

DISPATCH



A I R L I F T

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Vol. 41, No. 1

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Jan. 11, 2002



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed

Hats off

Airman 1st Class Paul Knarreborg, 14th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, wears a French legionnaire hat he received from a French soldier. The C-17 crew and French soldiers shared holiday cheer Christmas Eve as they flew into a remote base in Afghanistan. The unit is the initial cadre of French troops deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In the money

Servicemembers to see increase in January pay

Servicemembers will see an average increase of 6.9 percent in their January pay.

"It's the largest pay increase in 20 years," Navy Capt. Chris Kopang, DoD director of compensation, said in a recent American Forces Information Service interview. In general, officers will see their pay increase 5 percent, he said, and enlisted service members get a 6 percent boost in their pay beginning Jan. 1.

Several pay grades will see significantly larger increases.

"We have chosen to target the pay raise to certain pay grades that we feel need an extra boost because of retention needs," Kopang said. For instance, officers in grades O-3 and O-4 will receive 6 and 6.5 percent increases respectively.

Non-commissioned officers are also receiving larger raises, Kopang said, with the highest increases — up to 10 percent — going to the highest enlisted grades. Enlisted members in grades E-5 and E-6 will see an average 7.5 percent increase, E-7s an

See PAY, page 2

21 AF commander thanks CAFB for job well done: CAFB C-17s' HDR missions end Dec. 21

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The 21st Air Force commander traveled to Charleston AFB Dec. 28 to personally thank Team Charleston for its participation in humanitarian airlift drops and to announce the end of the program.

Maj. Gen. George Williams, who made the trip from McGuire AFB, N.J., praised CAFB's success in humanitarian daily rations drops and spoke about current and future operations tempo to a packed house at the Charleston Club.

Approximately 80 of the 130 airmen providing C-17 support for Operation Enduring Freedom returned to CAFB and McChord AFB, Wash., Dec.

23. Although the airdrops have stopped, Williams said humanitarian items are still being delivered by different means.

"The reason we're able to draw down on the airdrops is because we've been able to establish over-land routes, and that's the preferred way to do that," said Williams. "But we're always on stand by here in case the roads don't work out or weather becomes a factor; whatever would cause us not to be able to use land routes. We can always go back (to airdrops). Charleston is ready."

The HDR drops, which began Oct. 7, officially ended Dec. 21, according to Lt. Col. John Zazworsky, 15th Airlift Squadron commander and final HDR drop commander. During that time, 200 mis-

sions were launched without a single delay or maintenance cancellation, and more than 2.4 million HDRs were delivered.

While many C-17 firsts were recently accomplished, Williams said the HDR drops over Afghanistan were the first high-altitude drops of any type of cargo for the C-17. The drops proved successful.

"The airplane was built for exactly the types of things we're using it for. It and the crews have performed magnificently," said Williams. "It was almost visionary when we built this airplane, that we would build an airplane so suited for what we're using it for now."

Williams said the mission could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication CAFB airmen

put forth. The numbers backed up his praise. Of all C-17 missions during Operation Enduring Freedom, 437th Airlift Wing crews operated 75.3 percent.

"Charleston is the first home of the C-17, and we've come to rely on Charleston when it comes to C-17 operations," said Williams. "Not to take anything away from McChord, who is doing equally well, but we still think, when we're heading eastbound, Charleston is a little closer. Of course McChord has been joining Charleston and starting to head eastbound too, because we can't do it all ourselves here."

The C-17's performance highlights the reasons it's the airlifter of the future, according to Williams. He said McGuire is currently the base

of preference for future C-17s, but nothing is finalized.

While Williams talked a little about Air Force issues in general, he said the sole purpose of his visit was to say "thank you." When asked to summarize CAFB's performance in one word, Williams said "magnificent," followed by "impressive."

"We've learned to rely on Charleston as a team, and the folks who are here and have experience," said Williams. "The people here are the very best. We know that when we ask, they'll figure out how to do it right and do it safely."

Williams said he hopes to return to CAFB soon.

"I love to see the folks," Williams said. "It charges up my batteries. It's great to be here so close to the action."

