

DISPATCH

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

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YOWS briefers tell 'war stories'

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Members of the 437th Civil Engineer and Security Forces Squadrons briefed an audience of about 500 at the Charleston Club April 18 during the Year of the Warrior Spirit Warrior Briefing.

The briefers highlighted their contributions both at home and abroad in support of various operations and contingencies.

Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, opened the briefing by praising all of Team Charleston for its contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom and the Air Force mission. He then presented YOWS coins to several people.

Tech. Sgt. James Siroky, 437th Communications Squadron; Master Sgt. David Ingram, 437 AW Command Post; Staff Sergeants Wesley Childers and Eric Sample, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; and 1st Lt. Kelly Daugherty, 15th Airlift Squadron, were recognized for their outstanding efforts, both at home and while deployed.

Following the presentation of the coins, briefers from the 437 CES told their story.

"In late September, probably around the 28th or so, the squadron here at Charleston got the call and knew that we were going to deploy 'over there,'" said Lt. Col. Maria Dowling, 437 CES commander. "With all the hard efforts of everyone in the civil engineering squadron, we got our team ready. It was about 46 personnel. I will say that one of the neatest things about our mobility effort was we got on a jet right here, on our own ramp, on a Charleston C-17, and we arrived at our location 31 hours later, after stopping at two enroute bases."

Dowling said other deployed groups took up to two weeks to get there.

She then turned the briefing over to Master Sgt. Michael Garrou, 437 CES.

"We actually had the best deployed site in the whole AOR (area of responsibility)," Garrou said. "That comes from Secretary (of the Air Force James) Roche, the chief of staff (of the Air Force, Gen. John Jumper), every general, secretary, everyone that came over there was just amazed at what our civil engineers did."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

The Year of the Warrior Spirit Poker Run had Charleston AFB personnel competing for both cards given out at check points along the course and for unit spirit points April 18. The unit with the most "warrior spirit" will be rewarded at the YOWS picnic, scheduled for later this year. The run was followed by a Warrior Briefing at the Charleston Club.

Garrou said at the height of operations at the deployed location, about 190 civil engineers, from a variety of active-duty, Guard and Reserve units were part of the effort to build a base from nothing.

"It was a real team, we melded together," said Garrou. "It was awesome what these guys did."

He then showed a slide with two pictures, which he called his "hair club for men before and after shots." In one picture, the "before" shot, the only thing as far as the eye could see in any direction was sand. In the next, a complete "tent city" was shown.

"After about 30 hours of travel we hit the ground, and for 18 hours after all we did was build tents," Garrou said.

All told, the civil engineers built

220 live tents and 350 facilities total in about three weeks, said Garrou.

At first, the deployed teams lived in a warehouse, according to Garrou. Within 24 hours, everybody was living in air conditioned tents.

Constructing California Medium Shelters for the first time was another big accomplishment for the deployed civil engineers, Garrou said.

"We were the first place in the whole AOR to set these up," Garrou said. "It took us six hours to set the first one up. Thirteen facilities later, we were setting them up in about three hours."

Garrou also praised utilities personnel for the job they did in supplying the installation with water, and the electrical and power professionals for ensuring power was 100 percent reliable.

He also noted the versatility of the heavy equipment operators. He said they did every job other CE people didn't do.

Another key player at the deployed location were the heating and air conditioning personnel, who kept every live tent cool, every day, throughout the deployment.

Garrou then turned the briefing back over to Dowling, who explained what the readiness, explosive ordnance disposal and fire department did at the deployed location, made up of personnel from other bases.

Following the 437 CES briefing, the 437 SFS briefers took the stage to explain their role in recent operations.

Home station operations were the

See YOWS, page 3

IN THE NEWS

Military families celebrate Autism Awareness Month

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

April is Autism Awareness Month, and several military families gathered Monday to discuss how autism affects them.

Adrienne Rousseau, wife of Tech. Sgt. Cy Rousseau, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and the South Carolina representative for Unlocking Autism, said 10 years ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated one in every 10,000 children were affected by autism. Two years ago, that estimate changed to one in 500. Today, the estimate is one in 300, with some areas seeing one in 150 children affected with this disease.

According to Unlocking Autism's Web-site, www.unlockingautism.org, autism is a developmental disability that generally appears in children between 15 and 20 months of age. In most cases, the child is progressing normally, and then begins to regress losing speech, social skills and physical abilities.

While there are varying degrees of severity, most children completely withdraw into a world of their own. Boys are more often affected than girls.

Adrienne became a state representative for Unlocking Autism for a variety of reasons, one being her 5-year-old son, Xander, who has autism.

"I wanted to do something that would help in a significant way to raise awareness, not just locally, but through out the state," Adrienne said.

"I didn't want to focus only on education, but also on legislation, appropriate health care and research funding."

She contacted families from Charleston AFB and from Naval Weapons Station Charleston so they could share their stories with other military families.

"Our four families aren't the only military families here affected by autism," Adrienne said. "But we want people to know this is a problem affecting many families."

Senior Airman Matt Ancell, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, and his wife, Leanna, are raising a 4-year-old son, Bryce, with autism.

