

DISPATCH

Vol. 41, No. 7

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

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Dog kennel opens Tuesday

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB's military working dogs moved into a new home Tuesday with the opening of their new \$493,000 facility.

Maj. Jeffery Hunt, 437th Security Forces Squadron commander, called the event miraculous.

"This is a miracle, our dog kennels being opened," he said. "It took a lot of people and push to make this happen."

The 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, Col. Karl Young, also praised the new building.

"This building is very appropriate for our dogs and dog handlers," Young said. "Our K-9 corps has distinguished itself in many ways. These people are often the first on the scene for many taskings and are called upon at many locations. This is a first class



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

See KENNEL, page 2

The 437th Security Forces Squadron's Military Working Dogs lined up to move into their new home Tuesday. The 2,600 square foot kennel is climate controlled, can house up to ten dogs and includes office, kitchen and break areas.

Local radio stations lead community in show of support

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Clear Channel Communications, Bi-Lo and Lowcountry residents came together Feb. 14 to honor the men and

women of Charleston AFB.

Oldies 102.5 and Talk Radio 730 broadcasted live from the Bi-Lo on Dorchester Road, while shoppers were invited to sign a seven- by three-foot banner with well wishes and rubber-stamped kisses to be

presented to CAFB.

The fact that the banner signing was on Valentine's Day was no coincidence, according to Kain Cameron, Oldies 102.5 personality. Clear Channel wanted to hold the event on a day when they would get a good turn out of people.

"It's busy today because lots of shoppers are getting last minute Valentine flowers and food to cook a Valentine's meal," said Cameron. "I did this last year, and it's really cool that I get to do this two years in a row."

Sabrina Lavender, Clear Channel senior marketing consultant, said after looking over a list of suggested promotions, the banner idea was a given.

"A lot of advertising ideas came down from a company that suggests promotions," said Lavender. "When we looked over the list, this one was a no brainer. We are constantly thinking about our

folks in Afghanistan, and since we have CAFB right in our backyard, we thought it would be a great chance to show our support."

The Afghanistan and CAFB tie that Lavender made couldn't be more appropriate, said Cameron. She said she has some regular listeners from the base, and some of the ones who call her from time-to-time have made trips into and over the Afghanistan area.

All the Clear Channel representatives at the event agreed the company has always been supportive of the military. According to Devin Grant, Talk Radio 730 personality and Desert Storm Army veteran, Clear Channel often runs promotions just to show their enthusiasm toward the men and women in uniform.

"It's nice to do things like this," said Grant. "Instead of saying 'Come out and buy this or that,' you can just say,

'Come out and support your military.'"

The radio stations' promotion didn't end when the last person signed the banner. Grant and Lavender, along with other Clear Channel representatives, brought the banner on base Tuesday and presented it to Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, at the wing staff meeting.

After the banner was presented, Young let the group know their efforts may travel farther than expected. He announced the base would send the banner to deployed military members as soon as possible.

Grant was especially excited by Young's news.

"In the Gulf (Desert Storm), letters and cards addressed to 'Any Servicemember' meant so much," Grant said. "I know what they're going through, and thoughts and well wishes from home are just so important."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Kain Cameron, Oldies 102.5 personality, plants a kiss on a banner to show her support of local military members.

IN THE NEWS

Three CAFB members named AMC Marquez winners

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Three Charleston AFB members were announced as Air Mobility Command winners of Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Awards.

Two NCOs from the 437th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, Master Sgt. Scott Hinebaugh and Staff Sgt. Michael Pizzi, and one from the 437th Communications Squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Michael David, will move on to compete for an Air Force-level award.

In the Munitions Maintenance category, Hinebaugh won the Supervisor-Manager field and Pizzi won the Technician-Supervisor field. David won the Supervisor-Manager field in the Communications-Electronics Maintenance category.

According to Chief Master Sgt. John Hagin, 437 MXS superintendent, Hinebaugh and Pizzi have to be proficient at more munitions duties than their counterparts at larger weapons bases.

"Charleston AFB's munitions section is unique," said Hagin. "At larger munitions bases, there are four separate sections to work in; inspection,

Named in honor of retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez, these awards recognize maintenance operations in the categories of Aircraft, Munitions/Missile and Communications-Electronics Maintenance. The award is presented to maintainers who have demonstrated the highest degree of sustained job performance, job efficiency and results, job knowledge, and direct sortie generation involvement.

Marquez retired from the Air Force in 1987 as Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics and Engineering, headquarters USAF. Throughout his Air Force career, Marquez held frontline maintainers in the highest esteem. He believed they were the key to mission accomplishment.

storage, operations and maintenance. Here, our munitions personnel work in all four."

According to their nomination packages, both Hinebaugh and Pizzi were instrumental in the preparation for the 21st Air Force Weapons Safety visit. The munitions flight received high praises during the visit.