IN THE NEWS

MONTHLY BASIC PAY TABLE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2002

Pay Grade	YEARS OF SERVICE														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS															
O-10	8944.80	9259.50	9259.50	9259.50	9259.50	9614.70	9614.70	10147.50	10147.50	10873.80	10873.80	11601.90	11659.20	11901.30	12324.00
O-9	7927.50	8135.10	8308.50	8308.50	8308.50	8519.70	8519.70	8874.30	8874.30	9614.70	9614.70	10147.50	10293.60	10504.80	10873.80
O-8	7180.20	7415.40	7571.10	7614.90	7809.30	8135.10	8210.70	8519.70	8608.50	8874.30	9259.50	9614.70	9852.00	9852.00	9852.00
O-7	5966.40	6371.70	6371.70	6418.20	6657.90	6840.30	7051.20	7261.80	7472.70	8135.10	8694.90	8694.90	8694.90	8694.90	8737.80
O-6	4422.00	4857.90	5176.80	5176.80	5196.60	5418.90	5448.60	5448.60	5628.60	6305.70	6627.00	6948.30	7131.00	7316.10	7675.20
O-5	3537.00	4152.60	4440.30	4494.30	4673.10	4673.10	4813.50	5073.30	5413.50	5755.80	5919.00	6079.80	6262.80	6262.80	6262.80
O-4	3023.70	3681.90	3927.60	3982.50	4210.50	4395.90	4696.20	4930.20	5092.50	5255.70	5310.60	5310.60	5310.60	5310.60	5310.60
O-3	2796.60	3170.40	3421.80	3698.70	3875.70	4070.10	4232.40	4441.20	4549.50	4549.50	4549.50	4549.50	4549.50	4549.50	4549.50
O-2	2416.20	2751.90	3169.50	3276.30	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10	3344.10
O-1	2097.60	2183.10	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50	2638.50
Pay Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER															
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	3698.70	3875.70	4070.10	4232.40	4441.20	4617.00	4717.50	4717.50	4855.20	4855.20	4855.20	4855.20
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	3276.30	3344.10	3450.30	3630.00	3768.90	3872.40	3872.40	3872.40	3872.40	3872.40	3872.40	3872.40
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	2636.50	2818.20	2922.30	3028.50	3133.20	3276.30	3276.30	3276.30	3276.30	3276.30	3276.30	3276.30
Pay Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
WARRANT OFFICERS															
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4965.60	5136.00	5307.00	5478.60
W-4	2889.60	3108.60	3198.00	3285.90	3437.10	3586.50	3737.70	3885.30	4038.00	4184.40	4334.40	4480.80	4632.60	4782.00	4935.30
W-3	2638.80	2862.00	2862.00	2898.90	3017.40	3152.40	3330.90	3439.50	3558.30	3693.90	3828.60	3963.60	4098.30	4233.30	4368.90
W-2	2321.40	2454.00	2569.80	2654.10	2726.40	2875.20	2984.40	3093.90	3200.40	3318.00	3438.90	3559.80	3680.10	3801.30	3801.30
W-1	2049.90	2217.60	2330.10	2402.70	2511.90	2624.70	2737.80	2850.00	2963.70	3077.10	3189.90	3275.10	3275.10	3275.10	3275.10
Pay Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
ENLISTED MEMBERS															
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3423.90	3501.30	3599.40	3714.60	3830.40	3944.10	4098.30	4251.30	4467.00
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2858.10	2940.60	3017.70	3110.10	3210.30	3314.70	3420.30	3573.00	3724.80	3937.80
E-7	1986.90	2169.00	2251.50	2332.50	2417.40	2562.90	2645.10	2726.40	2808.00	2892.60	2975.10	3057.30	3200.40	3292.80	3526.80
E-6	1701.00	1870.80	1953.60	2033.70	2117.40	2254.50	2337.60	2417.40	2499.30	2558.10	2602.80	2602.80	2602.80	2602.80	2602.80
E-5	1561.50	1665.30	1745.70	1828.50	1912.80	2030.10	2110.20	2193.30	2193.30	2193.30	2193.30	2193.30	2193.30	2193.30	2193.30
E-4	1443.60	1517.70	1599.60	1680.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30	1752.30
E-3	1303.50	1385.40	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50	1468.50
E-2	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30	1239.30
E-1 >4	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50	1105.50
E-1 <4	1022.70														

PAY

continued from page 1

average increase of 8.5 percent, and up to 10 percent for E-9s.

Certain lower-ranking grades also will see increases that have nothing to do with percentages or retention, but to fix inequities in the pay table, he said.

For instance, on the 2001 pay table an E-3 with under two years of service would make more money by going over two years in service as an E-3 than by getting promoted to E-4.

"We thought that sent the wrong signal," Kopang said. "We wanted to send the signal that people should strive for promotion quicker."

President Bush signed the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, which included the extra money, Dec. 28. Without this money, Kopang said, members would have gotten a 4.6 percent across-the-board increase at the New Year.

Higher raises for NCOs reflect the changing demographics of a more-educated force. Kopang explained the military pay tables are based on the premise that enlisted members are high school graduates. Most of today's

enlisted members have some college under their belts. The services strongly encourage members to further their education.

Housing allowance rates have increased as well. In 2001, military members not living in government-provided quarters paid an average 15 percent of their housing costs out of their own pockets. DoD is working to ensure the Basic Allowance for Housing covers all of a member's housing costs by 2005.

In 2002, for instance, members will pay 11.3 percent of their housing costs out of pocket on average.

No rates are going down, though. Kopang said DoD has implemented individual and geographic rate protection. Even if housing costs decrease in an area, the rates won't go down.

Members will not get a lower rate in 2002 than they did in 2001 as long as they stay at the same duty station, and members moving into an area won't get a lower rate than individuals who live there already, he said.

Charleston AFB members said the pay raise is another step in the right direction.

"I feel it will be helpful to everyone,

especially with recent events," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Taylor, 437th Aero-medical Dental Squadron Public Health. "It's definitely a morale booster."

Senior Airman Phillip DiRoma, 437th Security Forces Squadron, agreed with Taylor.

"I think it's great," DiRoma said. "It was well needed. It's definitely heading in the right direction. Especially being lower-ranking, it helps our standard of living."

