

# AIRLIFT Dispatch

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Vol. 41, No. 14

437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, April 12, 2002



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock, 1 CTCS

An 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division member from Fort Bragg, N.C., parachutes to the ground here after jumping from a C-17 flown by the 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron Aug. 9, 2001. The jump was part of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division's annual convention in Charleston. The photographer, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, recently took second place honors in the annual Military Photographer of the Year contest. The contest is open to all enlisted photographers in the five military services.

## 1 CTCS 'snap' up MILPHOG awards

By Capt. Beth Szucs  
437 AW Public Affairs

Officials recently announced the winners of the annual Military Photographer of the Year competition.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron here won awards in 10 categories and received nine honorable mentions and 23 judges' awards of excellence.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock won second place in the Military Photographer of the Year category, received an honorable mention for Combat Camera Photography, a honorable mention and an award of excellence for Feature Photography, an honorable mention for News Photography, an award of excellence for Pictorial Photography, second place for Portrait/Personality Photography and

See MILPHOG, page 3

## Air Force releases several specialties from Stop-Loss

By Master Sgt. Dorothy Goepel  
Air Force Print News

Air Force officials announced today the release of several Air Force Specialty Codes from Stop-Loss, a Defense Department program designed to retain members of the armed forces beyond established dates of separation or retirement.

The announcement comes as a result of an Air Force 60-day review and applies across the board to the active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard forces, according to Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon.

"Our exit plan calls for a gradual drawdown from Stop-Loss, which means we want to continue to release AFSCs with each review as long as we are able to maintain sufficient forces to meet mission requirements," she said.

The officer career fields released from stop-loss restrictions, effective

May 1, are: 32E, 33S, 35P, 42F, 42G, 42N, 42P, 42S, 42T, 43P, 43Y, 44B, 44F, 44G, 44J, 44K, 44N, 44P, 44R, 44S, 44T, 44U, 45E, 45G, 45N, 45U, 47E, 47G, 47H, 47K, 47P, 47S, 51J, 61S, 62E, 63A and 64P.

The enlisted career fields released from stop-loss restrictions, effective May 1, are: 1T0X0, 2A1X0, 2A390, 2S0X2, 3C1X1, 3C1X2, 3E1X1, 3E3X1, 3E6X1, 3S1X0, 3S1X1, 3S2X0, 3S2X1, 3V000, 3V090, 3V0X1, 3V0X2, 3V0X3, 4A0X0, 4A0X1, 4B0XX, 4C0X0, 4C0X1, 4D0X0, 4D0X1, 4M0X0, 4M0X1, 4N1X1, 4P0X0, 4P0X1, 4R0X1, 4T0X0, 4T0X1, 4T0X2, 4T0X3, 4U0X0, 4U0X1, 4V0X0, 4V0X1, 4Y0X0, 4Y0X1, 4Y0X2, 5J0X0, 5J0X1, 6C0X0, 6C0X1, 8A100, 8C000, 8E000, 8G000, 8J000, 8P000, 8P100, 8R000, 8T000, 9A200, 9A300, 9C000 and 9G000.

During each cyclical review, Middleton explained, major commands, Air Staff and Secretariat functionals and officials at Air Force Personnel Center review all AFSCs

for possible release.

"We review current manning and authorizations, the number of people deployed for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, the number of Air Reserve Center personnel mobilized, and overall health of the career fields," Middleton said. "We will conduct subsequent reviews every 60 days to allow individuals some stability and allow our requirements to solidify."

Members who are deployed in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, or related operations, and Reserve/Guard components who are voluntarily or involuntarily on active duty in support of these operations or related operations, will not be released until they return from deployment or are demobilized, officials said.

Officials emphasized that Stop-Loss is devised to meet all operational requirements in addition to Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Some military members have the misperception that Stop-Loss is being used as a manning tool, Middleton said.

"Though it's easy to make that assumption," Middleton said, "it is absolutely not true. Manning is certainly one of the factors taken into consideration, but it is looked at in terms of what is needed to meet current mission requirements."

"We really want to do right by our service members," Middleton said. "Many families had to put their plans on hold when Stop-Loss was implemented. We are grateful for their service and their sacrifices. We are trying to balance their needs with our commitment to operational requirements."

"The career fields that we have recommended for release from Stop-Loss are still subject to world events," she continued. "If world events change significantly, we will have to re-evaluate our decisions."

## IN THE NEWS

# Deployed CAFB forecaster keeps aircrews safe

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeff Roberts  
363 AEW Public Affairs

As Mark Twain once said, "Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it."

While people cannot do anything about the weather, knowing how the weather works and accurately forecasting and observing current weather and weather trends can help keep aircraft and crews safe.

This is where members of the 363<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron Weather Flight, Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia, come in.

"We support the aircraft here with both forecasting for future missions and observing current weather," said Master Sgt. Dido Moran, weather flight superintendent. Moran is a Team Charleston member deployed to PSAB. "An aircrew needs to know that they can accomplish their mission, get there and, most importantly, get back without weather becoming a problem."

People from the weather flight forecast weather for everyone here, including coalition forces.

"We provide a tool that helps aircraft [crews] fly successfully, while giving them information on one of the variables that may affect the performance of their aircraft," said Moran. "We don't tell them where to go, only what they may encounter along the way."