Hagin went on to say he is very proud of the munitions flight and he hopes the winners do well at the Air Force level.

"I think they'll be very competitive," Hagin said. "They've done lots of good things. The whole shop does great work. A lot of people don't even realize that we have munitions here. There's a lot more to it than just flares and bullets."

Hinebaugh and Pizzi echoed Hagin's sentiments, and all three stressed the team concept behind the awards.

"I'm deeply honored to be recognized," said Pizzi. "The real recognition should go to my fellow ammo troops with whom I have the pleasure to work with. It is our team work and dedication to the mission that makes us all successful."

Neither Hinebaugh nor Pizzi are ready to say they will definitely win at the Air Force level, but they both agreed they are excited about representing the 437 MXS.

"The competition at the Air Force level will be fierce," said Hinebaugh. "There are a lot of outstanding ammo troops around the world, but I'm proud to represent AMC in this category."

David, who will represent the 437 CS, said his award also came on behalf of a team effort.

"Some of the things in my package include working to install the new 911 system and being part of the 10-year Desert Storm Anniversary held in Kuwait," said David. "You don't do these things on your own. Everyone helps out. I'm proud of how everyone did."

Capt. Jon Bakonyi, 437 CS Mission Systems Flight commander, while excited, wasn't surprised by David's win at AMC.

"He could run the place by himself," said Bakonyi. "He knows what needs done, gets the job done and doesn't let obstacles stand in his way."

Bakonyi said a lot of anticipation surrounds the Air Force results because he really thinks David has a good chance at winning.

"This is the best shot we've had to win at the Air Force level in a while," said Bakonyi. "We're resting our hope in him."

All three CAFB nominees should find out how they did at the Air Force level when the results are released sometime before Monday.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Ridin' high

Senior Airman Derek Woodard (left), ground radio maintenance, and Staff Sgt. Jason Gardner, cable and antenna specialist, both Air National Guardsmen here on temporary duty from the 202nd Electronic Installation Squadron, Macon, Ga., perform preventive maintenance on the base command and control antennas behind Bldg. 1600.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, base dental clinic stresses early preventive measures

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. The 437th Medical Group's Deily Dental Clinic notes that with proper care and regular checkups children's teeth can remain healthy and decay free and last a lifetime.

Bacteria causes tooth decay. Bacteria are found in a sticky, colorless film called plaque. For tooth decay to occur, three elements must be present: plaque, food containing sugars and starches, and a susceptible tooth. When foods containing sugars and starches are left in the mouth, plaque bacteria produce acids that can dissolve tooth enamel. The sticky plaque holds these acids onto the teeth, where they attack the enamel. After repeated attacks, the enamel may break down, forming a cavity.

To prevent tooth decay, daily tooth brushing and flossing are needed to remove harmful plaque from the child's teeth. Children should clean their teeth twice a day with a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. Flossing will remove plaque between the teeth

and under the gum-line, areas where a toothbrush cannot reach. Supervising children while brushing and flossing will ensure a proper job is done.

In some instances, a parent should be brushing for their child. If a child cannot write their name by themselves, then the parent should be brushing for them.

Dental sealants can help prevent or reduce tooth decay. A sealant is a clear or shaded plastic material that is applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (premolars and molars), where decay occurs most often. The sealant acts as a barrier, protecting the decay-prone areas of the back teeth from plaque and acid.

Each tooth takes only a few minutes to seal in the dental office. When the sealant is applied, finger-like strands penetrate the pits and fissures of the tooth

enamel. Although the sealant cannot be easily seen with the naked eye, the protective effect of these strands continues. As a result, it may be several years

before another application of sealant is needed. Reapplication of the sealant will continue to protect against decay and may save time and expense of restoring a decayed tooth. Sealants are checked during the child's regular dental visits to determine if reapplication is necessary.

For long-lasting, healthy smiles, the Deily Dental Clinic recommends a total prevention program including regular dental exams and cleanings, the use of fluoride toothpaste, daily brushing and flossing, and avoiding frequent between-meal snacks. If these measures are followed and sealants are applied to the child's teeth, the risk of decay can be reduced or even eliminated.

(Information submitted by the Deily Dental Clinic staff.)



New commander sets priorities for AMC: Readiness rates No. 1 on command's list

By Staff Sgt. Scott Leas
AMC News Service Editor

Air Mobility Command's new commander, Gen. John Handy, calls the opportunity to command the world's premier mobility force an extraordinary and humbling experience.

"I take incredible pride in what I've found in this command," said the general. "All of the people in AMC are an inspirational example of military professionalism. They provide our nation the airlift capability necessary to take our forces to the fight."

As with most new commanders, Handy has a vision for where he would like to take AMC, but not at the cost of tried and true methods. He prefers a smooth transition with a follow through from previously developed programs.