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

2002 Basic Allowance for Housing Rates

Pay Grade	With Dependents	Without Dependents
E-1	\$742	\$629
E-2	\$742	\$629
E-3	\$742	\$629
E-4	\$742	\$629
E-5	\$764	\$690
E-6	\$842	\$722
E-7	\$934	\$743
E-8	\$1035	\$779
E-9	\$1163	\$804
O-1 E	\$954	\$764
O-2 E	\$1079	\$798
O-3 E	\$1204	\$842
O-1	\$773	\$719
O-2	\$841	\$756
O-3	\$1093	\$814
O-4	\$1337	\$944
O-5	\$1507	\$1005
O-6	\$1519	\$1098
O-7+	\$1537	\$1120

437 CES airman earns Levitow; three named distinguished grads

A 437th Civil Engineer Squadron senior airman earned the Sgt. John L. Levitow Award during Airman Leadership School class 02-B.

The award was presented to Senior Airman Hillary Reinke during the class graduation ceremony Dec. 19 at the Airman Leadership School.

Senior Airman James Buchanan, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, received the Academic Achievement and Distinguished Graduate Awards.

Senior Airmen Kevin Davis, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and Kelly Phipps, 437th Security Forces Squadron, also received Distinguished Graduate Awards.

The Leadership Award went to Senior Airman Brittney Goodroe-Miller, 437th Communications Squadron.

The following senior airmen also graduated from the course Dec. 19.

14th Airlift Squadron: Jason Kelly

15th Airlift Squadron: Genell Johnson

437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron:

James Lumley

437th Aircraft Generation Squadron: Shawn

Armstrong, Ben Bohlander, Paul Bright, Jonathan

Byrd, Dairus Roberson and Jesus Shelby

437th Aerial Port Squadron: Stephen Holland, James Pickel, Timothy Quesenberry, Alesha Scott and Cheyenne Strachota

437th Civil Engineer Squadron: Todd Barnett, Andrew Glover and Marlene Munoz

437th Comptroller Squadron: Amanda Gravely

437th Logistics Support Squadron: Franklin Watson

437th Medical Support Squadron: Adam Garrett

437th Mission Support Squadron: Jeffrey Marks

437th Maintenance Squadron: Orlando Santos, Richard Schoonmaker and Ephriam Thomas

437th Supply Squadron: Joe Canteen

437th Services Squadron: Sherree Kelly

(Information provided by the Charleston AFB Airman Leadership School.)



CAFB school committee to hold open forum Jan. 22

By Senior Master Sgt.
Allan Harris
437 SPTG

Parents alone have the greatest impact on their child's education, beyond teachers, counselors and administrators. As a military parent, the need for parental involvement is even greater. The chance of military children starting and finishing in the same school system is about the same as the chance of winning the lottery. Parents who are involved in their child's education are better able to assist the school and child in making the most of their educational experience.

Graduation requirements change from state to state. Counties have different school calendars, curriculum offerings, extra-curricular activities and scheduling, and schools have different academic ratings, rules and policies as well as varying levels of available information through technology.

Military children experience various problems associated with a permanent change of station. Delays in providing the required student records can result in inappropriate class assignments and services. Additionally, the emotional impact of leaving old friends and having to meet new ones can often impact a student's outlook on education.

Children of military members face

the same challenges stateside and overseas.

The Military Child Education Coalition is a non-profit organization comprised of parents, educators, administrators and base officials who work to address these issues globally.

At Charleston AFB, the Base School Committee, comprised of parents, base agencies and school representatives, is mirroring the efforts of the MCEC at the local level.

Every parent has a stake in the success of these two organizations: their child's education.

Over the next few months, the base will host an open forum for parents, schools and base agencies. The first forum will address education at the middle school level and will be held at the Family Support Center Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Parents of current middle school students and parents of rising 6th graders are encouraged to attend.

Judy Sherman, the new Morningside Middle School principal, will give an update on the new and promising changes, including planned renovations at the school. Additionally, she will field questions from parents.

Parents of all middle school students in all three counties may attend. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Allan Harris at 963-2202.

CSAF survey slated to begin Jan. 22

Delayed by Sept. 11, survey to assess AF organizational climate

By Staff Sgt.
Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force Survey, delayed from its original October start date following the Sept. 11 attacks, is now scheduled to begin Jan. 22.

The survey, directed by the CSAF, takes place every two years, according to the CSAF survey Web site, <http://csafsurvey.randolph.af.mil>, and provides actionable feedback to commanders for use in improving their units.

Master Sgt. Terry Ray, 437th Airlift Wing IDEA Program Manager, is the wing point of contact for this year's survey. He said each squadron and tenant unit will have its own local contact.

According to the site, in the early 1990s, multiple major commands implemented the computer-based, census-like organization climate surveys. In 1995, the CSAF directed the creation of

a computer-based survey available to all Air Force members to cover quality of life issues. In 1997, the two surveys were combined and conducted using the census approach.

The newest version of the survey sees the re-separation of the quality of life and organization climate sections, according to the site. Quality of life will use a random sampling of personnel, while the organization climate will use the census approach.

As a result of these changes, this year's survey is 50 percent shorter than the 1999 version, according to the site. Of the 91 questions in the survey, 68 will be organization climate questions, six will be special interest questions on Competitive Sourcing and Privatization, 10 will be commander characteristic questions from developing aerospace leaders and seven questions will be spe-

cific to the major command to address their unique issues.

"The survey takes approximately 45 minutes to take," said Ray. "The goal is to provide a look at organizational issues across the Air Force by asking all active-duty members and civilians about their unit's climate."

There are several ways to complete the survey, according to Ray.

"The survey can be taken via the Web, either from government computers or home computer, and also by using disks, which will be used primarily for deployed personnel," he said.

