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Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

## Project U.S.

Senior Airman Jerry Good, 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, unloads items donated by the residents of Tennessee as part of Project Unlimited Support. The program was started by retired Air Force Lt. Col. Randy Harmon to provide care packages, post cards, food and gifts for military members and their families. Charleston AFB first sergeants distribute the goods.

## CAFB to gain 382 people

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB will gain 289 military, 12 civilians and 81 reservists in fiscal 2003, in part because the 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron will reactivate in July, creating a fourth active-duty C-17 squadron for the base.

The 16 AS will consist of 41 personnel (in fiscal 2002), to include pilots, loadmasters and a civilian, and will build up to full strength by September 2003 with an additional increment of 97 positions for a total of 138 people, said Tech. Sgt. Derick Rosen, manpower operations group manager.

The base is expected to receive nine additional C-17 aircraft deliveries in fiscal 2003. CAFB will have a total of 54 aircraft by May 2003.

The 16 AS mission will be the same as the existing flying squadrons, to include airlift, airdrop, airland and aeromedical operations in support of global contingencies.

To help maintain these additional aircraft, the 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron will receive 171 military positions and the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will receive 12 civilian and 81 drill positions.

Besides this reactivation, the FY 03 Force Structure Announcement explained several realignments at the base. The 437 AGS will gain 30 military positions due to the Air Mobility Operations Group consolidation of command and control. These C-17 maintenance specialist positions will come from the AMOG units on the east and west coasts and will consolidate here.

"When they need a C-17 mainte-

nance specialist's support for the AMOG, they will task us first now. The AMOGs will still keep their crew chiefs," said Chief Master Sgt. David Champagne, 437 AGS superintendent. "The AMOG will come to us only for specialist support."

He added they have no firm timeline for when this will happen.

The 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron will also gain three positions in Life Support.

The 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron will lose 10 positions as the result of a manpower study. Supply pickup and delivery responsibility will be transferred to the 437<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron. The 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron will lose two military and one civilian position for the Global Decision Support System II.

"U.S. Transportation Command (located at Scott AFB, Ill.) directed the GDSS II consolidation to reduce worldwide server footprint from 25 locations to nine locations," said Tona Cook, chief of the manpower and organization office.

The GDSS is a computer database system that serves as the primary command and control system Air Mobility Command uses to disseminate airlift and tanker status, and movement information worldwide.

"Some of these changes have already been placed on the unit manning document effective in Fiscal 2003," said Cook. "Other actions will be implemented throughout Fiscal 2003."

The announcement was part of the much larger Fiscal 2003 Force Structure realignment released to Congress March 18-21.

## Identity theft cases on the rise; Air Force members not immune

By Senior Airman  
Jason Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

Identity theft cases are on the rise nationally, and Charleston AFB members are not exempt from victim status.

For every 1,000 people who live in South Carolina, 15 have faced an identity theft problem between November 1999 and June 2001, according to the Federal Trade Commission Web site.

To date, no Charleston AFB members have reported identity theft, but that doesn't mean it can't happen.

"Although we have been lucky here at CAFB, several hundred Air Force members have found themselves victims of this crime," said Special Agent Jim Krills, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 310 superintendent. "These individuals never realized they were victimized until the

bank issuing their accounts contacted them to confirm the information used to open the accounts."

Identity theft occurs when an identity thief takes some piece of someone else's personal information and appropriates it, without the victim's knowledge, to commit fraud or theft. The most common example is the opening of a credit card account in someone else's name, according to the FTC.

Identity theft is not a new crime, according to Krills. In the past, lost or stolen documents, credit cards and checkbooks have been used to commit fraud. With technology advancement and the ease of obtaining personal information from the Internet, identity theft has become an increasing problem.

"The creation of near-perfect replicas of identity documents has become a lucra-

tive business," said Krills. "After the fraud is discovered, it may take years to repair a person's credit history."

From November 1999-June 2001, more than 30,000 of 69,370 identity theft crimes involved credit card fraud. Phone or utilities fraud was second on the FTC list, followed by depository account, loan and government document fraud.

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# IN THE NEWS

## STD

# Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month starts Monday

By Senior Airman Jason Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

Monday marks the beginning of Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month, and Charleston AFB members should be aware that they are not immune from STDs.