Being the weatherperson may mean being the scapegoat or the hero.

"I always like to remind people that as weathermen, we are in marketing, not production," Moran joked.

Each day, aircraft commanders listen as Moran and his team give them information to consider while flying missions to enforce the no-fly, no-drive zones over Iraq.

"I have had commanders cancel missions based on the weather information we gave them," said Moran. "It's nice to know the crews have confidence in your reports. No one likes to cancel a mission but, if it happens, you sure hope what you said would happen, happens."

For example, the base experienced a classic "Haboob" scenario recently, which involved strong winds and sandstorms caused by collapsing thunderstorms. The base here experienced winds in

excess of 55 mph and reduced visibility to less than a half mile. The weather teams were instrumental in two weather cancellations; possibly saving human lives as well as expensive and sensitive aircraft and equipment.

"Weather teams provide information that affects our game plan," said Maj. Mike Rouse, 363 EOSS chief of weapons and tactics and an F-15 Eagle pilot. "Bad weather puts us at a disadvantage in protecting ourselves and aircraft against attack, as well as how we can employ our weapons against a target."

While weather forecasting is important, monitoring changing weather conditions is also essential to aircraft safety.

Airmen work around the clock watching for anything that may affect aircraft already in flight, working alone in remote observation towers.

"I watch current weather conditions, pass updated weather information to the control tower and issue any necessary advisories for aircraft leaving, coming home or flying near our area," said Senior Airman Debra Chaves, a weather technician.

Chaves said the unknown

nature and constant challenge of weather is why she wanted to be part of the weather career field.

"Weather is constantly changing and definitely not a desk job," said Chavez. "You get to experience so many different things and it makes you feel good when you hit a forecast and have that positive impact on a mission."

"We will never be able to completely get our arms around nature," said Moran. "But when you get it right, you have saved the government money in fuel, equipment that could have been damaged and may ultimately have saved human lives."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Master Sgt. Dido Moran, 363<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron weather flight superintendent, checks connections on a Tactical Automated Observing System. The TAOS is a remote weather receiving system that determines temperature, humidity, air pressure, visibility and wind speed that is relayed to a weather technician. Moran is currently deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, from the 437<sup>th</sup> Operation Support Squadron and is supporting Operation Southern Watch.

# Air Force officials announce 2001 CE awards 437 CES named best large unit in AF; chief earns top-level honors

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron was recently named the Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Organization in the large unit category.

"It was a team effort by everyone in the Wing," said Lt. Col. Maria Dowling, 437 CES commander. "The support we received from Team Charleston and the community was superb".

The Support Group hosted a Wing Pride Day and the base looked better than it had in months when the evaluation team arrived, according to Chief Master Sgt. Carla Sharman, civil engineer manager for the 437 CES.

Base appearance may have been the deciding factor in the competition between the 437 CES and its rival, the civil engineer squadron at Holloman AFB, N.M.

"When we were at the award ceremony in Washington, D.C., the colonel on the inspection team told me the two big differences between the bases were appearance and people," said

Sharman.

In fact, members of the 437 CES won 6 of the 9 annual wing awards for 2001.

"I've never been in a CE squadron like this," Sharman said. "There were more C-17s on the CE table than there were on the flight line that night," she added, referring to the model C-17s given to the award winners.

Preparing for the evaluation team's visit was a challenge, with 70 squadron members deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, many of them senior leadership, according to Glenn Easterby, who was acting base civil engineer during the Curtin Team evaluation. "We really relied heavily on the remaining civilians and military personnel plus the activated reservists from the 315<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron to help show we were still working and carrying on, despite challenges," said Easterby. "And our deployed engineers sat down over there and brainstormed what we could do here to make the whole thing a success."

The evaluation team visited

Charleston for one day, starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m., as mandated by Air Force Instruction. Sharman said the 437 CES decided to start out on the right foot by letting the team "sleep in" until 7 a.m. Then the team, comprised of a colonel, a chief master sergeant and a civilian, attended breakfast at the Gaylor Dining Facility.

"At the breakfast, and throughout the day, we surrounded the team with our outstanding people, our award winners, and key staff members," Sharman said. "That way, when they had a question, there was always someone beside them to tell the story."

Squadron customers were also available throughout the day to tell their stories about the service they receive from the 437 CES. "This is a support job, and to win this kind of award, your customers have to say good things about you," Sharman said. "Ours did."

"We have remarkable professionals in civil engineering who focus on customer support each day", said Lt Col Dowling, "I couldn't be more proud of the accomplishments of the Outlaws."

The squadron took home awards in a variety of categories at the Air Mobility Command level. The explosive ordnance disposal flight was the AMC EOD flight of the year. The flight was also picked to field the first UTC to handle weapons of mass destruction operations. AMC named the operations flight runner up for the 2001 Maj. Gen. Clifton D. Wright Award for Operations Flight of the Year. Resources flight was runner up for the Maj. Gen. Robert C. Thomas Award, for top resources flight of the year. Keeping up its record of finishing in first- or second-place in AMC, the environmental flight was named runner up for Best Environmental Flight and also earned the 2001 Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Award.

Individuals also won AMC and Air Force level awards.