"If people are interested, they should ask," Leanna said. "Don't just stare. I'd rather they ask. People may think he's being a bad kid when he throws his fits, or that I'm a bad mom because he only eats from a bottle. What they don't know unless they ask is, if he doesn't have a bottle, he has a feeding tube."

Another family echoed Leanna's remarks.

"Not every child with autism is 'like Rain Man,'" said Brandy Piccard, wife of Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Piccard.

The Piccard's son, Eric, 4, is what many doctors refer to as a "high-functioning" autistic. This has caused some problems for the Piccards when it comes to what treatments insurance will cover.

Mary Fairbairn, wife of Navy Commander Edward Fairbairn, said she's seen what the Piccards are dealing with in her 10 years of caring for her autistic son, Tommy.



Eric Piccard, Bryce Ancell and Xander Rousseau, all age 4, like the slide at the playground just like most kids their age. The three differ in that they face each day with a separate set of challenges unique to children with autism.

"He didn't talk until he was 4," Mary said. "We've come a long way, but we have paid literally thousands and thousands of dollars for the type of therapy he needs."

Tommy did very well with a one-on-one style of therapy called Applied Behavioral Analysis, according to Mary.

"TRICARE covers traditional treatments, but not the more educational treatments," Mary said.

She said the individually designed treatment plan that worked for her son is pivotal, since every child with autism is different and is affected by the disease in different ways.

Adrienne said she'd like to start a support group for siblings of autistic children. She also organizes a support group for families with disabled children, which meets once a month. For more information, contact Adrienne at 207-0629.

Manpower and organization office best in command

By Airman 1st Class
Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Airlift Wing Manpower and Organization office has been named the best in Air Mobility Command for the third time in five years.

The manpower office achieved the AMC Manpower and Organization Award for Professional Excellence in 1997, 1998 and 2001.

"Although minimally manned, our office provided more 'bang for the buck,'" said Robert Adams, MO's former superintendent and current management analyst. "We were able to produce high amounts of quality work."

According to the package, the manpower office ad-

vised the vice commander and group commanders about civilian resources to ensure valid use of money.

"Essentially, we are the commander's management advisor for their manpower and organization," said Tona Cook, MO chief. "When the wing, a group or a squadron is having trouble in their organization, we advise them on how to fix it."

"Sometimes our work is very hands-on, such as when we work on contracting out a function on-base and we work with the unit and several staff agencies to help them collect data on what the contractors will need," Cook continued. "Other times, we are just relaying something from our MAJCOM point of contact to their unit."

The manpower office's package also said they dominated the major command's Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program.

"We not only interact with the wing, but also with higher headquarters," said Adams.

"When AMC tells us we are getting new authorizations, we advise the wing commander on who should get 'the bigger piece of the pie,'" said Adams. "Our technicians make sure that the right Air Force Specialty Codes and the right skill levels are coming to the positions. We work with the wing commander to make sure the people go to the right place."

The manpower office's involvement with the wing's mobility aspect

through guiding the Mobility Tiger Team helped win the award, according to the package.

"We also play a large role in the wing's mobility machine," said Adams.

"Every tasking that comes to this base, comes from this office," continued Adams. "We take the classified document, make sure the tasking is the right AFSC, skill level and squadron, and we make sure it's going to the right deployment location."

"We work with the 437th Logistic Group Plans office and the Personnel Readiness Unit from the Military Personnel Flight to make the documents declassified and we send them out to the units," Adams also said.

The unit has received

several accomplishments such as the "Eagle Look" from the AF Inspection Agency and named an AF "Best Practice" for their Resource Augmentation Duty program.

"Our unit has had several benchmarks," Adams said. "We are pro-active and we don't wait for things to come to us ... we seek things out, that's part of our advisor role."

Cook also mentions their advisory role.

"We're advisors, that's part of our role," said Cook. "We advise commanders."

"However, we touch everyone on base," said Cook. "We work with everyone on base from supervisors to squadron commanders to group commanders to our wing commander."

Holocaust survivor speaks at base remembrance ceremony

Event also attended by local survivors, first hand witness to one camp's liberation by American forces

**By Staff Sgt.
Melanie Streeter**
437 AW Public Affairs

Flora Singer, from the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker at Tuesday's National Days of Remembrance ceremony at the Base Chapel.

"Every time I'm asked to speak, the question arises 'Where do I begin?'" Singer said. "What I really enjoy talking about is the joy of celebration, especially celebrations involving candles, like birthday parties and other occasions.

"But there is a time for everything," she continued. "A time to rejoice and a time to mourn. A time came I thought I'd never see again, where I light candles not for joy, but to mourn, all because of man's hatred of fellow man. I know too well the pain of lighting memorial candles."

Singer spoke about her childhood, cut short when she, her mother and two sisters went into hiding to escape persecution by the Nazi

government.

"We were proud of being Jewish," she said. "Had we been Catholic or Muslim, we would have been proud too, because man always looks up to a higher being. All religions teach love. But the stars were not put on us to be proud, but to be ashamed. And we were. We walked with our heads down."

She described the special rules and laws for Jews, which in addition to wearing the star included not being given a ration card, having to abide by curfews and more.