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Celina Johnson, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Public Health, said the Health and Wellness Center is working hard to educate Team Charleston about STDs.

"We want to make sure people know how you get STDs, how you can prevent getting an STD and where to go if you think you have an STD," said Johnson. "It's also important that people know STDs are a problem here in South Carolina."

STDs include, but are not limited to AIDS, Syphilis, Herpes, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia. According to Johnson, 18.2 per every 1,000 active-duty CAFB members have reported an STD. Of those cases, 75 percent were chlamydia.

Chlamydia is caused by a bacterium, according to the Center for Disease Control Web Site. Because

approximately 75 percent of women and 50 percent of men have no symptoms, most people infected aren't even aware they have the disease.

If diagnosed, chlamydia can be easily treated and cured. When untreated, chlamydia can cause long-term consequences, including pelvic inflammatory disease, which is the critical link to infertility, and potentially fatal tubal pregnancy.

The Charleston area has seen a rise in gonorrhea recently. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control lists 1,049 cases of Gonorrhea reported for Charleston in January-September 2001. Since the DHEC can only list reported cases, actual infections could be much higher.

"Syphilis is on the rise too," said Johnson. "Military people need to know that we're not vaccinated from these diseases. There are drugs to treat some of these diseases, but Gonorrhea is becoming drug resistant."

Johnson pointed out that not all STDs have an easy cure. As a matter of fact, many of them are permanent,

and some can cause death. Because there is no cure for viruses, STDs like Herpes and AIDS can't be fixed, said Johnson.

"Charleston is fifth (highest-ranking city) in South Carolina for AIDS," Johnson said. "It's fourth for HIV infections."

Another alarming local statistic is the rise of Herpes among active-duty members, said Johnson. The stats are highest among teenagers and young adults (17-24). Johnson credits the increase in Herpes cases to this group because statistics show they are most likely to have unprotected sex and have multiple partners.

"You can have Herpes and not even know it until you have an outbreak," said Johnson. "Some people have it and never have an outbreak."

The most common symptoms for all STDs are burning during urination, a discharge from the penis or vagina, itching or sores in the genital area and pain in the lower belly for women.

Johnson said all STDs can be prevented through abstinence, which

means not having sex. For those who won't abstain, Johnson said a Latex condom is the second best solution.

"Public Health hands out condoms and literature," said Johnson. "There's no need to feel embarrassed about condoms. If you don't use one, you're playing Russian Roulette with your life."

The third best way to protect against STDs, according to Johnson, is to have a monogamous relationship with one partner.

"That means the relationship needs to be between two un-infected people, and two people only," Johnson said.

Anyone suspecting they have been exposed to an STD should be checked by a medical professional. An active-duty member can make an appointment at the Base Clinic. There are even off-base clinics run by the state where people can get checked free of charge.

For more information about the prevention of STDs, call Public Health at 963-6962. To make an appointment at the Base Clinic, call 963-6880.

## THEFT

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The FTC recommends some of the following steps to help prevent identity theft:

- Before revealing personal information, find out how it will be used

- Pay close attention to billing cycles, and make sure bills arrive on time; if not, call the creditor to ensure a bill has not been stolen

- Deposit outgoing mail in post office collection boxes, and promptly remove incoming mail from the mailbox

- Minimize the number of ID cards carried to what is actually needed

- Keep items with personal information in a safe place

- Be cautious about where personal information is kept throughout work areas

- Order a copy of credit reports from each of the three major credit reporting agencies every year; make sure it is accurate and only reflects authorized activities

Once a person thinks they may have become a victim of identity theft, Krills recommends contacting all creditors by phone, and in writing, to inform them of the problem.