Nicole Shope, environmental flight, earned the Gen. Thomas D. White Pollution Prevention Award for Individual Excellence, and Sharman was named the Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Ahearn Enlisted Leadership Award winner.

# SECAF addresses deployments, pay raises: Operations Tempo not expected to slow

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche discussed pay raises, deployments and parts cannibalization during a visit to Nellis AFB, Nev., April 1-3.

Roche said any changes in the current overseas deployment schedule depend on how things go with Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Right now we don't see anything to tell us [the tempo] is going to be radically less than it has been, because things can flare up so quickly, as occurred in [Operation] Anaconda," he said.

Charleston AFB has seen a dramatic increase in the TDY rates since OEF began, according to Capt. Heather Gordon, military personnel flight commander. She said CAFB deployed 1,000 people from September 2001-March 2002, all those separate from the regular Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployments already scheduled.

"The president's made it clear that this is a long, drawn-out war," said Roche. "And, as such, we're trying to make the (aerospace expeditionary force) system work so that we have some sort of rotation base. But this is not something that's going to be over next week or the week after,

and we're trying to adjust to the long run."

Roche said Air Force people can expect more of the same for pay raises.

"Right now...our pay raises are tailored more to those who have a career" — senior noncommissioned officers and career officers, Roche said. "They should be receiving disproportionately more than someone who's brand new."

Senior Master Sgt. Matt Harless, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing career assistance advisor, says the pay raises that have been taking place within the last year, and are slated to take place in the coming year, may seem disproportionate through the ranks, but there are reasons for that.

"Historically and demographically our 7- and 9-skill level technical through chief master sergeants have not been paid at a rate comparable to that of their civilian counterparts," said Harless. "Once a member has been in the service for 12 plus years, they are typically skilled in more than one job and have at least one CCAF (Community College of the Air Force) degree, and more and more often a bachelors degree. Looking again at the civilian sector, we find

that there is a direct and distinct correlation between the amount someone is paid and the amount of education and experience that they possess. These pay raises are intended to more closely mirror that."

Roche says he thinks it's a good idea that he wants to continue as much as possible.

"That's not slighting any of our new members," said Roche. "What it's saying is that our career NCOs and our career officers are very critical to us, and we want to tailor more of a pay raise to them, at least for the foreseeable future."

Harless added that even discounting military members' education, medical and retirement benefits, the pay is still good.

"In this austere economic climate, it has never been more clear that service in the military provides more than adequate compensation while guaranteeing job security and equal opportunity," said Harless.

Roche also addressed the issue of parts cannibalization, where, due to a lack of available spare parts, items may be removed from one plane and put in a second plane so that second plane can fly.

"Cannibalization is sort of endemic

in the business," Roche said. "However, compared to five or eight years ago the availability of spare parts is much greater than it has been."

It is not a matter of the Air Force not putting the money into spare parts, he said.

"What's catching us now is the amount of time it takes manufacturers to in fact manufacture more parts, and in some of our older aircraft...diminishing material sources, which makes it particularly difficult," he said. "So what we face is a situation where if we need a part for combat reasons we will cannibalize, but we're trying to reduce the amount of cannibalization. In a war, when you have to move something quickly, you have to. But, the goal is to get away from that."

There will always be a little bit of cannibalization, but money for the parts is not an issue, Roche said.

"Congress has given us the money, we've oriented the money toward spare parts, it's now a matter of having manufacturers who can produce them and produce them when we need them," he said.

**(AFN. Capt. Beth Szucs, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)**

## MILPHOG

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an award of excellence for Picture Story.

Tech. Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez won an honorable mention for Military Photographer of the Year and eight awards of excellence for Combat Camera Photography, Feature Photography, Pictorial Photography, Portrait/Personality Photography, Picture Story and Sports Photography.

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Cecilio won an honorable mention for Sports Photography and three awards of excellence for Feature Photography, Pictorial Photography and Por-

trait/Personality Photography.

Staff Sgt. Cherie Thurlby won second place in Pictorial Photography and an award of excellence for Combat Camera Photography.

Tech. Sgt. Cedric Rudisill won three honorable mentions in the Feature and Pictorial Photography categories.

Technical Sergeants Scott Reed and Michael Buytas won second and third place, respectively, for Sports Photography.

Staff Sergeants Ricky Bloom and Jerry Morrison, Jr., won awards of excellence for Combat Camera Photography.

Senior Airman Sarayuth Pinthong won a honorable mention and Staff Sgt. Betty Leonard won an award of excellence in the News Photography category.

Senior MSgt. Steven Turner got an award of excellence for Portrait/Personality Photography.

In the Videography categories Staff Sgt. Timothy Bailey won a honorable mention for Military Videographer of the Year, second place for Broadcast Story, first place for Combat Camera Video and second place for Uncontrolled Action Video.

Tech Sgt. David Barlow won a honorable mention for Military Videographer of the Year and third place for Video Editing.

Staff Sgt. Sean Devine won third place and Tech. Sgt. Manuel Trejo won a honorable mention for Combat Camera Video.

This competition, which started in 1961, is "designed to recognize and reward military photographers and videographers for their achievements in furthering the objectives of photography within the military," according to the MILPHOG Web site.

