Protection Condition. He has spent a lot of time performing escort duties and checking IDs at the door.

"I got here in mid-August," said Bassford. "Since I'm new to the career field, and I'm new here, I thought I could help out most by taking care of some of the extra duties we had."

Bassford also stays busy working on his Career Development Course. Once he finishes, he said he feels the initiative to start taking college courses.

"I want to make sure all my options are wide open," Bassford said. "If I decide I want to turn my enlistment into a career, I have that option. If I want to finish college and put my degree to work doing other things, I have that option too."

When he's not working, Bassford spends his time watching football. He is a huge New Orleans Saints and Louisiana State University Tigers fan. Bassford is lucky enough to have a brother, Marc, who lives in Mount Pleasant, who he can watch the games with.

"Every Sunday you can find us watching football," Bassford said. "I didn't pick CAFB for that reason, but it just worked out that way. It was good luck."

Around the base

Case-lot sale: The Charleston AFB Commissary is holding a Veterans Appreciation Case Lot Sale today, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The sale will be outdoors. Paper products, detergent, cereal, canned goods and snacks are a few of the items featured. For more information call 963-5694.

Closure: The Commissary will be closed Sunday in observance of Veterans Day. It will be open Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Free skate: The Carolina Ice Palace is offering free ice-skating and skate rentals to all active-duty and retired service members Sunday, 1:30-3:30 and 4-6 p.m. ID cards must be presented to participate.

OSA: The Officers' Spouses' Association is holding a meeting Tuesday, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Dennis Stiles of the Original Charleston Walks will talk about information on Historical Charleston. The cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. For reservations for last names beginning with A-M, call 875-2505. Last names beginning with N-Z, call 207-7379.

Chiefs' group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group is holding a monthly meeting Thursday, 11 a.m., at the

Charleston Club. Representatives from Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union will address the group, and lunch will be provided. All chiefs and chief selectees are invited.

Nature trail: The 437th Environmental Flight will host an open house Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., to showcase the newly-upgraded base Nature Awareness Trail. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided. The trail is located behind the water tower on the corner of Davis Drive and McCaw Streets.

Family week: Military Family Week is Nov. 18-25. The Family Support Center has information about many base programs being offered during the week, to include discounts and contests. For more information, call 963-4406.

Clothing drive: The Air Force Sergeants Association is sponsoring a baby clothing drive through Nov. 16. Donated clothing will go to the Lowcountry Crisis Pregnancy Center. Donations can be dropped at the 437th Medical Group Flight Medicine lobby. For more information, call 963-6652 or 963-6923.

Seven habits: Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families seminar is being held at the Family Support Center Nov. 27 and 28, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The two-day course will cover

subjects such as solving family problems and renewing family spirit. Space is limited to the first 40 people who sign up. To make a reservation, call 963-4406.

Golf tournament: The Combined Federal Campaign Golf Tournament is scheduled for Dec. 4, 11 a.m., at Wrenwoods. The captain's choice tournament costs \$20, plus green fees and cart. Food and beverages will be provided. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin, longest drive and more. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Anthony Maffini at 963-2791. Those interested may also sign up at the Pro Shop.

Scholarship: Applications and fact sheets are now available at the Commissary for the 2002 Scholarship for Military Children Program. The deadline for filing for the \$1,500 scholarships is Feb. 5. Information is also available at www.commissaries.com.

CCC: City Colleges of Chicago offers video courses for students waiting for Term III. The term begins Jan. 6. Schedules for Term III will be available by the middle of December. All students who have completed two or more classes with CCC can call 552-5959 to request a formal evaluation from the Chicago office.

Limestone College: Limestone Col-

lege will have a representative on base every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Community Education Center. Limestone offers a non-traditional approach to education. For more information, call 745-1100 or 963-7298.

ESC: The Enlisted Support Club, formerly the Enlisted Wives Club, meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center. Anyone associated with the Charleston AFB enlisted community is invited to join the group. Their activities include social events, fund raisers and helping with the Consignment Shop. For more information, call Marcia Lytton at 760-6892 or 207-0123. She can also be reached via e-mail at marcia359@hotmail.com.