While participation for the survey is completely voluntary, personnel are highly encouraged to express their opinions, said Ray. The survey is a completely anonymous opportunity for everyone in the Air Force community to express their viewpoints.



Courtesy photo

Raise the roof

Contractors come one step closer to finishing renovation of the 437th Medical Group entrance. The awning will provide shelter from the elements to 437 MDG customers. The entrance is slated for completion in February.

NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Profile



Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Murphy

Senior Airman Adam Slempla 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Senior Airman Adam Slempla is a crew chief with the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron. Slempla originally deployed to Sigonella NAS, Italy, Sept. 20, moved to Ramstein AB, Germany, Oct. 15, and recently returned to Charleston AFB. His job is to ensure the C-17s are ready to fly missions every night.

"We have stayed pretty busy here," said Slempla while deployed at Ramstein. "We're doing our part helping out with the humanitarian drops.

"I like my job and do what I can to keep these planes flying," Slempla continued.

The maintenance personnel are very proud of their work with the aircraft leaving for their missions on time, every time. This hasn't gone unnoticed.

"It makes me proud we haven't had a delay," said Slempla. "If something breaks we fix it. It was great to hear good things from (Army) Gen. (Tommy) Franks (U.S. Central Command commander) and all the commanders who have visited. It makes you feel appreciated."

Having just completed four years in the Air Force, Slempla reenlisted for six years while deployed to Ramstein.

Slempla is currently pursuing a degree in aerospace maintenance and would like to stay in the Air Force as a crew chief on the C-17.

"This would allow me to travel and see many things," said Slempla. "In 10 years I hope I'm still doing it. I love what I do."

James Jarmon at 963-4706 or Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Romeo at 963-2120.

Medical training: Beginning Jan. 28, the 437th Medical Group Family Practice Clinic will initiate a Red Cross Medical Assistant Training Program for family members of active duty and retired personnel. The program is similar to the dental assistant program conducted in the base dental clinic, but will offer training oriented toward a medical practice. In addition to standard medical training, such as recording vital signs and interviewing patients, students will learn to assist during various invasive outpatient procedures. The program will last six months and requires attendance five days per week, eight hours per day. Upon graduation, students will be awarded a certificate of completion, an American Red Cross certificate and letters of recommendation. Applications are available now at the Family Practice Clinic. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Karen Smith or Master Sgt. Noble Lisenbee at 963-6780.

Pay: Airmen who are having pay problems they are unable to solve with local military personnel flights or finance offices can contact the Air Force Personnel Center Contact Center at Randolph AFB, Texas. Customers can e-mail issues to the center at afpc.dpsfm@afpc.randolph.af.mil or call (800) 558-1404 or DSN 665-2949. Operating hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST.

Pet policy: Military Family Housing residents are required to register their dogs and cats within 10 days of arrival at the Veterinary Treatment Facility. Registration consists of initiating a medical record and verifying vaccination and heartworm disease status. Pets that are not current on vaccinations can receive these services at the Veterinary Treatment Facility. Pet owners are also reminded that base instructions limit the number of dogs and cats in family housing to two animals per family unit. To report a stray animal, base personnel should contact the Charleston County Sheriff Department at 554-4700. The Veterinary Treatment Facility is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., and is closed on all federal holidays. Animals arriving at the facility need to be on a leash or in a carrier. For a complete list of services provided by the facility, call 963-4264.

Family Support Center

Investing A-Z part 1: Today, 1-4 p.m.
Car Buying Workshop: Tuesday, 1-3:30 p.m.

Transition Assistance Workshop: Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

All workshops are held at the FSC. For more information or to register, call the FSC at 963-4406.

Spotlight

STEP promotion: Staff Sgt. Harold Scrivener, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Jason Hanks, 373rd Training Squadron Detachment 5, received a Stripes for Exceptional Performers promotion to technical sergeant Dec. 14.

Awards banquet: The 437th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Jan. 29, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. This year's theme is "Celebrating the American Spirit," and the guest speaker will be former Vietnam prisoner of war, retired Col. Willard Gideon. Valet parking will be available, and donations will be accepted. Tickets are available from first sergeants and cost \$19 for club members and \$22 for non-members.

Induction ceremony: The 2002 Chiefs' Induction Ceremony will be held Feb. 2, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. All chief master sergeant selectees for 2002 will be honored. Chiefs and squadron commanders are invited, and spouses are welcome. Attendees may invite as many guests as desired. Cost is \$20 per person. Dress for the evening is mess dress or semi-formal. For more information or to RSVP, call Staff Sgt. Julie Buie at 963-5497.

Around the base

Marriage seminar: The 437th Medical Group will offer a marriage enrichment class beginning Tuesday and meeting for six consecutive Tuesdays,

from 6-8:30 p.m. The seminar is free for base personnel and their spouses. For more information or to register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

Closure: The 437th Airlift Wing Legal Assistance Office will be closed Tuesday. The Claims Briefing Tuesday is also cancelled.

Chiefs' Group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold its monthly

meeting Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. All Chiefs and Chief selectees are invited to attend.

Unity walk: Charleston AFB's African American Heritage Counsel is hosting a Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Walk Jan. 21, 10 a.m., in the Charleston Club parking lot. A commemorative service will immediately follow at the Base Chapel. For more information, call Master Sgt.