The competition is open to active duty, Reserve and National Guard enlisted personnel of all five armed



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock, 1 CTCS

**A Marine at Camp Lejeune, N.C., injured his eye during a beach assault exercise and rides atop of a Light Armor Reconnaissance vehicle on the lookout for enemy activity. This photo won second place in the Military Photographer of the Year portrait category for Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock, 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron.**

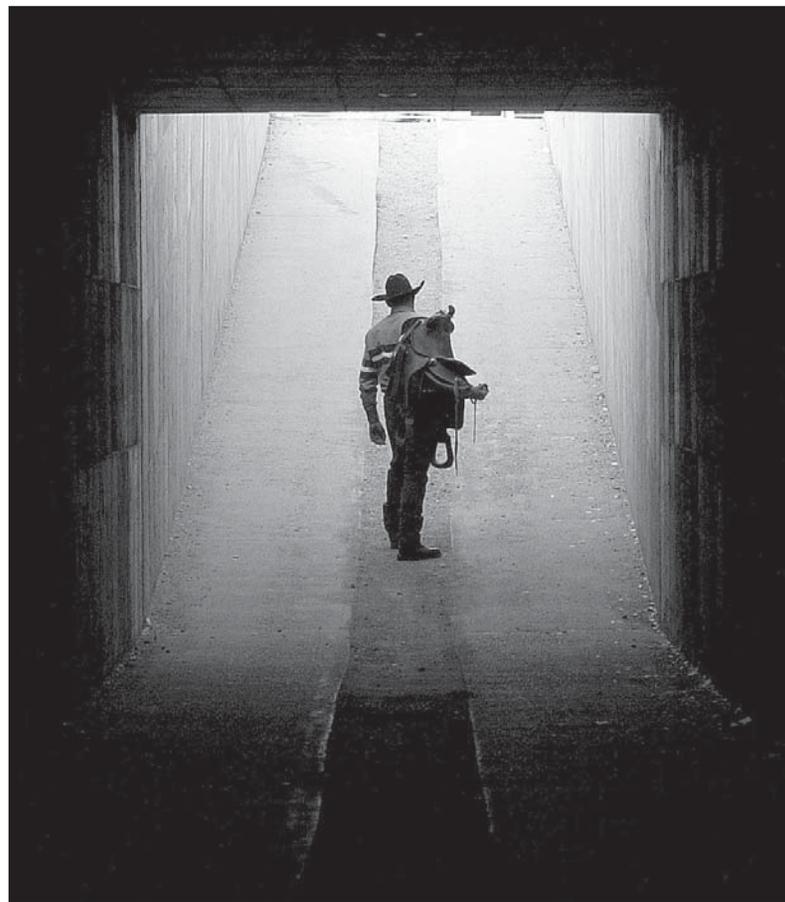


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed, 1 CTCS

**Tech. Sgt. Sean Smith, a military volunteer from F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., carries a saddle to the stables at the end of a full day of rodeo events at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo. Smith was one of several hundred military personnel from the Air Force base who volunteered their time at the annual event. Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed, 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron, won second place in the sports photography category of the Military Photographer of the Year competition with this image.**

services with the occupational specialty of photographer, journalist, photojournalist, public affairs specialist, videographer or equivalent.

Only two people have ever won the competition three

years in a row: Videographer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Bertram Lennard, U.S. Air Force (1995-97), and Photographer of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Herman Kokojan, U.S. Air Force (1975-77).

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Spotlight

**Change of command:** Lt. Col. James Barr will take command of the 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron from Lt. Col. John Norton in a ceremony Tuesday, 9 a.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ron'Dell Harley at 963-5578.

**OTS graduate:** Staff Sgt. Manulito Figueroa, 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron Air Freight Flight, recently completed Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Figueroa ranked third in a class of 262 and was named distinguished graduate.

## Around the base

**OSA/ESC:** The Officers' Spouses' Association and Enlisted Support Club will hold a combined Scholarship Awards Coffee Tuesday, at the Charleston Club. Social begins at 6:30 p.m. with the program scheduled for 7 p.m. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served. Cost is \$6.50 for club members and \$9.50 for non-members. RSVP by Sunday. OSA members with last names A-M contact Angela Rosenmeier at 875-2505, and last names N-Z contact Robin Newman at 207-7379. ESC members contact Marcia Lytton at 760-6892.

**Chiefs' Group:** The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, 11 a.m. in the Charleston Club. All chiefs and chief selects are eligible to attend.

**Blood Drive:** The next Charleston AFB Blood Drive will be held on April 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Education Center Auditorium. All blood types are urgently needed. For more information, call Capt. Paul Brown at 963-4678 or contact your squadron representative.

**Days of Remembrance:** Charleston AFB will observe Days of Remembrance, a time to honor and remember the victims of the Holocaust, April 23. A service and guest speaker, from the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., are planned for 10 a.m. at the Chapel. The local Jewish Service Center has other events planned throughout the month and can be contacted at 571-6565. The Base Library will also display a variety of books for viewing during the observance. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Michael Breedlove at 963-4927.

**Golf tournament:** The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its annual golf tournament April 26 at Wrenwoods Golf Course. Check-in for the captain's choice with handicap tournament begins at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Entry fees are \$20 and

# Charleston Warrior of the Week

## Tech. Sgt. Michael and Angela Bevins Girl Scouts of America Troop #448

Angela Bevins and her husband, Tech. Sgt. Michael Bevins, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, are the leaders of Girl Scouts of America Troop #448.