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

Vehicle storage: Any individual going on a contingency TDY for more than 30 days is entitled to have a POV stored at government expense. This includes current AEFs and other deployed locations. Individuals must take a copy of their orders to TMO, which will process the paperwork. The member will have to do some paperwork and deliver the vehicle. Members have up to 90 days after the TDY to get the vehicle out of storage.

Retiree activities: The Charleston AFB Retirees Activities Program is seeking volunteers to help in a number of positions working with military personnel in such areas as security, pharmacy staffing and administrative offices. For more information, call 963-2228.

Family Support Center

Pre-deployment Briefing: Thursday and Nov. 29, 4-4:30 p.m., and Nov. 19 and 26, 8-8:30 a.m.

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

Investing A-Z Part II: Tuesday, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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

Sponsorship Training: Wednesday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Mini Job Fair: Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Troops-to-Teachers: Nov. 26, 10-11 a.m.

Resume II: Nov. 27, 9-10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Women and Self-Esteem: Nov. 28, 1-3 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.

COMMENTARY

Gen. Handy assumes command, AMC stays busy

By Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

I attended a very nice change-of-command ceremony at Scott AFB, Ill., Monday. Gen. John Handy assumed command of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command from Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson. The farewell events in honor of Gen. Robertson were a good tribute to his many accomplishments over the past 33.5 years of service to the country.

It was also a good opportunity for me to hear Gen. Handy's initial philosophy upon assuming command. He held a conference for all his commanders to get better acquainted with one another. General and Mrs. Handy are looking forward to taking the helm and keeping us moving in the right direction. It is a good time to be in Air Mobility Command.

While at the conference, it was very heartening to have a bunch of folks come up to me and say "thanks" to Team Charleston for all that we are doing for our nation. Everyone in the command is doing a great job, but it was especially meaningful to me to have so many people praising our accomplishments since Sept. 11. Team Charleston is setting a great pace, and we have an excellent reputation with Air Force leadership. My compliments to everyone. We get a lot of high-visibility missions, and our folks always make it happen. Keep up the good work.

I was pleased once again to recognize this month's Diamond Sharp recipients Tuesday in the Charleston Club. Recognized for going above the call of duty were Senior Airman **Anthony Morgan**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; Staff Sgt. **Shonna Billings**, 437th Mission Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class **John Stephenson**, 437th Maintenance Squadron; and Airman 1st Class **Lara Martin**, 437th Transportation Squadron. Congratulations on your achievement.

I am proud to announce that the following senior master sergeants were selected to chief master sergeant: **Robert Swann**, Charleston Consolidated Brig; **Michael Michaud**, 437 APS; **Robert Baldwin**, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; **Michael Freebury**, 437th Operations Group; **Gary Jones**, 437 MXS and **Stanley Cheek**, 437 OG.

Promotion to the top enlisted rank is a major achievement and one to be proud of. The statistics for selection were quite good on this last cycle with an Air Force selection rate of 22.06 percent, the highest it has been since 1986. It is a good testament to the improving promotion rates for those who stay in and make the Air Force a career.

We will have about 30 congressional visitors from the U.S. House of Representatives and the British Parliament pass through the local area this weekend. They are here for a Congressional Delegation British-American Parliamentary Group Meeting that will be held today through Sunday. I will have an opportunity to meet with many of the members during two social events on Saturday. It is a great opportunity for me to highlight the successes of our people and talk about the value of airlift.

A special congratulations to all our graduates of Airman



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Loren Bonser

Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson Jr. is all smiles after Chief Master Sgt. Ken Van Holbeck (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Lew Monroe present him with an Order of the Sword proclamation during an induction Nov. 3 ceremony held at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Van Holbeck is the command chief master sergeant for AMC and Monroe serves in the same position for the 6th Air Mobility Wing at MacDill AFB, Fla.

Leadership School, who graduated Thursday evening. We will run the names of the graduates and award winners in next week's column. Congratulations on your achievement.