"As the commander of AMC, I have no desire to develop new procedures or policies above and beyond that which already exist," said Handy. "Current AMC procedures have been well-tested by time and circumstance and have proven reliable for the execution of our mission."

While the general feels

there is no need for great change for the command, he understands there is always room for improvement and welcomes new ideas to increase mission productivity from those who accomplish the job on a daily basis.

"It is my opinion that the most creative and innovative concepts for process improvement come from individual specialists skilled in the art of accomplishing their daily tasks," explained Handy. "These people are far more in tune to the specifics of what it takes to get the job done and how to improve these processes than our senior leadership. I encourage people to be innovative in what they do, yet thoughtful in their work and how they look at processes."

While Handy encourages AMC's people to strive for improvement, he knows that ultimately he is responsible for setting the command's priorities and says the command's number one priority is readiness.

"Air Mobility Command has been, and will continue to be, a ready force," said Handy. "However, readiness is still a strong concern because the world is watching, especially

after the terrorist acts of Sept. 11. Our enemies only need to look at all we have accomplished since Sept. 11 to know how strong the arm of Air Mobility Command is, as evidenced by the Herculean efforts of our mobility warriors.

"We delivered more than 2.4 million Humanitarian Daily Rations to an oppressed people half way around the world while simultaneously supporting air strikes to crush the oppressive Taliban regime," the general said. "As for the people who would threaten this nation, we've hunted them down and we will continue to hunt them down until we root them out wherever they are in the world. You can't do that without AMC."

The general is concerned however about how long AMC can sustain current operations and personnel tempo.

"We need to look at where our efforts will be focused after Afghanistan," said Handy. "Our mobility system must be very ready to do its job. We will do everything we can to sustain readiness and make whatever improvements are necessary."

"Having ready, motivated people is not enough to ac-

complish the Global Reach mission," he said. "A force must have modern weapon systems to meet today's military challenges, and AMC is focusing on several of its aircraft for modernization."

"A full C-17 acquisition is the command's first modernization priority," said Handy. "We are working diligently to get a follow-on multi-year procurement contract in place and ramp up to 180 aircraft, and ultimately I hope to see us be able to acquire a minimum of 222."

"That would put AMC in a position to meet requirements of the Mobility Requirements Study and give us a lift capability to do the things we are supposed to do," he added.

However, Handy explains the C-17 cannot do it alone.

"Next is C-5 modernization. We need to increase C-5 mission capable rates. By upgrading the aircraft's avionics and re-engining it, we'll take a fairly mature weapons system and extend its lifetime well into this century," he said.

Full procurement of the C-17 along with C-5 modernization will provide a balanced lift capability for the com-

mand, but the command's aging tanker fleet is also a concern.

"Our aging KC-135 tanker fleet is another concern. We know we're going to have to step up to the plate some day and modernize this aircraft, but we are not at that point yet," said Handy. An interim solution is the possibility of leasing aircraft. Current Congressional legislation allows the Secretary of the Air Force to study the option of leasing up to 100 Boeing 767s for use in the air-refueling mission.

"That will allow us to retire all of our KC-135E models and transition R-models into the reserve component," he said.

Other long-term modernization goals include establishing a multi-year procurement contract for C-130Js and replacement of an aging C-9 aeromedical evacuation fleet.

In closing, Handy said, "Everyone in AMC should take enormous pride in the fact they are a part of a historical endeavor in the war on terrorism. Be they active duty, reserve, guard or civilian, everyone is pulling together to fulfill our Global Reach mission. We are truly one Air Force - one fight."

KENNEL

continued from page 1

facility for them to enjoy. Their old kennels were in terrible shape, and I'm happy to see them move into this new building."

Military working dog handlers were looking forward to the opening for a long time.

"It is nice to see a great facility for

our dogs," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Smith, 437 SFS dog handler. "This is a day long overdue for our dogs and handlers."

The new building, Bldg. 649, is located behind the Outdoor Recreation Center. Currently, six handlers, the kennel master and a trainer are assigned to the unit. With 2,600 square feet of space, the new facility can hold 10 dogs, three more than are as-

signed to Charleston. Eight of the kennels are eight by 10 feet, and two similar sized quarantine kennels are available for sick dogs. The building also features office areas, a kitchen and break areas.

The facility is unique in that it provides a separate climate-controlled environment for the dogs and their handlers.

Another unique feature is the presence of Rambo. Rambo was a military working dog that spent all of his life working at CAFB. When Rambo passed away, his ashes were kept by the squadron. During construction of the new kennel, those ashes were interred in the concrete, linking the future of Charleston's working dogs to their past.

The new building has doubled the size of the unit's old kennels, which were in poor condition.

In addition to the new facility, dogs also have use of a new fenced in training area, complete with new training props.