Next, Krills gives the following steps:

- Report identity theft victimization to the three credit

reporting agencies immediately

- Equifax Credit Bureau - 1-800-525-6285

- TransUnion Credit Bureau - 1-800-680-7289

- Experian Information Solutions - 1-888-397-3742

- Ask to have a "Fraud Alert/Victim Impact" statement placed in your credit file asking that creditors call you before opening any new accounts

- Alert creditors to flag accounts and contact you to confirm unusual activity; if fraud is suspected, request a change of PIN and new password on all accounts

- Contact creditors for any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently; ask to speak with someone in the security or fraud department, and follow up in writing

- Contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271

- Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles to see if another license

was issued in your name; if so, request a new license number and fill out the DMV's complaint form to begin the fraud investigation process

- Call the nearest Postal Inspection Service Office and report the matter

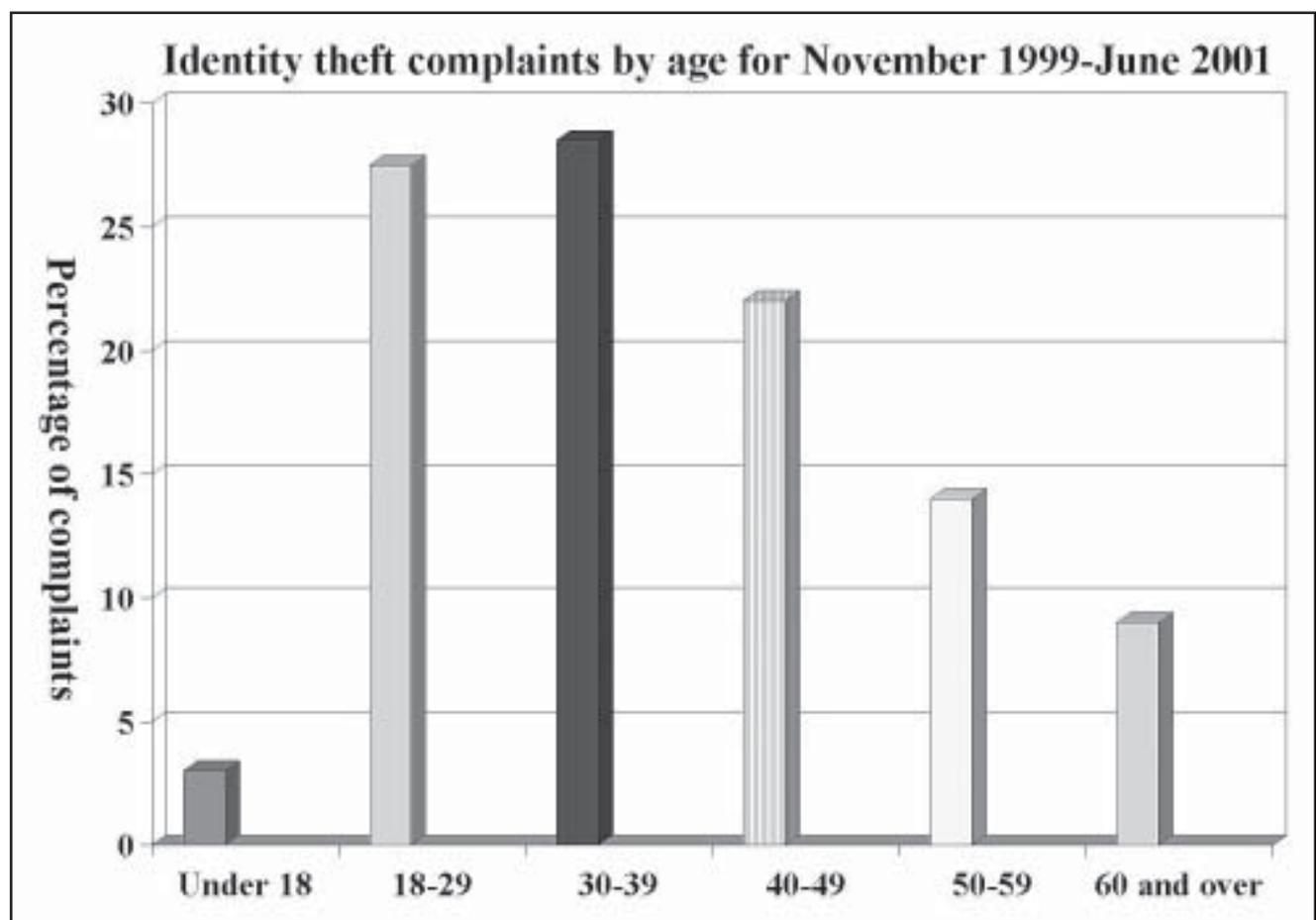
- Keep a log of all contacts and communications, and make copies of all supporting documents

"There is no 100 percent

guaranteed way of preventing identity theft," said Krills, "but making sure documents with your name and other identifying information do not get into the wrong hands is the most important step you can take. Never just throw billing statements, bank statements, expired credit cards or cancelled checks into the trash. Make sure they are completely destroyed so

someone can't obtain your personal information for their benefit."