"Then people started to disappear," Singer said. "On the advice of a German officer, who had been a friend of the family, we fled Antwerp for Brussels. He warned us something was going to happen. When we got to Brussels, my mother told me to go back and warn our neighbors. When I got there, I walked through empty streets. I was too late."

In Brussels, the family changed their identification and took new names. There they met what Singer called a "spark of light."

"He had a factory in Brussels and was a devout Catholic," Singer said. "All the factories had to work for the Germans by day, but at night he worked for the resistance."

"He protected mom, gave her a job, a cross and chain of his wife's and a fake identification card," she continued. "He also hid me, his brother hid one of my sisters, and his secretary hid the other sister."

The arrangements made for the children soon changed, and a Franciscan nun lied to her superiors in order to shelter the children at her convent, Singer said.

"Before we left my mother wagged her finger at me and she said 'God help you if anything happens to the kids,'" explained Singer, who at 11, was the oldest of the three. "I lived in panic 24 hours a day, and I didn't know if I was more afraid of the Gestapo, or mother if something happened to the 'kids.'"

Singer then talked about another hero of the family, Father Bruno, a Benedictine monk.

"He was a liar. He was a

thief. He was a forger. And he was also a monk," Singer said. "He was a criminal, eventually pursued by the Gestapo when they found out he was hiding Jews."

All told, Singer said Father Bruno helped save about 300 Jewish children and 90 adults, including her family.

She finished her address with a story from Maryland, where she and her husband, Jack, live. She said on Easter Sunday, several visitors attended a Presbyterian service. One was Muslim, another Jewish. After the service, the Presbyterian pastor spoke with the visitors, and all three agreed their religions preached the same basic principle: peace.

Singer said she hopes all three can spread that message to their congregations.

Joe Engel, a Holocaust survivor who lives in the local area, has attended the Charleston AFB service for a number of years.

"I think much of it," Engel said. "Things like this should never be forgotten. My friend and I come every year. We've

dedicated our lives to the young generation; they should know what went on in the past. It's unfortunate the world hasn't learned its lesson yet.

"After the second war, I thought we wouldn't have any more," Engel continued. "I never thought I'd be alive to see what happened September 11, when they killed so many good, honest people, who just went to work to make a living."

Charleston resident Charles Cross was also in attendance at the ceremony. Cross witnessed first-hand the atrocities of Buchenwald, a concentration camp, as an Army medic in Europe at the end of the war.

"I very much appreciated the ceremony," Cross said. "It's the kind of thing people all over this country should hear."

According to Jack Singer, his wife's speaking is something she has to do.

"She speaks all over the country because she feels she was spared for just this purpose," he said. "I'm very proud of her."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Bouncing baby girl

Jena Solarzano, 5, daughter of Maj. Patrice Solarzano, 437th Comptroller Squadron commander, takes a bounce on one of the rides set up for children Saturday at this year's Month of the Military Child Festival.

YOWS

continued from page 1

first topic Maj. Jeff Hunt, 437 SFS commander, touched on.

"The war on terror, as everybody knows, started at 9:30 a.m. on September 11," Hunt said. "Immediately our defenders of the force sprung into action. We blocked parking lots, searched every vehicle coming onto base and started ATV patrols."

He said everyone was locked on protecting the base. He also praised augmentees for their contributions.

"At a moments notice, they dropped their specialty, grabbed a gun and came to defend the wing," Hunt said. "I think that's just awesome."

Hunt turned the briefing over the Staff Sgt. Royall Mack, a 437 SFS member deployed to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia.

Mack described the role of security forces while deployed, including securing the area around the base from any possible enemies. He also described past deployments.

Master Sgt. Gregory Arceneaux, another member of the 437 SFS, then continued the briefing.

Arceneaux described his deployment to Kandahar International Airport, Afghanistan, one of three airfields open in combat since the Vietnam War.

Describing the bare base facility, Arceneaux had two words for the audience, "baby wipes." He said when he was at Kandahar, there were no

shower facilities, and latrine facilities were questionable at best.

After Arceneaux described his experiences in Afghanistan, Tech. Sgt. William Kline described the 437 SFS role in the transfer of Taliban and Al Qaeda detainees.

He explained how the detainees were transported by C-17 from Kandahar to another location, where they boarded C-141s for the second leg of the trip to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Once in Cuba, the detainees were transferred to Marine control at Camp X-Ray.

Following Kline's segment, Tech. Sgt. Michael White, 437 SFS, described the role Phoenix Ravens play in keeping aircraft safe.

"After September 11, we became Raven central," White said. "We have the largest number of Ravens in the Air Force here."

At that time, all Air Mobility Command flights became Raven required, meaning a Phoenix Raven had to be on every flight, according to White.

"In 2001, we flew 86 missions," White said. "In the last six months, we've flown 179 missions, which is a 400 percent increase. You talk about opstempo (operations tempo). We know all about that."

Earlier in the day, a YOWS Poker Run was held to promote the warrior spirit at CAFB. Units were given points based on participation, and the most "warrior-like" unit will be presented a trophy at the YOWS picnic later this year.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Promotion: Major George Pierce, 437th Supply Squadron commander, will be promoted to lieutenant colonel in a ceremony today, 2 p.m., in Bldg. 532. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Lara Kalin at 963-4881.