The dogs are trained in drug and explosive detection, and attack procedures. Four of the dogs housed at the kennel are Belgian Malinois, two are German Shepherds and one is a Labrador.

Staff Sgt. Scott Shafer, another handler, said the facility really shines.

"We should be in the running for Facility of the Month now," he said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

(Left-right) Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, Staff Sgt. Chris Collins, military working dog kennel master, and Maj. Jeffery Hunt, 437th Security Forces Squadron commander, cut the police tape and open the new military working dog facility located behind the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Base School Committee to meet Tuesday at FSC

In February, the Base School Committee will continue its agenda with Ruth Cohen, Lambs Elementary Principal. The forum will be addressing education at the elementary level (specifically Lambs Elementary) and will be held at the Family Support Center on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Parents of current Lambs Elementary students and of children just starting elementary school are encouraged to attend. Cohen will give an update on what's new, including renovations at the school. Additionally, she will field questions from parents.

The committee meets the fourth Tuesday of every month and is currently working on the following initiatives: transfer/interpretation of records; emotional needs; effective partnership (schools/base/parents); information technology; and parental involvement.

If interested in assisting in these endeavors or for additional information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Allan Harris at 963-2202.

NEWS BRIEFS

Around the base

National Prayer luncheon: The 50th National Prayer Luncheon will be held Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Scheduled to speak is Chaplain (Col.) Charles Locklin, Air Mobility Command Chaplain. The luncheon costs \$5 for club members and \$7 for non-members. For more information or for tickets, contact a first sergeant or call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.

OSA: The Officers' Spouses' Association will hold a silent auction at the Charleston Club March 1, 5-7 p.m. There will be a variety of items and services available for bids.

Ceremony: There will be a massing of the colors March 10, 3 p.m., at Summerall Chapel, on the Citadel campus. According to a Citadel release, it will be a colorful, dignified, patriotic ceremony dedicated to the memory of those members of the military services who gave their lives to preserve the nation's liberties and to honor those who have served and are serving to ensure continued freedom.

Commissioning: There will be a Commissioning Briefing March 20, 10-11:30 a.m., at the Community Education Center. The briefing will be conducted by Capt. Dennis Nuttall, Unit Admissions Officer for AFROTC Detachment 772, Charleston Southern University. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 963-4575.

Project LINK: Volunteers are needed to mentor/tutor students at Brentwood and Alice Birney Middle Schools. The program is scheduled to begin in mid-March and will run through the end of the school year. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith at 963-3383.

AFSA: More than 155,000 active duty and retired Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve enlisted people of all grades belong to the Air Force Sergeants Association. AFSA's mission is to advocate improved quality of life and economic fairness to support the well being of Air Force enlisted personnel and their families. AFSA meetings are

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Senior Airman Michael Kennedy 437th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Michael Kennedy is a desk sergeant for the 437th Security Forces Squadron. During his shift, he is responsible for answering phones, including 911 calls, dispatching patrols, monitoring and controlling communications over the radio, authenticating with alarmed facilities and preparing all flight paperwork.

Since he is certified as a desk sergeant, Kennedy can also perform other security and police duties around Charleston AFB. One day, Kennedy may answer a call for help, and the next day he may be the one responding to the incident.

"I love the job," said Kennedy. "It's definitely good experience. Working at different bases as you move during your career allows you to learn state and federal laws. I know the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice) pretty well, and that's an advantage while out on the road."

Kennedy is a recent graduate of Airman Leadership School and has a line number for staff.

"I'm looking forward to being an NCO," said Kennedy. "I'm excited about the increased responsibilities."

Immediately after graduating ALS, Kennedy was made a supervisor. He said he's happy to take on the additional challenge because he can now directly help his subordinates.

When Kennedy isn't working, he said he spends his time with his girlfriend, Elizabeth. He's also working on his Community College of the Air Force degree and plans on making the Air Force a career.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

held at 4:30 p.m., the second Tuesday of every month, in the Daedalian Room at the Charleston Club. For more information about AFSA, and to learn about members-only services, go to www.AFSAHQ.org.

Reunion: The 22nd Military Airlift Squadron reunion is planned for April 19-21 at Travis AFB, Calif. For more information, call Jack Bostick at (707) 425-3895.

Consignment: The Consignment Shop's hours are Tuesday, Thurs-

day and Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday night, 6-8 p.m., and the first Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop is located in Bldg. 203, Graves Street. For more information, call 963-3294.

Limestone: Limestone College will have a representative on base every Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-noon, at the Community Education Center. Limestone offers a non-traditional approach to education. Classes are four weeks long, and students may start at any time. For

more information, call 745-1100 or 963-7298.