The FTC can provide further guidance and information at 1-877-438-4338. CAFB members should report suspected identity theft to OSI at 963-3248. Agents handling the call will advise whether or not a complaint should be reported directly to local law enforcement agencies.



# 315 AW shuttle transports personnel supporting OEF

By Lt. Col. Chris King  
315 AW Public Affairs

At 32,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, the shuttle flight from Charleston AFB to Rhein Main AB, Germany, is crowded. The interior of the C-17 aircraft is loaded with 69 passengers and crew and 43,000 pounds of cargo. Most of the passengers are members of the Air Force Reserve, deploying to support operations in parts of the world thousands of miles from their homes. For many, this is their first deployment. For all, the reality of being on the cutting edge in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom is taking on a new meaning.

The 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing shuttle operation has been flown on a regular basis out of Charleston for the last several months, according to Col. James Roberts, 315<sup>th</sup> Opera-

tions Group commander.

"We fly the shuttle flight each week to get our people into the AOR (area of responsibility)," said Roberts. "We found that for us, it is the best way to get them to where they need to be."

Reserve crews have been at the front of the flying operation since the beginning of the war on terrorism, said Roberts.

"There has been a great demand for C-17 crews since the beginning of the operation, and that has put a strain on our people," he said. "We stepped up to the plate early with volunteers and have been able to keep that momentum going for several months now. The shuttle mission has helped us do that."

During the first six months of combat operations in Afghanistan, there were nearly 4,800 airlift missions, total-

ing nearly 100,000 flight hours. The missions moved more than 64,000 passengers and more than 125,000 tons of cargo into the Afghan theater of operations. A large number of those were C-17 missions according to Roberts.

Roberts said the wing coordinates with Air Mobility Command on how many additional C-17 crews are needed to augment the active duty force and asks for volunteers to fill that need. The needed crews are processed and transported on the shuttle each week to a staging area to fill the required slots.

The process appears to be a success with both the Air Force and the C-17 Reserve crews.

"I knew from the start of this thing that we might be activated," said Lt. Col. Dave Cowan, a C-17 pilot on his

way to fly missions in the AOR for the second time. "Being able to volunteer to help and getting over to the AOR on the shuttle flight is a great way to get the job done for most of us."

"I fly for the airlines, and with this schedule I can give the Air Force a few weeks, go back to the company, and come again in a month or so," he said.

While a successful part of the Reserve's C-17 operation, the shuttle mission is long and puts a strain on passengers and crews.

One loadmaster said after being alerted at 5 a.m., the flight would not get to the stage until early the next morning. He said after landing, the crews needed to get briefings and billeting assignments and would not get into bed before the sun came up. By then they've most likely

been put on the flying schedule and have to get right into crew rest for the flights.

"This is the second time I have deployed since I have been in the Reserve," said Tech. Sgt. Todd Ruggles, a member of the 315<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron.

"As a maintenance team member, we were not even on mobility status just a few months ago," he said. "Travel like this was new to us."

Ruggles said deploying with other members of his unit on the Reserve shuttle helps his people.

Wearing new desert BDUs and carrying M-16 assault rifles giving testament to their final destination, Ruggles said some of his guys were concerned about getting into the system and traveling with people they did not know.

"This shuttle flight is great for us," he said.

## Vet gives tips for moving with pets

*Planning ahead can prevent stress, avoid problems*

By Capt. Beth Szucs  
437 AW Public Affairs

As PCS season approaches, the Charleston AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility wants to remind members of the benefits of planning ahead for their pets to make a smooth transition.

"Members who are PCSing can save their pets time in quarantine if they plan in advance and come see us four-six months before their move," said U.S. Army Capt. April Ulmer, CAFB Veterinary Treatment Facility veterinarian.

She explained that some of the states or countries that require quarantine have lesser requirements if you accomplish a few steps prior to moving.