Promotion: Major Kevin Brewer, 437th Transportation Squadron commander, will be promoted to lieutenant colonel in a ceremony Tuesday, 2 p.m., in Salon B at the Charleston Club. For more information, call 1st Lt. Iven King at 963-5436.

Retirement: The 437th Security Forces Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Larry Brazil, who is retiring after 30 years of service, May 3, 2 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tim Moore at 963-6146.

Change of command: Lieutenant Col. Nancy Dezell will take command of the 437th Medical Operations Squadron from Lt. Col. Vickie Moore during a change of command ceremony May 13, 3:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Capt. Thu Scott at 963-6814.

Around the base

Golf tournament: The American

Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its annual golf tournament today 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 include lunch and beverages. There will be giveaways, and prizes will be awarded to the first-place team in each flight, longest 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.

Closure: Access through Stewart Avenue and Graves Avenue will be closed at Stewart Avenue and Davis Drive. Graves Avenue will also be closed at the entrance to the parking lot next to the new Mobility Warehouse construction site. These streets will be closed at 7 a.m. Wednesday until 6 p.m. May 3. Detour will be from Arthur Drive to Stewart Avenue and from Arthur Drive to Graves Avenue.

Closure: The Community Education Center will close at 1:30 p.m. Thursday for Community College of the Air Force graduation practice and will be closed May 3 for the annual CCAF graduation ceremony.

Golf tournament: Charleston

AFB's Top 3 annual golf tournament has been postponed until further notice. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Matt Harless at 963-8004.

Marriage Enhancement Seminar: The 437th Medical Group will offer a marriage enhancement class beginning May 7 and meeting for six consecutive Tuesdays from 6-8:30 p.m. The class is free to base personnel and their spouses. For more information and to register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

Golf tournament: The Charleston Chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association will hold its 10th 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.

Golf Tournament: The 437th Logistics Support Squadron is holding its annual golf tournament May 10 at Wrenwoods Golf Course. Check in for the tournament begins at noon, with play beginning at 1:30 p.m. The \$15 entry fee includes a box lunch and beverages. Greens fees must also be paid by participants prior to the tournament beginning. Mulligan books will be available for \$5. Prizes will be awarded for the top four teams, longest drive and closest to the pin. Prizes include golf passes from several local and Myrtle Beach courses. Dinner and hotel packages are also up for grabs. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Darin Bagley at 963-2339, or Master Sgt. Dan Wright at 963-5956.

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.

Math CLEP: There will be a Math CLEP preparatory class at the Community Education Center May 13-15, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Students who successfully complete the Math CLEP class will be administered the CLEP General Mathematics exam May 16. Successful completion of this test meets the Community College of the Air Force requirement for mathematics. This class will be offered to Air Force personnel assigned to Charleston AFB only, as the purpose is to meet CCAF requirements. Personnel desiring to take this exam must sign up in person at the CEC. All those signed up must confirm their seat no later than 3:30 p.m. May 9, by calling 963-4575. Seats not confirmed will be open to the waiting list.

Assignments: Air Force personnel wanting to update their assignment preferences must do so through their servicing orderly room or military personnel flight while the Assignment Management System Web-site is undergoing maintenance.

Family Support Center

Pre-Deployment Briefing: Monday, 8 a.m.

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

Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Jim and Brenda Gonella Boy Scouts of America Troop #484

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Jim Gonella and his wife, Brenda, are the leaders of Boy Scouts of America Troop #484.

Jim, a Boston native, has worked with the Boy Scouts for more than 21 years. Brenda, a Charleston native, has only been involved since her oldest son started five years ago.

"We actually met because my son was in Jim's troop," said Brenda. "At our wedding, we had about 20 Boy Scouts there ... they had a blast."

The couple enjoys their work in the Boy Scouts for similar reasons.

"It's very fulfilling," said Brenda. "It can be a challenge sometimes, but it's very fulfilling and rewarding to see them grow and change."

Jim also said it was a rewarding experience for him.

"It's a great feeling," Jim said. "It's the best youth program that exists for boys in the country. I believe in the values it instills."

"It has a positive impact as far as it gives them the chance to learn the values of leadership," continued Jim. "You don't really know what impact you have until the boys move away, and you get a note in the mail saying they made the highest rank possible. We must have meant a lot to them if they thought of you enough to send the message."

Putting aside the great impact boy scouts has, Jim also talked about the skills the program instills.

"The program allows the boys to learn several skills such as whitewater rafting, skiing, horseback riding and canoeing as well as they learn about service by doing several community projects each year," Jim said.

COMMENTARY

Awards keep on coming for CAFB members

By Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

It was my honor to recognize our Wing Quarterly Award winners Monday at the Charleston Club. Quarterly award winners were, Airman category, Staff Sgt. **Jason Smith**, 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs; NCO category, Technical Sgt. **Steven Foster**, 437th Mission Support Squadron; Senior NCO category, Senior Master Sgt. **Don Hagen**, 437th Maintenance Squadron; Junior Company Grade Officer category, 2nd Lt. **Lance Merkely**, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Senior CGO category, Capt **Jeffery Baltes**, 437th Communications Squadron; Civilian Category One, **Turner Wilson**, 437th Supply Squadron; Civilian Category Two, **Julie Schoen**, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron; and Honor Guard Member category, Senior Airman **Shawn Thompson**, 437th Transportation Squadron.