CSAF survey: The Air Force chief of staff wants to know what changes Air Force people want in their organizations, and what those people think of the leaders they work for, from the squadron level through higher headquarters. To find out, the Chief of Staff survey is going on now. Air Force members may go to <http://csafsurvey.af.mil/> from a government computer or to www.csafsurvey.com from a home computer to complete the survey now-Mar. 8. The process takes about 45 minutes to complete, and surveys started on the .com site must be completed on the .com site.

Family Support Center

Pre-deployment Briefing: Monday, 8-8:30 a.m.

Resume II: Tuesday, 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 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.

NCO Professional Development Seminar to start Tuesday

The NCO Professional Development Seminar, sponsored by the Charleston Top 3, will be held Tuesday-March 1, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Base Education Office, Bldg. 221. NCOPDS is open to any E-5 or E-6 who hasn't been exposed to PME for some time.

"Any supervisor can nominate one of their personnel by contacting me," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Dibibar, 437th Airlift Wing aircrew training superintendent and course director. "The course will cover many areas like the enlisted evaluation system, NCO responsibilities, counseling, mentoring and an open discussion with all the chief master sergeants on base."

To register for the three-and-one-half day class, please e-mail Dibibar at dana.dibibar@charleston.af.mil by Feb. 22. The class is limited to 25 people.

COMMENTARY

Military positions in 437 MSS to be converted to civilian slots

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

Approximately 19 manpower positions in the civilian and military personnel offices here will be converted as part of an Air Mobility Command command-wide cost comparison conversion study.

The manpower positions will not result in any lay-offs or adverse personnel actions for the assigned 16 military and 3 civilian positions in the 437th Mission Support Squadron. The military members will be reassigned within the 437 MSS and the civilians will probably become a part of the new most efficient organization.

An evaluation of bids in open competition produced no acceptable contractor bids as part of an A-76 cost comparison study. Therefore, on Feb. 14, it was determined the government's in-house most efficient organization bid would be the most cost-efficient method of operation. Most efficient organization operation will begin on July 1. Because of this decision, new civilian positions will be created to replace those military and civilian positions eliminated because of the study.

This cost comparison affected 236 personnel (200 military/36 civilians) AMC wide. The conversion of these military positions is expected to save the command approximately \$5,830,783. For most people on the base, this change-out of positions will be transparent and should not affect our customer service operations in the 437 MSS.

We were pleased to receive a banner from DJs Devin Grant and Janet Walsh, Clear Channel Communications, a company that operates eight local radio stations, providing Valentine wishes to our deployed airmen. During a two-hour period, radio stations Oldies 102.5 and Talk Radio 730 invited their listeners to sign a 3- by 7-foot banner located at Bi-Lo on Dorchester Road Feb. 14. We've since made arrangements for these special Valentines to be sent to our deployed airmen. I was pleased to see another example of our community supporting our people.

At staff meeting, we received a briefing describing a new awareness program in the Health and Wellness Center that focuses on reducing weight gain. Charleston AFB will serve as a test site for this new program that focuses on reducing obesity and preventing weight creep among our Air Force population by using diet and exercise as a firm foundation for fitness. According to the latest statistics, approximately 50 percent of our people are overweight, and about six percent are obese. Based on the latest medical research, obese and overweight people tend to have more health problems, and it has become a key focus area for our Air Force. I encourage everyone to use the HAWC to prevent weight creep and improve your overall fitness. The HAWC is willing to give a briefing at your commander's call and any other forum you may have. Please call them at 963-4007.

To celebrate the Year of the Warrior Spirit and to promote fitness on the base, we have scheduled a 5K Fun Run/Walk Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. at the CAFB Fitness Center. The entire CAFB community is invited to participate, and free T-shirts will be given to the first 40 people who show up at the race. Stop by the Fitness Center for more information, or call 963-3347 or 963-4007.

Time is running out for those who haven't taken this year's Air Force Chief of Staff Survey. The deadline is March 8.

The anonymous survey, which began Jan. 22, is designed to give unit-level leadership feedback about recognition, leadership, supervision, training, job satisfaction and other aspects within their organization.

I've looked at our latest statistics on completion of the Air Force Chief of Staff Survey, and we're at about 40 percent. I know we can increase that percentage by asking everyone to take a little time out of the day to complete the survey.

People can take the survey from a government computer (dot-mil or dot-gov) at <http://csafsurvey.af.mil/> and at a non-government computer (dot-com) at <http://www.csafsurvey.com/> at any time during the survey period. However, if people start the survey on a dot-com Web site they must finish on a dot-com Web site.

On a sad note, the 315th and 437th Airlift Wings lost a good friend and former squadron commander when Col. Robert Hart, age 51, died Saturday, in Gulfport, Miss.

Brig. Gen. Jerry Black, 315 AW commander, summed up it best: "Colonel Hart was a valued member of the Air Force Reserve community. He was a longtime member of the 315 AW and will be missed by all his friends. His passing, especially at such an early age, has affected us all."