Wednesday named year's first pride day

CAFB, 437 CES prepare for Curtin team evaluation

Team Charleston's first base pride day of the new year will be Wednesday. The focus of this Pride Day will be to prepare the base for the arrival of the Air Force Curtin Award evaluation team.

The Curtin Team will arrive Thursday and conduct their evaluation all day Jan. 18. The Curtin Award is awarded annually in recognition of the base with the best civil engineer squadron in the Air Force. The evaluation will focus on how well the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron has supported the base's Air Force mission.

Base appearance, to include facilities, housing and grounds maintenance will be a subcategory for the evaluation. Team Charleston's mission on Pride Day will be to augment the 437 CES and the grounds maintenance contractor with everyone's support across the base.

The 437 CES will be relying on every squadron to help with base appearance since it will have a major impact on the Curtin Team's evaluation. Pride Day is a chance for each person on base to show his or her support and help make Charleston AFB shine.

For this pride day all wing organizations should participate in the effort by removing grass and weeds from cracks, sweeping sidewalks and parking lots, and picking up trash and litter around their facilities and within their compounds. Each group in the wing will have a specific assigned area of responsibility, and group points of contact will oversee and coordinate cleanup efforts in those areas.

The 437 CES and wing leadership are also asking housing residents to make a special effort to prepare yards and areas surrounding their homes. Mowing, trimming, edging, raking and removing trash and debris are what housing residents can do to assist in the Pride Day effort. (Submitted by the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron)

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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Deadlines

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

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Team Charleston stays busy with start of New Year

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

I hope everyone had a chance to get a brief rest during the holiday period. We had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's season. One of my goals during the holiday period was to make it without any DUI/DWI cases, and I am proud to say we had none. Congratulations to everyone for looking out for one another.

Here we are again with a brand new year and it started out with a bang with a major deployment of approximately 150 personnel and six aircraft through this past weekend to a forward operating location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. From this location, the deployed 437th Expeditionary Aerospace Squadron will fly support missions around the U.S. Central Command area of operation.

Just when we were ending this major deployment, we received another tasking from our headquarters Saturday to move U.S. Marines and supplies from the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., to help construct a detainee facility at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. We've flown several missions each day. We are supporting the overall effort to move supplies and personnel needed to construct a holding facility for Al Qaida, Taliban or other terrorist personnel that have come under U.S. jurisdiction.

Moreover, we remain vulnerable for other deployments in the future. Our superb efforts to date have been noticed by our headquarters. I just want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who played a part in supporting these efforts. It is easy to understand why Team Charleston has the premier airlift wings on the face of the planet ... just look at our amazing results!

Special congratulations to some of our 21st Air Force nominees for two key awards. Maj. **Donald Himebaugh**, 15th Airlift Squadron, was nominated by the 21 AF for the 2001 Aviation Valor Award. Col. **Robert Allardice**, 437th Operations Group commander, and Lt. Col. **William Changose**, 14th Airlift Squadron commander, were jointly nominated by 21 AF for the 2001 Cheney Award.

Congratulations to Capt. **Mike Madsen**, 15th Airlift Squadron, on his selection to Phoenix Hawk. Phoenix Hawk is Air Mobility Command's premier leadership development program targeted to captains. This benchmark leadership development program dovetails with the Air Force's efforts to develop aerospace leaders. An alternate for this program is Capt. **Craig Fleming**, 437th Support Group.

Our outstanding Diamond Sharp recipients for the month were Staff Sgt. **Ricky Bloom**, 1st Combat Camera

Squadron; Senior Airman **Sharika Lee**, 14 AS; Senior Airman **Frederick Cosby**, 437th Security Forces Squadron, and Airman 1st Class **Joel Laureano**, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron. Congratulations on your achievement!

While I am congratulating folks for their achievement, Lt. Col. **Bob King**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron commander, was selected for promotion to colonel on a recent supplemental promotion board. He'll pin on his eagles shortly after Congress approves the list. Please take a moment to congratulate him if you haven't done so already.

Look around on any given day and you will see members of the 437 CES working on some project for the benefit of the wing. They have truly worked their hearts out for each of us, and higher headquarters has noticed their outstanding efforts. They were recently selected as one of only two finalists for the prestigious Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineering Unit Award, large base category. The Society of Military Engineers awards the winner of the Air Force honor with their Curtin Award, named for the former director of Air Force Civil Engineering, Maj. Gen. Robert Curtin.

They now need your help to make the base look its best as they host the Curtin Award Evaluation Team Jan. 18. The team will focus on how well the 437 CES has supported our mission. Base appearance, to include facilities, housing, and grounds maintenance will be a subcategory for the evaluation.

To prepare for this visit, we have scheduled a Wing Pride Day Wednesday. See the article on page 6.

We need everyone to pitch in and do their part to make sure your areas look their best for our visitors. This is a wonderful opportunity for Team Charleston to do something nice for our hard working CE airmen and civilians.

We were also pleased to learn this week that Air Force Times magazine selected Charleston AFB as the Best All-around Base in the small base category for 2001 and as the Best Base for Singles in 2001. The awards were based on reader comments about the different bases, and Charleston received the most positive comments. Many of the Air Force Times readers commented about the outstanding availability of on- and off-base housing, 437th Services Squadron facilities and programs, our great location and mission. I am not surprised that we received such recognition. The rest of the Air Force now knows what we've known for a long time. Keep up the good work.