At Monday's staff meeting, I was pleased to recognize civil engineer members of the Red Horse Squadron from the Virginia National Guard. The 25-person team, led by Maj. **Steve Phillips**, was responsible for installing a new barrier system for fighter aircraft. Without their help, we would not have an effective barrier arresting system for fighter aircraft across the eastern seaboard.

I recognized several award winners at staff meeting. I recognized 1st Lt. **Catherine Barker**, 437th Manpower and Organization Office and executive officer for the 437th Operations Group, for receiving the Air Mobility Command Manpower Professional Excellence Award for Company Grade Officer of the Year. The 437th Aerial Port Squadron was named the 21st Air Force 2001 Aerial Port Mobility Flight of the Year. Senior Airman **Chad Sharpe**, 437 TRANS, was named the 21 AF 2001 Vehicle Operations Specialist of the Year.

It was recently announced that the 14th Airlift Squadron will receive the 2001 General Joseph Smith Trophy as the best airlift squadron in AMC. This is the second year in a row they have received this honor. Congratulations to everyone in the 14 AS for their superb efforts. Watch for an article in next week's paper.

We forwarded several wing nominees to compete at 21 AF for the 2001 Airlift/Tanker Association Young Leadership Award. 437 AW nominees are Maj. **Corey Martin**, 15th Airlift Squadron; 1st Lt. **Lisa Dobbels**, 437 OG; Staff Sgt. **Rodney Nuckoles**, 14 AS; and Senior Airman **Chad Sharpe**, 437 TRANS. Lt. Col. Michael Thayne, 14 AS, was selected as the 21 AF winner of the 2001 General P. K. Carlton Award for Valor. The awards keep rolling in!

Special congratulations are due to our newest lieutenant colonels on base. Congratulations to Lt. Col. **Mike Pierce**, 437 SUPS, and Lt. Col. **Kevin Brewer**, 437 TRANS.

Technical Sgt. **Michael Breedlove's** outstanding efforts made the National Days of Remembrance ceremony Tuesday a very touching and memorable event for about 100 people who attended the chapel ceremony. Flora Singer, from the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker. Singer, her two younger sisters and her mother fled Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II and had gone into hiding. She spoke about that traumatic experience and gave the audience a special appreciation of what Jews and others faced throughout German-occupied Europe and Russia during that dark period in history.

As mentioned in last week's column, the Year of the Warrior Spirit briefings were an outstanding success, and the information provided by our warriors in the 437 CES and 437th Security Force

Squadron was truly memorable. A special thanks to Lt. Col. **Maria Dowling**, 437 CES commander, and Maj. **Jeff Hunt**, 437 SFS commander, for their superb and sometimes humorous presentations. Master Sgt. **Gregory Arenceaux** and Staff Sgt. **Royall Mack**, both from the 437 SFS, talked about their deployed experiences while Tech. Sgt. **Michael White**, another 437 SFS member, discussed the AMC Security Forces Phoenix Raven program. See the story on page 1 for more details.

We had a full house and look forward to the next series of briefings by our warriors in the 437th Logistics Group May 14 at 3 p.m. in the Charleston Club. There will be a YOWS softball tournament between the various groups from 8 a.m. to noon at the base softball fields that same day. Get your teams ready for the single elimination softball tournament, hosted by our Company Grade Officers' council. Mark your calendar now!

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, the famed Candy bomber during the Berlin Airlift, and his wife, Lorraine, will be our guests at the Airman Leadership School graduation May 2, 6:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Colonel Halvorsen will talk about his efforts to bring a little cheer to the children of Berlin during that crisis. Earlier that day, they will tour a number of areas on the base, to include the 373rd Training Squadron Field Training Detachment 5, the 14 AS, the 437 AGS Gator Sortie Generation Flight, and the Boeing C-17 simulator. Colonel Halvorsen is a great speaker and everyone will enjoy his presentation.

We bid farewell next week to Col. **Jim and Dixie Roberts**, 315th Operations Group commander, at a dinner May 4. They have served the 315th for more than 21 years, and we really hate to see them go. The change of command is May 5 at 10 a.m. in the C-17 Nosedock. We welcome Col. Steve Lesniewski in as the new 315 OG commander.

Jim has streamlined the C-17 training requirements and has created an outstanding relationship between the 315 and 437 OGs. This seamless relationship has made our relationship one that other active duty and Reserve associate wings seek to emulate. They have been key to making us as good as we are. They are headed to 22nd Air Force at Dobbins AFB, Ga., where Jim will become the director of operations. We wish them well in their new assignment and thank them for their hard work.

We have a full slate of activities that Master Sgt. **James Kincheloe** has lined up as our project officer for Asian Pacific Heritage Month, which kicks off in May. Take some time to participate in these events and learn about different cultures. Planned activities include a Taste of Asia May 4 at 11 a.m., Asian Pacific Heritage Luau May 31 at 3 p.m. and a special ethnic meal at the base dining facility May 14.