Hart, who served as a command pilot, served during Vietnam and Desert Storm. His final command was of the 403rd Operations Group, Keesler AFB, Miss., which included the "Hurricane Hunters." He served as an evaluation pilot in the 437 AW and the 315 AW and was a commander of the 707th Airlift Squadron before accepting command at Keesler AFB.

Col. Hart is survived by his wife, Karen Emerson Hart; son, Harrison Sanders Hart; daughter, Emerson Elizabeth Hart, all of Gulfport; parents, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hart, of Eastland, Texas; brother, Pat Hart, of Olden, Texas; and sister, Judy Hodgins, of Salado, Texas.

Graveside services with full military honors were held Thursday at the National Cemetery in Beaufort, S.C. The family prefers memorials be sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 638, Gulfport, Miss., 39502; or to Trinity United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 5007 Lawson Ave., Gulfport, Miss. 39507.

We have a little over a hundred people signed up for the 50th Annual National Prayer Luncheon Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. The guest speaker for the luncheon is Chaplain (Col.) Charles Locklin, AMC command chaplain. The cost for the buffet lunch is only \$5, and you can reserve your seat through your first sergeant. Call the base chapel at 963-2536 for more information.

The closing ceremony for Black History Month will be a dinner March 1, 6:30 p.m., in the Charleston Club. The cost of the meal is \$16 for club members. The guest speaker for the evening is Dr. Donald West, an instructor in the Department of History and Humanities at Trident Technical College. Please reserve your seat by calling Rosemarie Perry at 963-3800.

Maj. Gen. George "Nick" Williams, 21st Air Force commander, visited Wednesday through today to maintain his

currency in the C-17A and to receive a number of briefings. We were fortunate to also have him attend a Crisis Action Team meeting today, and he had nothing but praise for the hard work of Team Charleston members. It was nice to have a visit by the boss. It was a good opportunity for him to pat our people on the back for a doing an outstanding job. Keep up the good work!

About the paper

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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

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

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Action Line

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

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

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





Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Stingrays: Today, 7:30 p.m., vs. Columbia and Sunday, 3 p.m., vs. Greenville. For more information, call 554-6060.

Lowgators: Saturday, 7:30 p.m., vs. Columbus. Mindy McCreedy will perform live immediately following the game. Basketball tickets serve as the only admission to the concert. For more information, call 554-6060 or 460-1000.

Half marathon: The inaugural Save the Light Half Marathon and 5K run is scheduled for Saturday, 8:30 a.m., at Folly Beach. For more information, go to www.actioncarolina.com or call 792-8263.

Entertainment:

Theater: "House of Blue Leaves," a dark comedy by John Guare, directed by Todd Mc Nerney, plays today, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, 8 p.m., and Sunday, 3 p.m., at Emmet Robinson Theatre, 54 St. Philip St. Tickets are \$12 general and \$8 for students and seniors. For more information, call 953-5604.

Comedy: The Have Nots!, Charleston's improv trio perform Friday and Saturday, 8 pm., at Theatre 99, 30 Cumberland St. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 853-6687 or go to www.thehavenots.com.

Concert: Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chamber Singers perform music by Brahms, Lauridsen, Howells, Baska and others conducted by Robert Taylor Sunday, 5 p.m. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. The concert is free. For more information, call 849-6590.

Events:

Art show: Crazy Horse Studio presents new works by E.C. Bell and Stephen Eaker with live music tonight, 7-10 p.m., 341 King Street. The

show is free. For more information, call 819-1406.

Book festival: A two-day book festival and antiquarian book fair, with 65 authors in attendance, is scheduled for Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, noon-6 p.m., at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia. Admission is free, and parking is \$1. For festival information, visit www.scbookfestival.org.

Reading circle: An informal book discussion of "The Fisher King" by Paule Marshall is scheduled for Saturday, 2 p.m., at Avery Center, 125 Bull St. The discussion is free. For more information, call 953-7609

Sensational Saturdays: Gibbes Museum of Art offers art lessons, storytelling, gallery games, and activities and refreshments in conjunction with the Walter O. Evans Collection of African-American Art exhibit Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon. This is designed for ages 3-8 with a parent. Cost is \$1 per member's child and \$3 per non-member's child. For more information, call 722-2706.

Car show: Check out drag racers, street and restored cars, and enjoy hot food and raffle prizes Saturday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in the Summerville Lowe's parking lot. The event is free. For more information, call 571-4336.

Kids fair: The Gaillard Auditorium and grounds will be full of educational, interactive and fun activities for children ages 3-12 Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for children, and accompanying adults get in free. For more information, call 571-6565.

Playgroup: Moms' Club of North Charleston has weekly playgroups and fun outings for at home moms and their children of all ages. For more information, call Mary Gillis at 207-0282.