"Instead of having your pet in a quarantine facility that might not be in the best shape for six months, you could reduce that time to 60 days with a little work ahead of time," said Ulmer. "We are on the outprocessing checklist, but it really helps if members get working even before that point."

Planning ahead will also help members avoid problems actually moving their pets according to Staff Sgt. Joyce Sumpter, traffic management officer, 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron Traffic Management Flight.

Sumpter said members PCSing overseas will most likely travel on both DOD contracted and commercial flights, and will need to address pet travel requirements for both, including weight and size of kennels, cost of transport and time of travel.

PCS season isn't the only time pets need attention from the vet.

"We provide services for active duty, retired active duty and active-duty

reservists from both the Air Force Base and the Naval Weapons Station," Ulmer said.

Basic services such as vaccinations, prescription refills, heartworm checks and general health diagnosis are available by appointment for members' small animals and occasionally horses and birds. Ulmer said the clinic has recently started a spay and neuter program and is hoping to have a dental clinic started by the end of the summer.

"We have also started doing a monthly surgery day," she said. "When I first got here last June, there were over 200 people on the waiting list. We eventually got that number down, but when we get over 100 calls a month and are only able to accomplish a limited number of surgeries per day, it starts to get backed up."

She said pet owners here are very lucky to have access to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

"If a member needs to have a mass removed from their pet, they only have to pay the shipping and handling and can have some of the best pathologists in the nation analyze it for free," said Ulmer.

The clinic offers emergency service during duty hours, according to Ulmer, but for after hours emergency service they refer patients to an off-base provider.

Other duties the vet clinic is responsible for include 24-hour care for the military working dogs and food inspections for the entire eastern South Carolina area.

For more information about their services, call 963-4264, or visit their new facility behind the outdoor recreation building off of Arthur Blvd.

## Wing ceremony honors April promotees today

The 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing will honor April's promotees in a ceremony today, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club.

Each month, a different squadron hosts and coordinates the ceremony, and this month the 437<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Dental Squadron is running the show.

"Promotion is a very important moment in someone's Air Force career," said Master Sgt. Tony Mikell, 437 ADOS.

All Team Charleston members are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony, according to Mikell.

About 45 people will receive stripes, he said.

Almost 30 of the promotees are senior airmen transiting to NCO status. The NCO creed will be read by Chief Master Sgt. Robert Langston, 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group superintendent.

For more information, call Mikell at 963-6842.

## Wing safety says bring in spring safely

By Staff Sgt. Bart Craven  
437 AW Safety

It's that time again, spring and summer are blooming in the Lowcountry.

The wing safety office would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to stay alert for safety and health hazards as they are out enjoying the seasons with their loved ones.

As Team Charleston members are out enjoying the weather, they should remember to not allow themselves or their families to take any unnecessary risks. Listed below are some helpful tips to help enjoy the season safely.

- Avoid heat and sun-related illness, drink plenty of water, use sunscreen and stay cool
- Be cautious when hiking and fishing around lakes and ponds; watch for snakes, insect bites and poisonous plants
- Beware of the consequences of mixing alcohol and outdoor activities such as boating, jet skiing, swimming and water-skiing
- Remember, no drinking and driving, get a designated driver or call a cab
- Always get plenty of rest prior to taking a long drive, stop to stretch, and use caution when traveling in inclement weather
- Properly dispose of flammables during spring-cleaning
- Have portable fire extinguishers in recreational vehicles, homes and picnic areas
- Use care when using a barbecue grill, especially when using lighter fluids; pick a proper location and extinguish of hot coals properly
- Always warm up before participating in sports, enforce the use of personal protective equipment, and beware of overexertion

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

### Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nancy Gately 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nancy Gately is a medical laboratory apprentice for the 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group.

Gately is currently in training to perform urinalysis and hematology analysis. Although she has only been working at the Base Clinic since December, Gately is already certified to draw blood.

"It's no big deal," said Gately. "At first, it was a little scary sticking people, but now I'm pretty used to it."

The laboratory takes blood for a variety of different tests. Depending on "what the doctor ordered," Gately takes blood samples to the proper office or prepares them to be shipped.