I am off to AMC for a commander's conference this week, called Phoenix Rally. I am sure I will receive a bunch of kudos about the accomplishments of our people at this conference.

My next assignment was recently announced, and I will become the next vice commander at 5th Air Force, Yokota AB, Japan. Col. Brooks Bash, currently assigned to the National Security Council at the White House, is slated to assume command of the 437 AW June 3. I will savor every moment at Charleston until the very day that I leave.

Please continue to keep charging forward. Your pride, professionalism and passion have set the bar very high for all to emulate, and we enjoy an outstanding reputation throughout the Department of Defense. I consider myself the luckiest man in the world to command a wing with such talented and dedicated



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tyrone Jackson

Staff Sgt. Eric Samples, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, accepts a Year of the Warrior Spirit coin from Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, during the YOWS Warrior Briefing April 18, while Staff Sgt. Wesley Childers, 437 APS, his wife, Kimberly, and son, Hunter, look on.

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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FEATURE



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Cedric Rudisill, 1 CTCS

A B-25 Mitchell Bomber lands after a demonstration at the Columbia-Owens Downtown Airport, Columbia, S.C.

Doolittle's Raiders together again

Surviving members of historic flight meet in Columbia, S.C., for 60th reunion

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Eighty men watched the sunrise over the Pacific from the deck of the USS Hornet and readied for the flight of their lives. Sixty years later, 14 of the remaining 23 met in Columbia, S.C., to remember that day, those who survive honoring those who've taken their final flight.

Members of Charleston AFB's Company Grade Officers' Council traveled to Columbia April 19 to experience first hand the 60th Reunion of the Doolittle Raiders.

Capt. Joseph Trechter, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, said he saw something about the reunion and decided to pursue it as both a way to learn more about Air Force history and a way to tell CAFB's story.

Trechter and other CGOC members set up poster boards explaining

the C-17 mission at the Adams Mark Hotel, where a variety of Raiders-related memorabilia was on display. Raiders were also on hand to sign autographs for the public.

"I met a guy who flew the P-47 (Thunderbolt) in the Pacific," said 1st Lt. Pat McCoy, 14th Airlift Squadron pilot. "It was kind of interesting to get that perspective."

Another CGOC member met another example of living Air Force history.

"While standing in front of an F-4U Corsair, an elderly gentleman asked me to snap a photo for him," said Capt. Jeffrey Gray, 1st Combat Camera Squadron. "Through conversation, I learned that he had worked on F-4Us during World War II and the Korean War. He had not seen one in person since he'd come home from the Korean War and was very excited to talk about it."

Gray said the man's story was inspirational.

"At 81-years-old, he took up playing guitar and harmonica and was already performing in front of others," Gray said. "Despite the death of his wife, he was forging ahead, learning new things and living to the fullest he could. A very nice guy, with a lesson for all of us."

Gray said he chose to attend the event to pick up a piece of history.

"I belong to the American Legion, and I always enjoy going to veteran events," said Gray. "The World War II generation is slipping away from us at an increasing rate, and we should take the time now to learn what we can from them."

McCoy said he also talked to the pilots of some of the B-25 Mitchell

bombers, on display at the Columbia-Owens Downtown Airport.

"They're involved in preserving the B-25 so they can continue to showcase it to today's generation," McCoy said. "They can't really appreciate it if they never see it."

Seeing is disbelieving in the case of the propeller-driven aircraft.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 1941, enemy forces overran one base after another in the Pacific. Seeing the slump in American morale, President Franklin Roosevelt wanted a daring air assault into the heart of enemy territory to boost spirits and prove the United States capable of retaliation for the unprovoked attack.

That daring assault came to life April 18, 1942, when then Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle led 16 B-25 bombers off the deck of the USS Hornet, a Navy carrier. The raid resulted in the bombing of five major cities in the Japanese islands, including the capital city, Tokyo.

Doolittle knew it was possible to launch the bombers from the Hornet, using only 460 feet of the

carrier's deck, even though the aircraft were heavily loaded with bombs and extra fuel for the expected 1,600 mile flight. They were to depart the carrier 400 miles from Japan, hit their targets and then fly another 1,200 to friendly bases in China.