I also participated in another community event Thursday and had an opportunity to speak to many business leaders about Team Charleston accomplishments. The community truly appreciates the many sacrifices our deployed and home station personnel have made since the terrible events of Sept. 11. Many community members have expressed their thanks, and I see growing support for everything that we are doing. Public support of the military has never been higher.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak to a local American Legion group about America's veterans on Veterans Day and will participate in the downtown Charleston veteran's parade that same afternoon. We have a number of units marching in the parade and will have a couple of displays. The parade begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at the corner of King and Calhoun Streets. The parade will go down King Street and will turn right on Broad Street where it will end at the Jasper apartments near Rutledge Avenue and Broad Street. The annual parade is sponsored by the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. We will also have a C-17 flyover at the start of the parade. Hope to see you out there for the parade. More than ever, Veteran's Day carries special meaning and significance.

We will accept our third and final Block 12 version of the C-17, P-77, from the Boeing plant in Long Beach, Calif. Maj. Gen. Duncan McNabb, Air Force Director of Programs will fly the aircraft in Wednesday. Gen. McNabb was assigned to Charleston from June 1988-August 1992 as chief pilot and later operations officer of the 17th Military Airlift Squadron, commander of the 41st Military Airlift Squadron and as deputy commander, 437 OG. Gen. McNabb has an extensive mobility background and jumped at the chance to fly a brand new C-17 back to Charleston. He is a big fan of the C-17 and Charleston AFB.

Gen. McNabb knows all about the premiere airlift wings on the face of planet. I always enjoy talking to our leadership about the great accomplishments of our people who fly, support and maintain our C-17s.

More to follow, but I am planning to hold a special patriotic salute to the men and women of Team Charleston for their support of Operation Enduring Freedom Nov. 20, 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., in the base theater. Everyone is invited to attend, and I expect a large turnout.

Keep up the good work and stay focused on our safe mission accomplishment!

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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Action Line

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

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

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





Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Stingrays: Next home game Nov. 20, 7 p.m., vs. Macon.

Summerville Speedway: The National Fall Classic 400 brings three days of racing today-Sunday, 7:30 p.m., featuring NASCAR Late Models, Grand Stocks, Pro 4 Modifieds, 4 Cylinder Stocks, Street Stocks/Chargers, Pure Stocks/Cruisers and Demolition Derby. Drivers from across the country will compete for the prestigious title of National Fall Classic 400 Champion in six divisions. For more information, call 873-3438.

Lowgators: The North Charleston Lowgators are offering free admission to military members for their inaugural game, tonight, 7:30 p.m., vs. the Columbus Riverdragons. Active duty, Reserve, DOD civilians, retirees and their family members are also eligible for buy-one, get-one-free tickets to the Nov. 17 game. Proper ID is required to receive these offers. For more information, call 764-4013 or 416-1162.

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

Entertainment:

Theatre: The Charleston Stage Company presents "WIT," a Pulitzer-Prize-winning drama today, Saturday, Thursday and Nov. 16-17, 8 p.m., at Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St. For more information, call 577-5967.

Music: The Charleston Symphony Orchestra is dedicating Saturday's Masterworks performance of the Berlioz Requiem to the victims of the Sept. 11 attack. Area police officers, firefighters, military members and veterans

are invited to attend the event as the CSO's specially invited guests. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available at the CSO office, located inside the Gaillard Auditorium. Tickets can be reserved by calling 723-7528 or picked up today between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Events:

Parade: The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center is hosting a Veterans Day Parade Sunday, 2 p.m., starting at the corner of King and Calhoun streets and traveling to Broad Street. For more information about the parade and its route, see the commander's comments, page 8.

Military service: Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, 43 Wentworth St., is hosting a Celebration of Service to God and Country in commemoration of Veteran's Day Sunday, 11 a.m. For more information, call 723-2644.

Free admission: Anheuser-Busch is offering free admission to seven of its theme parks for America's Heroes: law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical workers and members of the armed forces, including active duty, Reserve, and National Guard members. Free admission is available every day through the end of the year to Sea World, Orlando, Fla., and San Diego, Calif., and Busch Gardens, Tampa, Fla. Free admission is available weekends through the end of their seasons to Sea World, San Antonio, Texas; Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Va.; Sesame Place, Langhorne, Penn.; and Adventure Island, Tampa, Fla. To gain entrance, those eligible must show current identification and proof of employment or membership. On the first visit, each hero will receive a customized passport valid for free unlimited admission every day through December. Deployed military members who cannot make it to one of the parks before Dec. 31 have until May 31, 2002, to redeem the offer. Guests will receive complimentary admission on their first visit and a 25 percent discount for the rest of the year. For more information, call (800) 342-5283.