Angela said she's been a scout leader here for five years now, for both her daughter and for other girls.

"I feel like they need me, or a mentor," Angela said. "A lot of grown ups aren't there for them. My mother did that for me, and I feel it's time to do my part and help give back."

The Kingston, Tenn., natives began their involvement with the Girl Scouts as parents of a scout. Their 15-year-old daughter, Rebekah, has been a scout for 10 years.

Angela said her husband volunteered her for the job when the family first arrived in Charleston.

"Since he volunteered me, I volunteered him to help out," she said.

Michael, NCOIC of the 17 AS orderly room, now helps out with the administrative functions of the troop. Angela said this frees her up to spend more time with the girls.

Michael said he enjoys helping out and being involved with the scouts.

"I was in scouts when I was a kid, and we did a lot of neat things," Michael said. "As our daughter got older, we wanted her to have the chance to experience different things, and scouts was something she really enjoyed."

In addition to Charleston, the two, who met while attending East Tennessee State University, have been stationed at McGuire AFB, N.J., and Chanute AFB, N.D. Michael also served a tour at Osan AB, Korea.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

include lunch and beverages. There will be giveaways, and prizes will be awarded to the first-place team in each flight, logest drive and closest to the pin. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ed Lawson at 963-3693 or pick up sign-up sheets at the Wrenwoods Golf Course Pro Shop.

**Golf tournament:** Charleston AFB's Top 3 will hold its annual golf tournament, open to all Team Charleston members, May 3 at Wrenwoods Golf Course. Check-in for the captain's choice tournament begins at 11:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Entry fees are \$15 and include range balls and beverages. Prizes will be awarded for first-, second- and third-place teams, and for longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Matt Harless at 963-8004 or sign up at the Wrenwoods Golf Course Pro Shop.

**Golf tournament:** The Charleston Chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship and Chapter Fund-Raising Golf Tournament May 10 at Crowfield Golf and Country Club, Goose Creek. Check in for the captain's choice tournament begins at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1

p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Entry fees are \$40 and include green fees, cart, beverages, lunch and a donation to the scholarship fund and chapter. Prizes will be awarded for first- through third- place teams, longest drive and closest to the pin. There will also be a putting contest and other door prizes. For more information or to enter a team, call Glenn McNeil at 963-3183, Tom Skillman at 963-3181, Gene Reeves at 552-4314 or Ron Westall at 963-3058.

**SIU:** Southern Illinois University is holding open summer registration for its one-year Workforce Education and Development program now through May 1. Classes will begin May 4 and conclude April 2003. For more information, call 552-7320.

**Yard Sale:** Tables are now on sale at the Consignment Shop for the Base-wide Yard Sale May 11, 8 a.m.-noon, at the base picnic grounds. The Consignment Shop is also looking for consigners. According to the shop's staff, furniture is a very hot item right now. The shop is located in Bldg. 203 on Graves Street. For more information, call 963-3294.

**Scholarship:** The Order of

Daedalians is sponsoring two flight scholarships in the amount of \$750 each, with the potential of matching funds from their national headquarters. The scholarships are for prospective and enrolled college students who demonstrate the desire and potential to become commissioned military pilots. Further scholarship guidelines are available at [www.daedalians.org](http://www.daedalians.org). For more information, call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joel Eppley at 963-2150.

## Family Support Center

**Pre-Deployment Briefing:** Monday, April 22 and 29, 8 a.m., and Thursday and April 26, 4 p.m.

**Managing Stress through Interpersonal Communication:** Wednesday, 10 a.m. noon.

**Sponsor Training:** Wednesday, 3:30 p.m.

**Troops to Teachers:** April 22, 10-11 a.m.

**Resume II:** April 23, 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

**Base School Committee:** April 23, 7 p.m.

**Smooth Move:** April 25, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

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

437 AW named best in 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force

By Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley  
437 AW commander

At staff meeting, I announced that we won in the Outstanding Active Duty Unit category for the 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force, 2001 Armstrong Award, symbolic of the best wings within 21 AF.

I am so proud of every member of our great team. Thanks for all you do to make us who we are, and congratulations on this well deserved honor to everyone of our team members. You all define PRIDE, PROFESSIONALISM and PASSION.

I presented the wing's plaque for the 2001 Coastal America Partnership for Action Award to **Glenn Easterby, Al Urrutia, Mike Holtsclaw and Ron Wiggins**, all from the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, for their money saving efforts in disposing of 12,000 tons of concrete debris to create two off-site artificial reefs.

Only six agencies have received this national recognition from the President of the United States. It is no easy feat and a strong testament to the outstanding efforts of those who served on the Artificial Reef Team.

Also receiving recognition from 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force were **Walter Jensen**, 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, as the 2001 Operations Resource Manager of the Year in the civilian supervisor category and **Master Sgt. Bryant Garrison**, 437 OSS, as the 2001 Operations Resource Manager of the Year in the senior NCO category. Congratulations on your achievement.

The 437 OSS leadership will change on Tuesday as **Lt. Col. James Barr** assumes command from **Lt. Col. John Norton**. Congratulations to Jim and Jean on your accomplishments and in assuming squadron command. Thanks, John and Susan for all that you have done to make the 437 OSS one of the best in AMC. John is headed to assume command of the 17<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Airlift Squadron before heading to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., later this summer.