"Shipping specimens takes a lot of time," Gately said. "There's a lot of paperwork to fill out."

Currently, Gately is working to finish 11 volumes of her Career Development Course. Once she's done, she hopes to get certified to work on her own.

"You have to take a test to get certified," said Gately. "It's not required at some places, but it expands your options."

Gately said she heard the test was difficult, and some people have to take it a few times to get through.

The California native doesn't have any family in the area, but she keeps busy in her free time. When Gately isn't working or studying her CDCs, she said she enjoys going out with her friends and watching movies.

Gately also said she plans on playing softball for the 437 MDG team when the season starts.

## Spotlight

**Retirement ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Donald Gaudette today, 10 a.m., at the Community Education Center. A luncheon at the Charleston Club at 11 a.m. will follow the ceremony. All Team Charleston members are invited to attend. For more information, call Master Sgt. Doreen Castle at 963-5725.

**BTZ promotees:** Twelve Charleston AFB airmen first class were recently selected for promotion to senior airman below-the-zone: Thyese Brewton, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron; Jaime Dearth, 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; Jeremy Friedrichsen, Air Force Combat Climatology Center; Robert Jones, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron; Vijay Mahabub, 437<sup>th</sup> Comptroller Squadron; Matthew Morrison, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron; Richard Mras, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; Heather Pace, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron; Adrian Quarto, 437 AGS; Ricardo Rodriguez, 437 MXS; Antonio Waller, 437 AGS; and Eric Yount, 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron.

**Military discount:** Shoe Carnival is offering an indefinite 20-percent discount on all regular-priced items for all military members. For more information, call Paul Kellett at 766-1611.

## Around the base

**Housing:** The Base Housing Office

will be inspecting the lawns and carport areas of base homes. Residents should remember to keep their lawns cut, sidewalks edged and carports free of clutter. A list of people who provide lawn care service is available at the housing office. For more information, call 963-3868.

**Fire safety:** According to Robert Hoffman, Charleston AFB fire inspector, all exit doors in base facilities must remain unlocked and free from obstruction, despite current heightened security measures. Doors may be locked to prevent unauthorized entry, but personnel must ensure doors are not locked from the inside. For more information, call the CAFB fire prevention section at 963-3121.

**Circus:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron has discounted tickets available for the Cole Brothers Circus. The circus runs Wednesday-Saturday at the Ladson Exchange Park Fairgrounds. The coupons, which can be picked up at any services facility or the BX, are good for free admission for children 12 and under and \$5 off any adult admission.

**Women's history:** There will be a Women's History Month Retreat Ceremony today, 4:30 p.m., at the base flagpole. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tiffany Richardson at 963-6962.

**Closure:** The Commissary will be

closed March 31 in observance of Easter.

**Parenting:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Behavioral Sciences Flight is offering a free, "Parenting Your Teenager" class for parents of teenagers. The class will start April 8 and meet for six consecutive Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

**Stepfamily:** The Base Clinic is offering a "Strengthening your Stepfamily" Class beginning April 9. The class will run for five consecutive Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The class will teach skills to help make stepfamilies work. For more information, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

**NDTA:** The National Defense/Transportation Association is holding a luncheon April 10, 11:30 a.m., at North Towne Grill. Commander Gary Merrick of the U.S. Coast Guard will be the guest speaker. The cost for the lunch buffet is \$9.30. For more information, call 963-3240.

**YOWS:** There will be a Year of the Warrior Spirit Warrior Run April 18, 11:30 a.m., at McCombs Way track. At 3 p.m., there will be a YOWS briefing at the Charleston Club. For more information, call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Catherine Barker at 963-3385.

**SIU:** Southern Illinois University is holding open summer registra-

tion for its one-year Workforce Education and Development program now through May 1. Classes will begin May 4 and conclude April 2003. For more information, call 552-7320.

**Change of command:** Lt. Col. James Barr will take command of the 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron from Lt. Col. John Norton in a ceremony April 16, 9 a.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ron'Dell Harley at 963-5578.

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

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

## Family Support Center

**Pre-Deployment Briefing:** Monday, April 8, 15, 22 and 29, 8 a.m., and Thursday, April 11, 18 and 25, 4 p.m.

**Career Status Bonus:** Monday, 8-9 a.m.

**Home Buying:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Job Search Basics:** Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon.