Below you will find an article written to you by Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley. Yes, it was written at Christmas time, but there is never a bad time to be reminded of how important all of you are to the wing and to the nation.

Deployed commander reflects on OEF, holidays away from home

By Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

One of my favorite leaders of all time is Winston Churchill. I admire him for his vision, his righteous individuality and, most importantly, for his steadfastness in standing up to and conquering some of the biggest and most formidable challenges of the 20th century.

As we begin to write the history of the 21st century, our nation is faced with perhaps its toughest and most demanding challenge since our inception. Sept. 11 changed our nation and the world forever. I think a quote taken from a speech Churchill delivered to his nation during the early and dark days of World War II is worth repeating. It captures the sentiment I've chosen to adopt as we do our duty to preserve and secure the

freedoms that our nation stands for – now and forever! In this speech Churchill proclaimed, "Do not speak of darker days; let us speak rather of sterner days. These are not dark days; these are great days—the greatest days our country has ever lived; and we must thank God that we have been allowed to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race."

As I write this from my deployed location on this most glorious of Christmas Eves, I've had a few moments to reflect back on the past few months. These reflections give me great peace of mind among the chaos of the times. The absolutely incredible response in terms of sacrifice, dedication and professionalism from our entire team at Charleston has been something historians will write about for years to come. From the

unprecedented airdrop of humanitarian supplies on the first night of a "hot" war to the way our entire base population stepped up to the demands of enhancing our force protection posture to the spirited attendance at promotion ceremonies and wing level events showing our resolve to not let Sept. 11 get in the way of maintaining fun in our lives, every member of our Team has risen to the challenge. I could not be prouder.

I've been deployed now for over 30 days, and I must say as a senior deployed leader helping in the orchestration of this campaign, I've watched with awe, up close and personal, as our Team Charleston folks have continued their history-making performance. But, indeed the effort I've seen from over here is broader

FINDLEY

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than just the important part that the 437th and 315th Airlift Wings are delivering.

In my current position I've worked daily with members of every branch of service. Every day, countless numbers of these selfless human beings are going into harms' way to get the job done in this necessary and just cause. In a nation in search of heroes, we need look no further than these warriors. Our military is made up of the finest young men and women on the face of the planet!

So as I close this report "from the front", I make one final observation. I've just made the rounds through the workplace where I spend many hours of every day over the course of this deployment. It's Christmas Eve so I thought I'd stroll through the work areas to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

I thought maybe somebody was feeling down being away from home during this

special time of year and "the General" might be able to cheer them up a little bit. As tends to be the case though, I think the interaction was more therapeutic for me than them. You see, the young men and women of our military today wrap themselves in pride, professionalism and passion for who they are and what they do.

On a Christmas Eve many miles away from home this attitude, despite the chaos and strain of war, will not be broken ... and that makes all the difference. I'm up in my office now and I'm pinching myself for my good fortune to have been able to serve for these 25-plus years with the finest men and women on the face of the planet. These are not darker days, and I'm very happy I've been given the chance to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race—I couldn't have picked a finer team to be part of. God Bless all of you during this special time of year and God Bless America.

Action line caller asks about troop walk

Q: I spoke to several people regarding a troop walk from Hunley Park to the main part of the base. I am now taking this last step to attempt to get the ball rolling. As you know, the speed limit on Dorchester Road is unbelievable for a residential thoroughfare and for it being so close to a school. Anyway, even with a crosswalk in place, I do not feel safe crossing Dorchester on foot due to the fact that I have witnessed three separate accidents at that light since August. I feel that a troop walk (even at the expense it will be) will have several benefits. One being safety, two being with a troop walk in place many children coming from the main portion of the base to school will be able to walk, this will minimize the congestion on Dorchester in front of the bases and school, and three being community. As a member of Hunley Park housing, I feel a bit cut off from the community of the main base and feel that many occupants of Hunley Park would feel better connected with a troop walk because the main base will be more easily accessible to us. Also there will be the benefit of the military members more apt to ride their bikes to work, promoting fitness. Of course the troop walk would have to have a ramp on both sides to allow for strollers and bikes. I'm not quite sure how they would accomplish this, but I do know it would be money well spent by the Air Force and would certainly be used on a daily basis. I have thought about the fact that we are not yet gated on this side and then got confirmation that it is in the works. Please know I am just an ordinary mother who would just like the freedom of walking to the BX or Commissary without the worry of getting hit by a car on the way.

A: I appreciate you bringing this to my attention and your concern for the safety of others. Dorchester Road is a highly traveled road and is very dangerous. The idea of having an overhead crosswalk connecting Hunley Park and the main base is a great suggestion. The 437th Support Group Commander and the Base Civil Engineer will coordinate with local and state officials along with Air Force Headquarters to determine the feasibility of an overhead crosswalk. Meantime, the base civil engineers and city officials tested the crosswalk signal and set the amount of time for the crosswalk signal to 20 seconds. This was determined to be an appropriate amount of time to cross. Safety is one of my top concerns, and thanks again for this suggestion.