We were pleased to host noted comedian and actor Bill Cosby for a short visit on Sunday afternoon. He was in town to perform at the North Charleston coliseum and took some time out of his busy schedule to tour a C-17 and fly in one of our simulators. It was a great opportunity for him to thank our people for their many accomplishments.

It is not everyday that someone wins best in their respective field, but that's precisely what the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office has achieved. They were recently selected as the winners of the 2001 Secretary of the Air Force/Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award in the Large Unit category.

With everyone's help, Public Affairs made great strides in making Charleston a true Air Force town. I've seen a radical transformation in my two years here, and I am convinced that the local community knows what we do and appreciates us much better than before.

Thanks to **Lt. Col. Ed Memi** and his outstanding staff for keeping us out in the forefront with the news media and community.

Everyone needs to keep the momentum going and remain active in the local

community. As this war on terrorism continues, public interest could wane, and we need to constantly remind the community, our friends and neighbors that we are in this for the long term, and that we need their continued support.

It is with some regret that we bid farewell to **Staff Sgt. Ashok Kori**, 437 AW Protocol, who is headed to Travis AFB, Calif., to return to his career field in Health Services Management. Kori, who has been here since 1996, has served with the 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, base honor guard and most recently with our top-notch protocol staff.

Our Protocol staff always does a first class job with our many high ranking distinguished visitors. We wish him continued success.

There will be a Year of the Warrior Spirit Warrior Run April 18, 11:30 a.m., at McCombs Way track. At 3 p.m., there will be a series of YOWS briefers from the 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group at the Charleston Club.

This is a great opportunity to get out and hear about the accomplishments and personal "war" stories of our warriors. Please mark your calendar now, and plan to participate in these YOWS events. You'll get a lot out of it, especially the briefings. See the article on page 15.

We will honor and remember the victims of the Holocaust with a special service in the chapel April 23, 10 a.m.

Scheduled to speak at the service will be former liberators of the camps and representatives from the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. The service, always a sobering experience, will provide some insight into the atrocities of the death camps. The service is open to everyone.

Join us as we "Celebrate Volunteerism" during National Volunteer Week, April 21-27.

This national recognition celebrates the contributions that more than 100 million Americans make each year. Charleston alone has between 500-600 volunteers.

During April and especially during National Volunteer Week, take time to say, "thanks for all that you do" to every volunteer you meet.

Team Charleston salutes volunteers for their caring and selfless service. The positive impact volunteers make on our base and local community is priceless.

If you're not a volunteer, this is a great time to call the Family Support Center at 963-4406 to see if there's a volunteer opportunity of interest to you. This year's theme is "Celebrate The American Spirit...Volunteer," and you should! Watch the Airlift Dispatch for more details about National Volunteer Week.

Keep charging forward! I am extremely proud of everyone's achievements. We enjoy a great reputation within our Air Force, and we're viewed as the premier

airlift wing on the face of the planet!

Don't forget to take time off when possible to re-charge your batteries.

With the warmer weather and longer daylight hours, please keep safety at the forefront of everything you do, especially when participating in sports or when driving around town.

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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

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## Deadlines

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

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

## Address/Numbers

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

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Photo by Master Sgt. David Hudspeth  
Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley recognized the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs office for their selection as the winners of the Secretary of the Air Force/Public Affairs Director's Excellence Award, Large Unit category.

# CAFB member named AMC's outstanding airman for 2001

Gen. John W. Handy, commander in chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander, Air Mobility Command, has announced the AMC nominees for the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen and First Sergeant of the Year competition for 2001.

An AMC board of chief master sergeants selected one person from each category to represent the command in competition at Air Force level. Nominees were announced during a banquet at Scott AFB March 28 honoring the 12 enlisted airmen who competed at major command level.

Charleston AFB is home to the winner in the Airman Category, Staff Sgt. Brain Sharman, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron.

"It's a great honor and a privilege," Sharman said. "But I didn't get there on my own. I had a lot of help along the way from supervisors and coworkers."

Sharman said the competition was tough because of the caliber of all competing.

"I think I was more nervous be-

fore the banquet than before the board," said Sharman. "Being prepped by Chief (Harvey) Hampton (437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant) helped me prepare."

As advice to other would-be Airmen of the Year, Sharman said to set goals high.

"You can't only be involved with your job," he said. "You have to go out and participate in the community and in base activities, not just come to work every day."

Other AMC winners were Staff Sgt. Matthew Johnson, 22<sup>d</sup> Communications Squadron, McConnell AFB, Kan., NCO category; Senior Master Sgt. James Cody, 6<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, MacDill AFB, Fla., Senior NCO category; and Senior Master Sgt. Monte Malek, 375<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron (currently assigned to Tanker Airlift Control Center), Scott AFB Ill., First Sergeant category.

"These are our finest airmen, and we're proud to send them forward to compete at Air Force level," said Handy. "They are truly the embodiment of our command's Warrior

Spirit and are superb examples of the incredibly high standard of excellence our enlisted force maintains every day."

Handy explains that the command's enlisted heritage is rich with dedicated professionals.