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

FEATURE

Ring Ring . . . Hello, CAFB C-17s. How can we help you?

By Capt. Beth Szucs
437 AW Public Affairs

It isn't very often that elite units of Marines need help accomplishing a mission, but when they do, Charleston-based C-17s are the answer to their call.

Task Force 58, a Marine unit, needed airlift to get into southern Afghanistan to stop Taliban members from fleeing. The trip would include landing on a dirt strip at night, without runway lights for guidance. Add the threat of enemy fire, and they realized they needed highly trained aircrews ready for action.

Immediately the C-17 was considered because it is the only aircraft capable of carrying outsized cargo directly into that type of semi-prepared environment, said Capt. Rick Williamson, a C-17 flight examiner with the 14th Airlift Squadron.

Once it was determined that Charleston AFB and the C-17s would be running these missions, the question was asked, who would the operators be? Williamson explained that although all C-17 crews are trained in tactical approaches, air refueling and landings on semi-prepared surfaces, the Special Operations Low Level II crews were, at that time, the only crews qualified to fly with night-vision goggles.

After the decision was made, five aircrews, maintenance, and tactics and planning personnel were deployed to the Mideast.

On Nov. 28, a CAFB crew completed the first-ever C-17 combat dirt landing using night-vision goggles at Rhino Landing Zone, an airstrip 60 miles southwest of

Khandahar, Afghanistan. For the next eight days they completed 64 sorties, delivering 970 short tons and 481 passengers, said Williamson.

"One night I had two trucks with trailers that encompassed the entire cargo compartment, floor to ceiling," said Williamson. "These two vehicles alone weighed 89,000 pounds.

"We completed all these missions with a 100-percent reliability rate," he continued, "due in large part to our own MASOP (maintenance special operations), which are our special ops maintainers we have here at Charleston.

"We had eight maintainers. Two would fly every night on each aircraft, so six would fly each night while two crews rested," Williamson added. "After we would fly all night long, we would go to crew rest, and they would start working the jets to turn them the next day. They worked their butts off."

According to Williamson, each mission took 16 hours and consisted of an intermediate stop to upload the Marines and their equipment, the landing at Rhino to unload, and air refueling before another upload. From there they would make a last stop at Rhino, complete another air refueling and finally complete the mission back at their deployed location.

Using tactics to reduce the noise of incoming C-17s the missions were a complete success, he said.

"I thought actually getting a chance to validate what we have been training for, not just in the last two years with the transition of SOLL II to the C-17, but I've been flying airlift for nine years, and it was nice to actually get to do something to put it all into action," Williamson said. "After all the hard work we have put into this program, to use and practice the capabilities of the C-17 was great!"



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

A Charleston AFB C-17 positions itself on a tarmac in the Middle East. Aircrews from the 437th AW were in the Middle East to airlift Marines and equipment to Camp Rhino located southwest of Khandahar, Afghanistan.

Col. Bob Allardice, 437th Operations Group commander, said, "I'm very proud of how successful this team of professionals was 'getting the stuff to the fight' on a dirt strip in the middle of the desert. Our people demonstrated the ability to apply months of training to fully use the capabilities of the C-17."

Williamson said the success of the operations at Camp Rhino and the humanitarian airdrops earlier in the war have given the C-17 community a good idea of what it takes to rapidly deploy a three- or four-ship package of C-17s, fly strategic distances and operate directly in the tactical environment.

"Additionally," he said, "this operation gave us a better understanding of our ability for night operations."

Williamson said the mission was a huge success and credited the

hard work and extraordinary efforts of the 55 people who were deployed with him.

"This operation into Rhino is just another example of how Charleston can quickly pull together a team of well-trained people from multiple disciplines to fully exploit the capabilities of the C-17," said Allardice.

"As we've seen in other operations in support of Enduring Freedom, the C-17 and the team of people that make it work are quickly gaining a reputation as those who 'get the stuff to the fight' in the most challenging circumstances."

He added, "While challenges will continue for all of us fighting this war, those who took part in this particular operation can know they personally wrote another heroic chapter in the C-17 history books."



Charleston AFB C-17 loadmasters offload Australian and British personnel and equipment at Camp Rhino in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This week in history ...

Feb. 22-March 1

By Master Sgt. Dennis Pinner
437 AW Historian

Feb. 22, 1942: The 1st American Air Headquarters in Europe was established.

Feb. 23, 1912: The War Department first officially recognizes Military Aviator ratings.

Feb. 24, 1949: The Republic XF-91 jet rocket was unveiled by the Air Force.

Feb. 24, 1951: Paratroop missions were inaugurated as a means of supplying front line troops of the U.S. 8th Army during the Korean War. The first paratroop consisted of four tons of "C" rations.