**Jr. Smooth Move:** Tuesday, 6 p.m.

**Sponsor Training:** Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., and April 17, 3:30 p.m.

**Newcomers Tour:** Thursday, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Educational Opportunity Counseling:** April 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Children and Self Esteem:** April 10, 1-2:30 p.m.

**Managing Stress through Interpersonal Communication:** April 17, 10 a.m.-noon.

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

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

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

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

**Interview Techniques:** 1-4 p.m.

**Car Buying:** April 30, 1-3 p.m.

**Smart Women Finish Rich:** April 30, 6-8 p.m.

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

## COMMENTARY

## Two airmen receive Neighborhood Hero recognition

By Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley  
437 AW commander

The Carolina Lowcountry Chapter of the American Red Cross honored 39 lowcountry residents as Neighborhood Heroes. Two of those 39 honorees were from Charleston AFB. Nominees must have saved or sustained the life or lives of others, risked their life in an attempt to save someone, or performed an extraordinary personal action to benefit others. Neighborhood Heroes were **Tech. Sgt. William Wright**, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron, in the Random Acts of Kindness category and **Staff Sgt. Scott Shafer**, 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, in the Professional Rescuer category. Another nominee, whose name was inadvertently left out of last week's column, was **Staff Sgt. Lynn Scholl**, 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron.

Wright has accomplished many notable acts of kindness. Here is just one: Wright garnered the 437 AGS (over 500 people) to "adopt" a local senior citizen as "grandma." Wright discovered this senior citizen was enduring the heat with no air conditioning and was dependent on neighbors for food since her stove didn't work. Investigating her situation further, he also discovered several things in her home were broken, including the kitchen and bathroom plumbing. Wright personally solicited over \$35,000 in home improvement donations from local businesses. Squadron personnel did all the labor.

Shafer and his Military Working Dog were providing security support for the United States Secret Service in Building #7 of the World Trade Center Complex when the first aircraft struck the North Tower. Shafer immediately initiated building evacuations in the area, including a grade school nearby. Dodging falling rubble and consumed by clouds of dust and debris, Shafer disregarded his own personal safety and continually re-entered the danger zone to evacuate personnel from harm's way, undoubtedly saving at least several lives. Following the attacks, he spent numerous off-duty hours volunteering his time to assist emergency units with rescue operations at ground zero.

Our Year of the Warrior Spirit briefing teams have also been very popular in the local community and have appeared in a number of public forums. **Capt. David Kirby**, **Capt. Andy Ratliff**, **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Petrozelli**, **Staff Sgt. Skip Hurley** and **Staff Sgt. Ricky Smith** spent several hours at Northwood's Mall explaining our role in Operation Enduring Freedom. We had another YOWS team, which included **Capt. Keith Miller**, **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kari Ellis**, **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Josh Larsen**,

and **Senior Airman Jason Hodges** traveling to Berkeley County airport Saturday morning for the Annual Palmetto Air Classic, hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 477.

We held a series of briefings by our YOWS team last Friday in the Charleston Club. Several 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group members told stories about their experiences while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. These personal accounts were truly heartwarming and made me particularly proud of their accomplishments. Our next warrior gathering will be held April 18, 3 p.m. at the Charleston Club. These gatherings should not be missed and we're hoping for an even bigger turnout. Earlier that morning, there will be a YOWS Warrior Run at 11:30 a.m. If you're not running or walking, come out for your group. This is another chance to show your group's spirit for the Warrior Cup Competition. Everyone is invited to attend both events.

At the staff meeting this week, I was honored to present the Maj. Gen. Robert H. Curtain Trophy to the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron as the 2001 Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Squadron. This honor was well deserved and one that I was extremely proud to present to our hard-working civil engineers. Congratulations again on your achievement.

Also, at the staff meeting, Don Johnson, general manager of the Cracker Barrel restaurant on Ashley Phosphate Road, donated 3,000 bags of jellybeans and a large card for our people. We appreciate the gesture. The support from the community has never been better.