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

FEATURE

Native Americans share culture, traditions with CAFB

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

If your perspective of Indians is what you've seen on television, then chances are you probably have a very distorted view. The true lifestyle, folklore and history of Native Americans were the hot topics of discussion at a heritage luncheon at the Charleston Club Nov. 1.

The luncheon featured several Native Americans who brought artifacts, wore native regalia and provided details about their respective culture and pride to 100 or so base members. Among the audience members were Frank Pye, assistant chief of the Edisto Tribe, Janet Kinser, a Cherokee tribe princess called Little Squirrel, and Lee Scott, Edisto Tribe. Pye presented Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, with a handcrafted knife, made from a deer's antler and bone, on behalf of the tribe.

Scott, whose Indian name was Wildcat, spoke to the audience and explained his tribe's history while dispelling common myths. Lee often speaks to school and scouting groups about Native Americans.

Native Americans are people who are indigenous to the Americas. They also have been known as American Indians. The name Indian was first applied to them by Christopher Columbus, who mistakenly believed the mainland and islands of America were part of the Asian Indies.

More than 10 million Native Americans once lived in North America. Many were driven off their land and died because of disease, such as smallpox, brought by the Europeans.

Scott wore a bone breastplate and neck collar that functioned much like a flak vest, a form of body armor. He wore a coyote cap and deerskin clothes often used for hunting. He often wears these clothes to give the public a better appreciation of his culture. He also encouraged people to attend the Ladson Fairgrounds Pow-Wow, held annually the last weekend in March.

"Animals were a big part of our culture because they gave us food and shelter. But they also gave us tools, clothes and many other items," Scott said. "Most people when they see Indians on TV, they think of hoop calling and tepees. Not all Indians lived in

tepees, and hoop calling was more Hollywood. I'm trying to break that barrier of stereotyping."

Johnnie Brooks, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron crew chief and Cherokee whose Indian name is Talking Feather, wore the deerskin clothes that his fellow tribesmen once hunted in. Brooks, a talented craftsman, had made the deer antler knife presented to Findley on behalf of all Native Americans. He said celebrations about Native-American heritage are important because they help others better understand their history and culture.

"We try to show people how we actually are, what our customs are that may appear strange to other people, but if you stop and look at them, they are not that strange after all," said Brooks. "For example, we do a lot of wildlife rescue. We are about preservation and turning animals back to the wild and promoting our culture."

Brooks admits a big drawback is the many myths created by Hollywood's portrayal of Native Americans.

"We're sometimes looked upon as dime-store Indians, and that is not what we are," Brooks said.

Brooks grew up just outside a reservation, so he got a taste of life on and off the reservation.

He said he saw a lot of poverty among Native Americans while growing up. He escaped that poverty and has worked for the Air Force for the past 23 years.

The Native Americans still in the local area live near the Four Holes area in Dorchester County and the Creelton area in Colleton County. The Edisto is comprised of two distinct groups, the Kusso and the Natchez (or Notchee). The Kusso traditionally lived in South Carolina in the same area they occupy today. The Natchez originally lived near present-day Louisiana, but were driven out of their traditional homeland by French colonists. In 1747, a



(Left to right) Janet Kinser, Johnnie Brooks, Frank Pye and Lee Scott shared their traditions and experiences as Native Americans with members of Charleston AFB at a Nov. 1 luncheon.

group of Natchez sought refuge in the Edisto area. These combined tribes have remained in the same area of South Carolina since the mid-1700s, calling themselves the Kusso-Natchez. Since many lived along the Edisto River, they were often referred to as the Edisto Tribe, Scott added.

There are about 400 descendants of the Edisto Tribe living in South Carolina. Other tribes that once prospered in the area included the Cherokee, the Choctaw, the Chickasaw, the Creek and the Seminole.

Scott said the tribe has a headdress, kept in the tribal area that was once worn by Sitting Bull, a Sioux, who with the aid of other tribes, annihilated a punitive expedition commanded by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Brooks says Native Americans value nature and preservation.