FEATURE

C-17 and CAFB support Operation Enduring Freedom

Multiple firsts for the C-17A community:

- First night combat/humanitarian coalition missions into Afghanistan
- First ever C-17A combat airdrop
- Highest C-17A airdrop altitude
- Longest continuous C-17A mission duration
- First ever use of an aerial delivery system that had been previously tested but never before fielded for operational use
- First ever employment of the C-17A in a medium-threat environment
- First use of night vision goggles in a C-17A formation drop

Humanitarian relief operations from Ramstein AB, Germany:

- Over 2.4 million humanitarian daily rations delivered
- 200 missions launched; more than 2544 flying hours
- 132 Tri-Wall Aerial Delivery System missions
- 68 Container Delivery System bundles
- Honored end of Ramadan by airdropping dates

Home Station accomplishments as of Dec. 27:

- 446 missions
- 2090 sorties
- 8866.3 hours flown
- 9206.6 short tons processed
- 5049 passengers processed
- 80 percent home station departure reliability

Impact on Operation Enduring Freedom so far:

- 57.5 percent of all OEF airlift sorties flown by the C-17
- 75.3 percent of all C-17 missions operated by 437th Airlift Wing aircrews
- Airlifted 10th Mountain Division to establish a forward presence in the Middle East
- Airlifted 15th and 16th Marine Expeditionary Units to Camp Rhino
- Since establishing Camp Rhino, 34 missions flown, 390 passengers processed and 1,292 short tons processed
- Airlifted first troops and supplies into Bagram AB, Afghanistan; have since accomplished 17 missions, processed 14 passengers and 482.5 short tons

(Information compiled by the 437th Operations Group.)



Photo by Master Sgt. John Snow

A K-loader with Tri-Wall Aerial Delivery containers full of humanitarian daily rations maneuvers into the rear of a C-17 Globemaster III at Ramstein AB, Germany. The Charleston AFB C-17s support of Operation Enduring Freedom included airdropping the HDRs, more than 2.4 million in all, over Afghanistan. The humanitarian airdrop missions ended Dec. 21.



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed

Charleston AFB C-17 crew members prepare for the airdrop of the 2 millionth humanitarian daily ration over Afghanistan.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed

Members of the 16th Special Operations Wing offload a MH-53J helicopter from a C-17 Dec. 7. Charleston-based C-17s are tasked for a variety of missions, not just humanitarian airdrops, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Van Holbeck bids farewell to USTRANSCOM, AMC

By Staff Sgt. Cortchie Welch
AMC Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. Ken Van Holbeck retires Jan. 11 after more than 30 years in the service, but that doesn't mean he's leaving the Air Force.

"I'm taking my rightful place in the retired component of our Air Force, but I'm definitely not leaving," Van Holbeck said. "Once a chief, always a chief ... and I'll continue to serve proudly in or out of uniform, active or retired."

The chief spent the last 3 ½ years of his career as the command chief master sergeant for U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command. He advised the commander in chief and his staff on matters of health, welfare and morale, and effective use of more than 115,000 enlisted men and women assigned to the commands.

He didn't accept the position in 1998 with the intention of leaving a legacy.

"My sight picture 3 ½ years ago was simple and straightforward — try to leave it a little better than I found it," Van Holbeck, who has been replaced by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Kerver of 21st Air Force at McGuire AFB, N.J., said. "Reflecting over my tenure, I worked as hard as I could to achieve that. I pray the impression I leave

with our enlisted men and women is that I was a chief, and that I did everything humanly possible to take good care of them and their families as they took good care of our Global Reach mission, our Air Force and our country."

From retirement reform to better pay and benefits to increased enlisted promotion rates, the chief and other senior leaders in DoD fought for programs to improve the quality of life for Air Force people.

"From an AMC perspective, our collective enlisted team-building efforts, increased retention, first-term airmen's centers, single occupancy rooms in our dormitories and CCMs accompanying their wing commanders during visits to Capitol Hill, are some of many things I'm happy to see take place," Van Holbeck said.

The chief said the opportunity to represent the finest enlisted men and women in America and "working for and with one of the finest contemporary leaders of our time, General Tony Robertson [former commander]," made his job as CCM the best in the Air Force.

"Our mobility mission is not a glamorous one," said Van Holbeck, a native of Superior, Wis. "We're the first in and the last out. Our line of work requires us to roll up our sleeves and

get dirty. We fly and maintain some of the oldest aircraft in the Air Force inventory. We require our people to routinely work and live in austere locations. We've endured some awfully lean years recently in terms of spare parts and equipment. Yet, when the flag goes up, our mobility mission is accomplished with world-class results.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out why — it's our troops who make it happen," he continued. "Even with the C-17, without the aircrew and without the troops working the 'business end' of the aircraft, our maintainers, aerial porters and the entire cadre of support troops, the C-17 is just another expensive airplane. But when you add troops to the package, it becomes a weapon system. Whether you work in the base hospital, the dining hall or under a manhole cover, don't think for a minute that you're not among the troops making our mobility mission a reality ... you are."

While reflecting over his 30-year career that included many accolades, the chief said he didn't join the Air Force for fame or fortune.

"I stayed for two reasons," he said. "One, I know of no greater privilege as an American citizen than to serve in our armed forces. Two, the opportu-

nity to serve with the likes of our people in the Air Force ... they're simply the best. I'll always reflect most about the friendships I've enjoyed with so many great people for so many years."