"This year AMC celebrates 10 years of air mobility excellence. The command's enlisted men and women are in large part responsible for bringing us to this point," said Handy.

"The 12 we honor as AMC's outstanding airmen, and the four who will go forward to compete at Air Force level, speak volumes about the caliber of our mobility warriors," he continued.

Nominees were selected through a series of competitive boards at unit, base and numbered Air Force before competing at major command.

"These folks worked extremely hard to get where they are today," said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Kerver, command chief master sergeant for both U.S. TRANSCOM and AMC. "We are very proud of them and their accomplishments, and they are an

example to all of us. They're dedicated, committed, and reflect everything our core values stand for."

Kerver said that competition was tough. The four were culled from thousands of airmen who competed for the honors.

"All 12 Airmen who competed at the AMC level have earned a place in our enlisted mobility heritage," said Kerver. "I was personally as well as professionally impressed with each of our nominees, and was honored to have had the opportunity to host them during our annual awards week here at Scott.

"Each is a pillar in their communities, and represent the professionalism of our outstanding enlisted corps. There are literally thousands of airmen like them in AMC who keep this command running. I have seen them around the world working long hours in less than glamorous locations. They are the 'force' that makes this great command the success that it is today."

**(AMCNS. Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter also contributed to this story.)**

# FEATURE



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Trevis Humphrey, 437 SUPS Mobility Flight, inspects and prepares items to be packed in mobility bags.

## 437 SUPS Mobility Flight keeps Team Charleston geared up

Story and Photos by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amy Perry  
437 AW Public Affairs

When it comes time to pack up the gear and deploy, Team Charleston members head here for all their equipment needs.

The 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron's Mobility Element builds and maintains mobility bags for all deploying troops, active-duty personnel and reservists, from Charleston AFB.

"Our shop is responsible for issuing bags to all deploying troops," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Sherrill, NCO in charge of mobility quality control. "We make sure the bags are put together with serviceable equipment."

"Our busiest times are during a chalk line, and it gets crazy here," Sherrill said, referring to the times when the flight hands out equipment to groups of personnel about to deploy. "We have the deploying troops file off the bus and issue them all a C-1 bag, also known as 'Chem Bag,' and an A-1 bag that contains all of their camping gear."

"The deploying personnel then go through all the equipment to make sure they have everything and it's serviceable," he said.

"We ensure that every customer gets through in a timely manner and has everything they need," said Tech. Sgt. Brigitte Pirrung, NCOIC of mobility customer services.

After being issued their two mobility bags, they proceed to the processing desk and sign all their equipment out.

They also receive any additional equipment that they need there, whether it is desert BDUs or desert combat boots.

"By the time they reach the front desk, they should have everything they need," Pirrung said. "That way all we have to fill out is the paperwork."

"For a chalk line of 50 people, we spend an average of one to two minutes on each customer to ensure they meet the flight time," Sherrill said.

The short amount of time spent on each person doesn't mean the job isn't important.

"Just making sure the personnel are deploying with what they need and that it is serviceable means a lot to us," Sherrill said.

"This equipment is life or death. Hopefully they don't need it, but if they do, it's good to know that they have it."



Tech. Sgt. Steve Sherrill, 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron, removes a sleeping bag out of a bin while gathering items to pack a mobility bag for deploying personnel.



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Trevis Humphrey, 437 SUPS quality control technician, packs a mobility bag with camping equipment.

# Retired enlisted members now have avenue to return

Recently retired enlisted members now have the option to come back to active duty and in the process help the Air Force quickly and inexpensively get experienced people on the job.

“The program is for retirees and we’re going to make every effort to help people come back in,” said Chief Master Sgt. Al Diaz, chief of the skills management branch at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas. “People have asked how they can serve again and we certainly have a need – so here we go.”

The Voluntary Retired Airman EAD Recall program, VREAD for short, is designed to offset the shortages of trained airmen in hard-to-fill skills. Airmen who retired from the regular Air Force within the last three years can serve for a period of 24 months.

“There was a dramatic increase in the number of

people wanting to rejoin the service following Sept. 11,” said Diaz. “At that time the Air Force could accommodate those who separated or wanted to transfer services, but there was a void for those qualified retirees who wanted to return. This program fills that void.”

For a retiree to rejoin the service they must have served in one of the designated, hard-to-fill specialties and not be within two years of the high-year-of-tenure restriction for the rank they retired in.

Initially, around 600 inquiries were made from retirees to see what, if any, role they could serve in. Of those 600, about 100 met the criteria to return in an active-duty capacity.

“We’re trying our best to be able to bring these folks back on active duty in around 30 to 45 days,” said Diaz.

People returning will be

brought back to active duty for 24 months while the current state of national emergency is in effect. If the national emergency is declared no longer in effect, the time a retiree will be able to serve on active duty is one year.

“People being brought back will be required to serve for one year no matter what the national emergency is,” said Diaz.

“We started by establishing a list of those eligible to return, then contacted all of those who weren’t eligible, gave them the news and told them we would keep their name in the chance something becomes available for them,” said Diaz. “Currently we have more than 500 on that list.”

Those eligible (around 140) who have expressed interest in returning to active duty are being provided the forms needed. The forms eligible people should submit include: an AF Form 125;

a retired statement of understanding; a security clearance pre-screening questionnaire; an assignment preferences worksheet; physical examination documents; a resume; a copy of their DD Form 214 and copies of their last three enlisted performance reports.