"You would not have a mother earth without preservation," Brooks said. "We tried to conserve for future generations. Nature is intermingled. We have four- and two-legged people and the underwater people like the fish. In the creator's eyes, we're all the same."

Native American tribes believed in an Almighty that was recognized in several aspects: as light and life-power, focused in the sun; as fertility and strength, centered in the earth; as wisdom and the power of earthly rulers, observed in creatures such as the jaguar, the bear or snake.

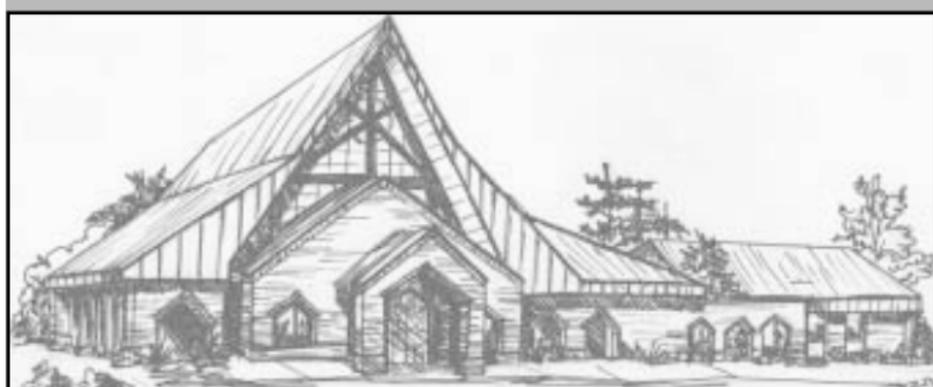
"American culture has been greatly influenced by the customs and traditions of this country's native people, and all of us can be grateful for their outstanding example. Every tribe is unique and each has celebrated heroes of its own," said Master Sgt. John Griffin, additional duty first sergeant of the 437th Comptroller Squadron and master of ceremonies for the luncheon.

Griffin added that Native American Heritage Month allows us to teach about the contributions and achievements of countless others. He recounted a number of achievements of Native Americans in combat, to include five Medal of Honor recipients. All of the Medal of Honor recipients were code talkers during World War II. Their code was never broken by the enemy.



Lee Scott spoke to an audience of about 100 Charleston AFB members about being a Native American at a Native American luncheon Nov. 1.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

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

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

Catholic Services

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

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

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

Protestant Services

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

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

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

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

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

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

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

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



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

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Hearts in Atlantis" – Anthony Hopkins

Bobby lives with his mother, a bitter, vain woman who looks for pleasure for herself without sharing much with her son. Into their lives comes a mysterious new boarder who befriends the boy but generates mistrust from the mother. As time passes, the man and boy share confidences and special powers are revealed. The man warns the boy to be on the lookout for the "Lowmen," who are seeking him. The two share summer adventures and come to love one another before the inevitable happens. **(PG-13) 101 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.

"Glitter" – Mariah Carey

Billie Frank overcomes a turbulent childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice. She is discovered by Julian Dice, a charismatic, irresistible "bad boy" deejay who soon becomes her partner, producer and lover. With Dice, she begins an exciting, but often volatile and precarious, journey as she struggles through both her personal and professional life, riding the roller coaster to superstardom. **(PG-13) 104 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Don't Say a Word" – Michael Douglas

Fitness & Sports

Military night at Coliseum brings Crowd



(Left) Joel Irving, right winger for the South Carolina Stingrays, fires the puck on goal during a hockey game between the South Carolina Stingrays and the Augusta Lynx Nov. 3 at the North Charleston Coliseum. The Stingrays won the game 4-1. Military members in the crowd received an admission discount as part of Military Appreciation Night. The Stingrays next home game is Nov. 20 against the Macon Whoopee. For more information on tickets, call 554-6060 or 744-2248. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. James Lotz, 1 CTCS)



Staff Sgt. Janita Brown, 437th Services Squadron, sings the National Anthem before the Nov. 3 South Carolina Stingrays hockey game.