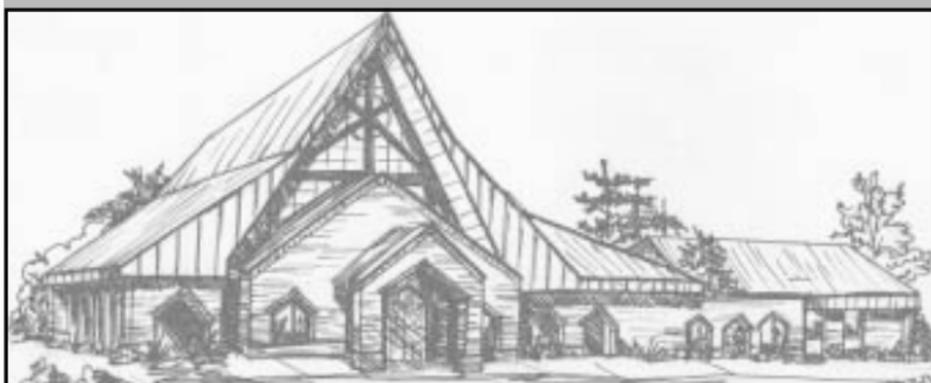
His advice for those who aspire to earn the highest enlisted rank is to get their education early and study hard for promotion testing.

"Volunteer for the tough assignments and career-broadening assignments like recruiter, MTI, tech training instructor, PME instructor or first sergeant," he said. "Always look for leadership opportunities, both on- and off-duty. Support professional organizations. Lead by example, have a positive attitude, be enthusiastic and energetic, but most of all ... take care of your people."

As he sets out for life after the military, Van Holbeck said he'll miss the daily interaction with the finest people in America.

"Like those before us, I'm proud to have been among the millions of men and women who have served our country," he said. "Carole [his wife] and I have been blessed in so many ways, and the opportunity to serve in this capacity at the end of a long career has been one of God's richest blessings. We will miss you all. God bless you all, be proud and be safe"

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.

Friday, 7:30 p.m.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" – Daniel Radcliffe

Harry Potter has learned to live with his bullying Uncle Vernon, his callous Aunt Petunia and the constant whining of his greedy, spoiled cousin Dudley. Even the impending arrival of his 11th birthday offers no excitement for Harry – as usual, there's little chance of cards, presents or any kind of birthday treat. This year, however, is different. Harry embarks on the adventure of a lifetime; he is invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. At Hogwarts, he finds the home and the family he has never had. **(PG) 152 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" – Daniel Radcliffe

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Black Knight" – Martin Lawrence

Jamal works unhappily at a dilapidated theme park called Medieval World. After falling into the park's fetid moat, he crawls out into 14th century England. Jamal finds a variety of trouble, and as he uses 21st century street smarts and moves to help his friends, he gets a lot more than just a history lesson. **(PG-13) 95 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

HAWC introduces campaign for healthy living

“Weight creep” refers to seemingly harmless weight gain of about 1.5-2 pounds per year.

Weight creep, left unchecked, contributes to the conditions of overweight and obesity. The Center for Disease Control reports that more than half of the U.S. adult population is either overweight or obese. The very existence of overweight and obesity conditions, with their associated complications, contributes not only to higher health care costs and loss of productivity, but also costs lives. Alarming, each year in the United States alone, approximately 280,000 adult deaths may be attributed to obesity.

Active-duty Air Force members experience the weight creep at a rate similar to that of the nation. The implications of this extra body weight extend into all areas of life — health, career, overall wellness and force fitness. Significant to the service, the overweight and obese conditions negatively impact mission readi-

ness. Air Force investigators estimate that overweight and obesity in active duty members account for more than 28 million dollars per year from loss of work and health care costs.

Frequently at the holiday season, weight creep takes a quantum leap. A weight gain of 5-7 pounds is not uncommon. As can be expected, many individuals formulate New Year’s resolutions that involve losing weight and getting in shape. While most New Year’s resolutions begin with good intentions, without the right tools, motivation wanes, so it is difficult to get the job done.

Many times, New Year’s resolutions include the words “never, always, immediately, must.”

Those absolutes may be setting the resolution up for failure! This year, rather than establishing resolutions without a planned approach, Team Charleston members may get involved at the base Health and Wellness Center and learn practical, safe tips and tools

to help them get a handle on their weight.

To address this seemingly harmless “weight creep” and to help make those New Year’s resolutions a reality, Charleston AFB introduced the *Shape Your Future...Your Weigh!* campaign Jan. 1.

Developed by a team of Air Force nutrition, fitness and wellness experts, the campaign serves a threefold purpose:

- To increase awareness of the “weight creep” phenomenon in the military community
- To empower the military family with practical suggestions for preventing unwanted weight gain
- To present programs and initiatives that can be tailored to meet the unique needs of each military base

Endorsed by top Air Force leaders, the *Shape Your Future...Your Weigh!* information and materials will be distributed through local HAWCs to benefit all active-duty

members and their families. A wealth of credible and well-researched educational materials and resources serves as the foundation of the campaign.

Watch for more information on this campaign or contact the HAWC at 963-4007 to get connected with *Shape Your Future...Your Weigh!*

Remember, consistently applying and using positive lifestyle behaviors, such as healthful eating and physical activity, can prevent unwanted weight gain.

The Health and Wellness Center will be offering the L.E.A.R.N. program, which is a weight-management class, starting in January. The program runs for 16 weeks and offers a choice of two groups. One group meets Wednesdays at noon and starts Wednesday. The other group will meet Mondays at 6 p.m. and will start Jan. 28. To register call the HAWC at 963-4007.

(Article submitted by the Health and Wellness Center.)