Once the retiree completes the paperwork and returns it to AFPC, airman assignments or the AFPC Chief’s Group works to establish utilization based upon the individual’s skills and their bases of preference.

“We will use the AFSC listing as a guide, but will also consider any special skills these applicants may possess ... the driving factor will be utilization,” said Master Sgt. Jerry Tapia, chief of assignment issues, procedures and training in airman assignments at AFPC.

After the utilization is determined, assignment NCOs

will make every effort to match the person with a base, within three days of receiving the package.

“Each retiree will send us a list of the top five bases they would like to serve at,” said Tapia. “We will do our best to put them at one of those bases. If we cannot accommodate any of their choices, we will contact them and see if they would like to return at a base that has a position available.”

For more information about any of the enlisted return to service programs, visit the AFPC website at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil) and click on the “Want to rejoin the Air Force” link, call the AFPC Contact Center at 1-866-229-7074 or send an e-mail to [afpc.dpsfm@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc.dpsfm@randolph.af.mil).

Separated enlisted members should contact their local recruiter for assistance. **(Air Force Personnel Center)**

## 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.

#### **"Queen of the Damned" – Stuart Townsend**

The Vampire Lestat has become a rock star, and it's his music that awakens the 6,000-year-old Egyptian vampire, Akasha. **(R) 101 minutes**

### Saturday and April 20, 2 p.m.

#### **"Return to Never Land" – Animated**

World War II is raging and has come to the very heart of London. Wendy tries to comfort her young ones with stories of her experiences in Never Land. **(G) 72 minutes**

### Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, 3 p.m.

#### **"The Scorpion King" – The Rock**

#### **Sneak Preview – Free Admission**

The Scorpion King is set 5,000 years ago in the notorious city of Gomorrah, where an evil ruler is determined to lay waste to all the nomadic peoples of the desert. The few remaining tribes, never natural allies, have to unite or perish. Knowing their enemy relies on the visions of a sorcerer, they hire a skilled assassin, Mathayus to eliminate the visionary. After infiltrating the enemy camp, Mathayus discovers that the sorcerer is in fact a beautiful woman. Rather than eliminate her, he takes her deep into the desert badlands. **(PG-13) 95 minutes**

# Fitness & Sports



## YOWS fun run/walk scheduled for Thursday

**By Capt. Beth Szucs**  
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB members will have another chance to celebrate the Year of the Warrior Spirit Thursday during the 5K Poker Run/Walk at the Fitness Center and warrior gathering at the Charleston Club.

There are two ways members can run in the race—by competing individually or by joining a five-member co-ed team who will run the track to earn cards. At the end of the race, the team with the best poker hand wins.

The race begins at 11:30 a.m., and members will sign up on their group sign-up sheet outside the Fitness Center prior to the race.

“The goal here is maximum participation by all the groups,” said Maj. Pat Dowling, deputy chief 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Plans. “Groups are given spirit points according to the total number of people that show up for the run.”

The warrior gathering will take place at 3 p.m. at the Charleston Club, and will feature the 437<sup>th</sup>

Civil Engineer and Security Forces Squadrons.

“These will be great briefings,” said Dowling. “Everyone needs to come out and see the hard work these squadrons have done during Operation Enduring Freedom.”

Lt. Col. Paul Braunbeck, 437 AW director of staff, encourages the base to support Thursday’s events and those events in the upcoming months.

“The last YOWS day was a tremendous success,” said Braunbeck. “Everyone is a warrior at Team Charleston. Our folks work hard every day to make the mission a success, and the YOWS events are a great way to showcase base units and build camaraderie through friendly competition.”

Future events include a softball tournament May 14, 8 a.m.-noon, a golf tournament July 12 and the final sports events at the base picnic, August 2.

Each day there is a sports event, there will also be a warrior gathering highlighting another unit on base.

## Know your limits

**Commentary by Staff Sgt. Bart Craven**  
437 AW Safety

Everything in life has limits. Recently, people have exceeded the limits of motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, causing serious injuries to base personnel.

As riders, you must know *your* limits, unlike legal limits such as speed and right-of-way, can only be stretched so far before the consequences become very dire indeed.

These limits are our personal limits, the limits of our machines, and the limits of our environment. To ride safely, we must know these limits and ride within them.

Not even the young among us are immune to personal limits. We are all susceptible. These limits can be imposed by physical conditions such as fatigue, emotion or by medications, both over-the-counter and prescription. As a responsible rider you must also never drink and ride.

Personal limits change constantly. With skill and experience, a rider can compensate for conditions, but still does not accept any undue risk.

Even when we’re at our physical best, our machines pose limits. Obvious ones are type and power. Even the best-maintained bikes and ATVs are subject to routine wear and tear. New tires are slick until the mold release wears off. Cheap tires can offer poor traction under even optimum conditions. Brake pads wear. A poorly cared for vehicle is a two- or four-wheeled disaster waiting to happen.

Even when we and our bikes are in tip-top condition, the environment can sharply define our limits. A twisty back road or wet, muddy surface can severely limit your actions while riding. In these cases, your only choice is to slow down and to avoid any sudden changes in speed or direction.