No prizes for you; Swami dominates week eight action

By The Swami
Pigskin Prognosticator

In the toughest week to date, the Swami emerged as the top dog. The Swami turned in an impressive 11-3 record, edging the trio of Travis "Onetime" Anderson, Thomas "I should have picked the

Packers" Kersting and Tony "I love the Redskins" Palangi. They also had records of 11-3, but the Swami knew how to pick the best tiebreaker. Anderson has been licking his chops all year trying to beat the Swami. "That's the closest he will come to tasting victory, let alone beating the Swami," said the Swami.

it out if you get to Sin City. The Swami has been harassed by many of his readers about the World Series. The Swami wants to talk about football now, so don't waste his time with your silly opinions about baseball. The Swami is an expert in all sporting events. You talking to the Swami about any sport can be compared to a kindergartner talking to Albert Einstein about the Theory of Relativity.

The Swami's fans may catch a glimpse of him at Starlifter Lanes, having lunch at the Charleston Club, or perhaps, out on Wrenwoods Golf Course enjoying his stash of prizes from the 437th Services Squadron. Those are just a few of the great deals the Swami has won.

The Swami doesn't want to get his readers too excited, but inside sources have confirmed that a major network may want to air a "made for TV movie" about the Swami's rise to greatness. The Swami considered asking Brad Pitt or Matt Damon to play him, but he doesn't feel they could do good enough of a job. The Swami will most likely play himself.

The Swami knows you are wondering who the cellar-dweller is this week. Is it Dutch again? He's close, but the worst pigskin picker goes to the week-two winner, Speedy. The Swami thinks Speedy has slowed down considerably. Since his lucky win in week two, Speedy has pretty much stopped in his tracks. The Swami would like him to consider calling himself "Slowy."

Getting back to football, after eight weeks, there have been eight different winners. Does anyone remember last year's overall winner? The Swami knows everyone has forgotten that it was Dennis "Aldo the Greek" Ingold. The only thing heard from him this year is trash talk. He keeps e-mailing the Swami about his "stone-cold, lead pipe locks." The Swami would say it's your picks that are ice cold, not your lead pipe locks. Fear the mullet, Aldo!

There was a record number of entries turned in last week, in what was by far the toughest week to pick. It just goes to prove the skills of the Swami. He knows when the going gets tough, the Swami gets going. There were many newcomers who took a beating by the Swami last week. The Swami encourages you to keep trying for second place.

The Swami enjoyed watching all of the close games unfold Sunday. While it was the toughest week to pick, it was also the most exciting to watch. The only thing more exciting to watch than a bunch of close football games is the Swami's Vegas lounge act. Check

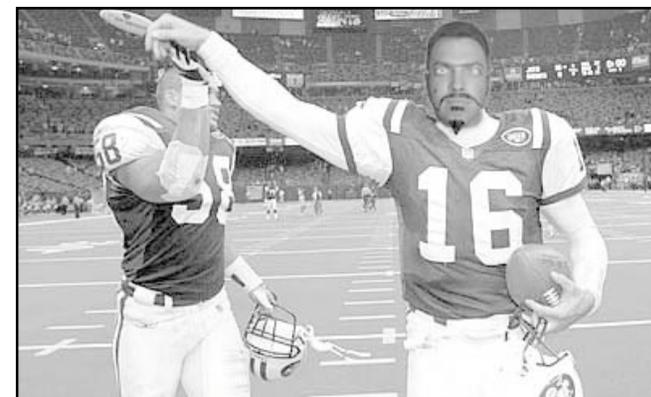


Photo illustration by Senior Airman Jason Smith
After hearing the news that his picks were good enough to win week eight, the Swami took time to thank a few of his fans.

Week Ten

Name/Phone #: _____
Comments: _____

- Sunday, Nov. 18**
Atlanta @ **Green Bay**
Chicago @ **Tampa Bay**
Cleveland @ **Baltimore**
Indianapolis @ New Orleans
New York Jets @ Miami
Philadelphia @ Dallas
San Francisco @ Carolina
Seattle @ Buffalo
Tennessee @ Cincinnati
San Diego @ **Oakland**
Jacksonville @ **Pittsburgh**
Detroit @ **Arizona**
Washington @ **Denver**
St. Louis @ New England

Monday, Nov. 19
New York Giants @ **Minnesota**
Monday night total points: _____
Swami's Monday night points: 37

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.
Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil
Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600, Room 224.
Picks must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 16, 4 p.m.