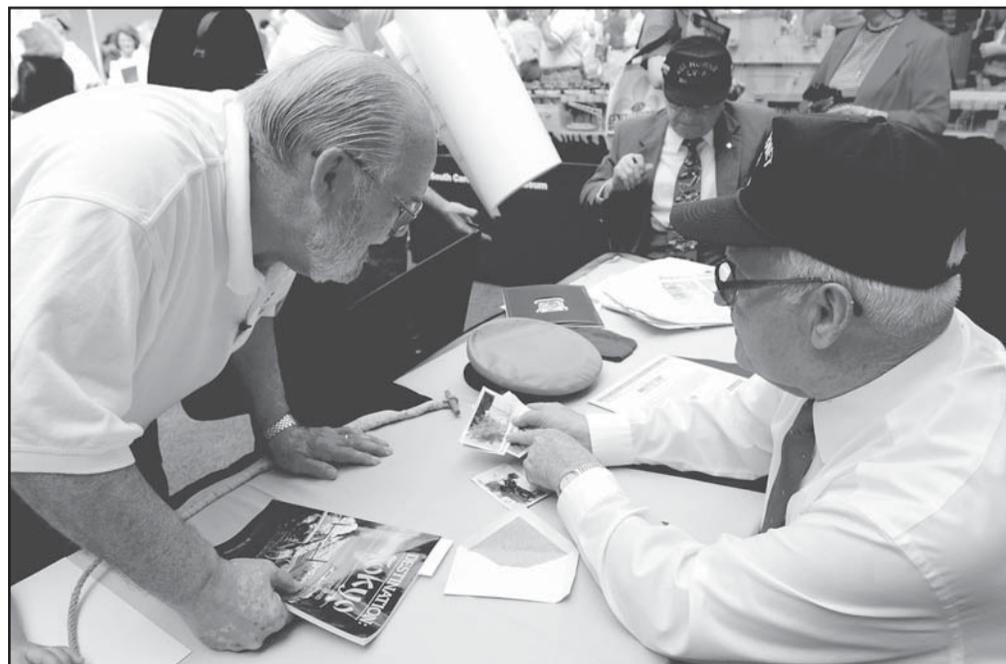
But all did not go according to plan. At 3:10 a.m. the day of the raid, radar operators on the USS Enterprise spotted what turned out to be a Japanese vessel on their screens. The fleet changed course and avoided the ship, but this was just the first of many circumstances that conspired to jeopardize the mission.

At daylight, the Enterprise launched patrol aircraft, which soon found another vessel about 40 miles from the fleet. The task force soon discovered something American intelligence efforts failed to pick up. Japan had stationed hundreds of fishing boats with radios in a picket line 600-800 miles off the coast. About an hour after daybreak, crew members of

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Looking out from the cockpit of a B-25 Mitchell bomber, 1st Lt. Dan Fehl, 14th Airlift Squadron, enjoys his time at the Doolittle Raiders reunion April 19 in Columbia, S.C.



Jerry Strickland, a medic on the USS Hornet during the famous mission, shows Chuck Pelle, from Columbia, photos of himself with some of the aircrew that took part in Doolittle's raid on Japan.

RAIDERS

continued from page 10

the cruiser USS Vincennes spotted one of these fishing boats about 12 miles away. Cannons from the USS Nashville sank the boat, but it was too late. Intercepted Japanese radio transmissions revealed the boat had already relayed the fleet's position to Japan. Although Doolittle's raiders were 700 miles from the coast, instead of the 400 miles planned for, it was decided to launch them at once.

The first B-25 left the Hornet at 8:25 a.m., with Doolittle at the controls. All 16 aircraft launched safely and went on to drop their bombs on oil stores, factory areas and military installations on the Japanese islands before heading out across the East China Sea.

Things didn't get any easier for the Raiders. Night was approaching, and the B-25s were running low on fuel. The weather deteriorated rapidly. The crews realized they could not reach the Chinese airfields as planned. With the exception of one crew that diverted to Vladivostok, Russia, they were forced to bail out, ditch at sea or crash-land.

Stuck in Japanese-occupied China, many of the crews went into hiding. With the help of friendly Chinese, some of the crews escaped to "Free China."

On Aug. 15, 1942, the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai revealed that eight American flyers were prisoners of the Japanese Police in that city. Of the eight, three were executed and one died from mistreatment and deplorable conditions. The remaining four spent the war as prisoners and weren't released until it was over.

Doolittle thought the attack was a failure, due to the total loss of aircraft. However, the raid resulted in a tremendous boost in American morale and caused the Japanese to revise their strategy of conquest. Japanese forces attacked Midway two months after the Doolittle operation with a huge task force. They lost the resulting battle, as American planes sank four aircraft carriers and caused the enemy to withdraw.

Each of Doolittle's Raiders received the Distinguished Flying Cross for their efforts in the mission. Two Raiders also received the Silver Star for valor in helping their fellow Raiders. Doolittle was promoted to brigadier general, skipping entirely the rank of colonel. He also received the Medal of Honor from Roosevelt for his gallantry in leading the mission.

They watched the sun rise that morning, with no idea what was to come. Not one of those ordinary men knew they'd come home extraordinary heroes.

Goblets a part of Raiders' tradition



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Davey Jones (right) leads a group of Doolittle Raiders in toasting their fallen comrades during the ceremony at their 60th reunion.

Eighty silver goblets were transported from their display case at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., to the 60th Doolittle Raiders reunion that began in Columbia, S.C., April 17.

Each silver goblet bears the name of one of the 80 Doolittle Raiders famous for the April 18, 1942, mission to bomb Tokyo as symbolic revenge on Japan for the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The goblets are kept at the academy and escorted to each reunion by the top two academically ranked junior cadets.

The Raiders tradition is that when they gather for a reunion, they toast and then turn over the goblet of those that have passed away since their last meeting. Two goblets were turned over at this year's reunion and now 23 goblets remain upright.