Feb. 25, 1955: A B-47 flew from California to Georgia in 3 hours, 19 minutes.

Feb. 26, 1940: The Air Defense Command was created to integrate USAAF defenses against an air attack.

Feb. 27, 1920: An official world altitude record of 33,114 feet was set in a Lefere airplane at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio.

Feb. 28, 1947: An F-82B set a record by flying non-stop from Hawaii to New York in 14 hours, 33 minutes.

Feb. 28, 1994: Two F-16s shoot down four Serb Galeb fighters in NATO's first combat engagement.

March 1, 1946: General Carl Spaatz was designated Commander, Army Air Forces.

March 1, 1967: The wing's 3rd Military Airlift Squadron dropped 28 containers weighing 67,200 pounds during air-drop procedures at Holland Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, N.C. This set an unofficial C-141 world record for the heaviest low-altitude airdrop of cargo in Military Airlift Command history.

March 23, 1994: The 14th Airlift Squadron became Charleston AFB's second C-17 Squadron.



Year of the Warrior Spirit 5K Fun Run/Walk



Date: Tuesday

Time: Race begins at 11:30 a.m.

Place: Fitness and Sports Center

Eligibility: Entire Charleston AFB
Community

**Sponsors: HAWC, Charleston AFB Fitness
and Sports Center and Heritage Trust**

**Cost : Free!!!! Free T-shirts given to first
40 who show up at the race!**

Celebrate the Year of the Warrior Spirit! Stop by the HAWC or
Fitness Center for further information or call 963-3347 or 963-4007



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.

"Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" – Elijah Wood

Frodo battles against the Dark Lord, Sauron, to save Middle-earth from the grip of evil. Frodo and the Fellowship embark on a desperate journey to rid the earth of the source of Sauron's strength, the One Ring, a ring of such power that it cannot be destroyed. **(PG-13) 165 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Imposter" – Gary Sinese

Spencer Olham, a weapons expert in 2079, awakens one morning to find himself accused of being an alien. On the run, and being hunted down by Major Hathaway, he receives help from an underground leader. Upon returning to the city, he must convince his wife, Maya, and his best friend, Nelson, that he is indeed her husband and not some kind of robot monster with a bomb in his chest. **(PG-13) 95 minutes**

March 1, 7:30 p.m.

"Kung Pow" – Steve Oedekerk

The Chosen One is looking to avenge the death of his family at the hands of the seemingly invincible Master Pain. **(PG-13) 82 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

150 volunteers from CAFB help Special Olympics

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

When the Special Olympics came to the Citadel Feb. 15 and Saturday, event organizers knew they'd need lots of volunteers, around 500 of them. One of the first places they called was Charleston AFB.

Donna Carli, co-director for the Special Olympics of South Carolina 2002 Indoor Tournament, said whenever the group needs volunteers in the area, they always call the base for help.

Team Charleston came through this time with 150 helpers, who aided the setup and opening ceremony for the games Feb. 15, Saturday's events and tear down.

"It was a great turnout," Carli said of the CAFB volunteer force. "The military is a great help."

Carli noted the caliber of volunteers from the base was outstanding, as usual.

"They came out here when they were supposed to and did everything they were asked to do," she said. "They came to the orientations and asked if there was anything else needing done to let them know. They were awesome."

According to Carli, if it weren't for the volunteers the Special Olympics gets from the base and other communities all over South Carolina, events like this one wouldn't be possible.

Two members of the Base Chapel staff were on hand at Olympic Village after the games to help in some of non-competitive activities for participants.

Airman 1st Class Heather Pace, chaplain's assistant, said volunteering is always worthwhile and definitely something she recommends for others.

"I wanted to help out the kids," Pace said. "I know it's usually a rewarding experience."

Pace played soccer with Special Olympics participants and also worked at the fishing booth in

Olympic Village.

"It was great to be a part of making them smile," she said.

Smiles were one of the reasons Senior Airman Jonathan Mathe, NCOIC of chapel resources, said he volunteered.

"I enjoy working with kids, and seeing smiles on kids' faces is just priceless," he said. "There are no words to describe the fullness you feel inside when knowing you reached a kids heart."

Mathe also played soccer with the Olympians and helped clean up after the events concluded.

The mission of Special Olympics of South Carolina is to provide year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation, according to the organization's Web site.

The concept of Special Olympics began in the 1960s when Eunice Kennedy Shriver started a day camp for people with mental retardation

She realized that sports and sports training enabled people with mental retardation to achieve success and that success built self-confidence. In 1968, the first International Summer Games for Special Olympics were held at Soldier Field in Chicago. There were 1,000 athletes from the United States and Canada.



Senior Airman Jonathan Mathe, 437th Airlift Wing Chapel, tends goal for Special Olympics participants Saturday after the official events.