At the academy, a bottle of 1896 cognac -- symbolizing the year Doolittle was born -- is displayed in the case with the goblets. Doolittle's wish is that the remaining two Raiders will use that bottle to drink a final toast to their comrades. **(AFNS)**

437 SUPS Fuels superintendent named best in Air Force

Nineteen years of service pay off for senior master sergeant; troops laud mentorship, leadership

**By Airman 1st Class
Amy Perry**
437 AW Public Affairs

A Team Charleston member was recently named best in the Air Force in his career field.

Senior Master Sgt. Harold Stafford, 437th Supply Squadron Fuels Flight superintendent, was named as a 2001 Air Force Supply or Fuels Outstanding Personnel of the Year.

"I was deployed most of the year in 2001, and my commander told me he wanted to put me in for the award," said

Stafford. "I was fortunate enough to be involved in some of the larger projects on base."

According to his award package, Stafford superbly managed a 74-person flight, providing 47 million gallons of fuel to Charleston AFB. Among many other achievements listed in the package, Stafford was also named as an outstanding mentor.

"The most important thing is working with the troops," Stafford said. "There are many young men and women in this flight who are new to the military and it's our job to make sure they go the right way."

Some of Stafford's troops echoed the package's statement about Stafford's mentorship.

"He's shown me what I can do with my career and sets a good example for me to follow by," said Airman 1st Class Daniel Murray, 437 SUPS Mobile Equipment operator. "He seems to do everything the right way and he tries to help us out as much as he can."

Tech. Sgt. Steven Beasley, 437 SUPS Fuels Resource Control Center NCOIC, agreed with Murray.

"Sergeant Stafford allows

you to do your job you're assigned to do," said Beasley.

"He also allows you to better yourself by taking classes and he wants you to do the best you can,"

Beasley said Stafford was a role model for him.

"With the number of years he's been in, he's an inspiration," said Beasley. "He's shown me how to do what I needed to do to make rank and progress in fuels."

Beasley and Stafford both said they work for a great flight. They gave the whole flight credit for the award.

"This is one of the better

flights in fuels," said Beasley. "By him winning the award, it's a reflection on the entire flight and it shows that we must be a top flight."

Stafford's flight commander had nothing but praise for the best Air Force supply and fuels specialist.

"Sergeant Stafford has an excellent reputation all over the Air Force," said 2nd Lt. Telithia Lewis, Fuels Flight commander. "You can be sure that the fuels flight is being well taken care of; knowing we have the number one Air Force specialist heading up the shop."

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.

"We Were Soldiers" – Mel Gibson

In a small clearing called zone X-Ray, Lt. Col. Hal Moore and 400 young fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, all troopers from an elite American combat division, were surrounded by 2,000 North Vietnamese soldiers. The ensuing battle was one of the most savage in U.S. history. **(R) 138 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Resident Evil" – Milla Jovovich

A virus has escaped in a secret facility called "The Hive" turning all researches into hungry zombies and releasing mutated lab animals that they were studying. The government sends in an elite military task force to contain the virus before it escapes and infects the rest of the world. **(R) 100 minutes**

May 3, 7:30 p.m.

"Showtime" – Robert De Niro, Eddie Murphy

Two very different police officers, a straight-laced, no-nonsense type and a showboating, outlandish rookie with attitude are forced to work together. As stars of a new reality-based TV show, a major city's police department hopes the two will boost their publicity, morale and image in general. **(PG-13) 92 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Hurricanes skate to second-place finish in Ice Palace tourney

By Staff Sgt. Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston AFB Hurricanes ice hockey team skated to a 3-3 tie in their inaugural game April 19 at the Carolina Ice Palace.

The team participated in the weekend-long tournament to get ready for regular season play, which should start May 12.

Jonathan Connor, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, scored the Hurricane's first goal on an assist from Jeff Openbrier, 437th Maintenance Squadron. Connor and Denis Paquette, 17th Airlift Squadron, assisted Openbrier in the final two Hurricane's goals of the game.

The Canes went on to lose their next two games, but came back strong with a 4-0 shutout in game

4. The win earned them a second-place spot in the tournament.

"Banks (Jeramie, 373rd Training Squadron) looked like Dominik Hasek in goal," said Karl Nichols, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron and Hurricanes player/coach. "He was unstoppable. It was amazing. He kept us in the game early by stopping a few breakaways and keeping our spirits high."

With Banks acting as a brick wall in net, Paquette was able to do the rest, leading the team with two goals.

Matt Mons, Carolina Ice Palace hockey director, said he had his concerns about the first-year Hurricanes playing in the tournament, but he quickly realized they would be a strong team.

"To be honest, after watching you guys practice on Wednesday mornings, I was a little worried for you," said Mons. "You guys played real well though. It's obvious you're in the Air Force because you guys were in great shape. What you lacked in talent, you made up for in work ethic."



While Mons doesn't think there are any future NHLers on the team, he did predict the team would finish the season better than 500.

The Hurricanes should have their schedule for the upcoming season by the next issue of the *Airlift Dispatch*. All games are free to attend and will all be held at the Carolina Ice Palace.

For CAFB Hurricanes future season standings, go to www.carolinaicepalace.com, click the ice hockey link and click the senior league standings link.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Lowell Armstrong, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, clears the puck from the defensive zone following a save by goalie Jeramie Banks, 373rd Training Squadron.



The CAFB Hurricanes win a face off in their own zone during Friday's action.