It was my honor to accept the Coastal America 2001 Partnership Award presented to the Charleston AFB artificial reef team Tuesday by Raymond F. DuBois, Jr., Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment. The base had to tear up and replace the parking apron on the flight line when preparing for the arrival of the C-17 and generated 12,000 tons of concrete rubble. Instead of sending this material to a landfill, the rubble was placed at two reef sites, creating more than 200,000 cubic feet of high quality marine habitat. A special thanks to **Al Urrutia**, 437 CES environmental flight, who came up with the idea and did the extensive coordination with the many federal and state agencies to make it all happen.

We celebrated Women's History Month on Tuesday with a motivational breakfast that featured Gloria Pipkin, a 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron honorary commander who has her own private practice in dentistry. She spoke about her career as a nurse, physician's assistant and eventually a dentist.

She talked about taking advantage of opportunities and the gains women have made over the years. About 130 people showed for the event. Our last event in honor of Women's History Month will be a special retreat at the base flagpole at 4 p.m. today. Everyone is invited.

Women business owners throughout the Southeast participated in a one-day seminar Wednesday to meet and network with various government purchasers. The conference was designed to locate more women owned businesses in the fields of base services, construction, and General Services Administration services requirements and to provide these companies the opportunity to learn of future requirements from government purchasers. Joseph G. Diamond, director of the Air Force Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, was a guest speaker for the seminar.

About 1,200 local school children visited Charleston AFB for the sixth annual Earth/Arbor Day celebration at the base picnic grounds Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Once again, our 437 CES environmental flight has done a wonderful job in arranging for more than 30 exhibitors that made presentations to 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, met with Capt. Kevin Miller, a member of the Year of the Warrior Spirit briefing team, Saturday afternoon during the annual Palmetto Air Classic.

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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**Senior Airman Jason Smith**

## COMMENTS

continued from page 8

elementary school students from 11 Charleston area schools.

Students had presentations on everything from birds and the environment to marine artifacts and estuaries. The exhibits emphasized recycling, energy conservation and wildlife protection.

Children also had an opportunity to participate in earth-friendly games, hands-on presentations and a formal tree planting ceremony.

Awards were given to the winners of the poster/essay/mural contest.

Special thanks to our base firefighters for providing a firefighting demonstration and to the security forces who held a military working dog demonstration.

The Order of Daedalians Swampfox flight had retired Lt. Gen. Thomas A. Baker, Daedalian national commander, as their guest speaker Wednesday at the Charleston Club. I was glad to see a great turnout and it was a motivating speech.

The monthly promotion ceremony for April will be held today at 3 p.m. at the Charleston Club. Congratulations to each of our enlisted promotees. We also recently announced the results of the April through June 2002 Senior

Airman Below-The-Zone selectee's. See the listing on page 6. Congratulations!

I have some great news regarding some changes of leadership at Charleston. Col. Kip Self, currently commander, 621<sup>st</sup> Air Mobility Operations Group, McGuire AFB, N.J., will become our next vice commander in June. Kip is a former commander of the 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron and deputy commander of the 437 OG from 1993 to 1996. Col. Karl Young will become the deputy director of personnel at headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill. This is a great move for Colonel Young and we're happy for him and thankful for his great service to the wing over the last two years.

We're in the middle of the busy Easter week. The chapel has been very busy with a wide variety of events. See the chapel schedule on page 13. Also, come out and enjoy Easter Brunch at the Charleston Club Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost is \$12.95 per adult, \$6.95 per child ages 5-12 and free for children under five.

Sandy and I wish everyone a happy Easter season. Keep demonstrating that pride, professionalism and passion that distinguishes us as the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet. Stay safe out there!



*Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi*

## YOWSers!

**Capt. Andy Ratliff, a member of the 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group Year of the Warrior Spirit briefing teams, tells a group of Interested citizens about Charleston AFB's role in Operation Enduring Freedom. The team, at Northwoods Mall, was featured on the local news March 22.**

## FEATURE

Forget Major Dad ...  
**'Major Mom'**  
 melds family,  
 AF career

Story and photos by  
 Staff Sgt. Mary Hinson  
 315 AW Public Affairs

Balancing career and family is a juggling act many try to accomplish, but it's not easy.

Maj. Debi Rieflin, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing chief of safety, who her family affectionately calls "Major Mom," may seem like any ordinary career woman, but her undeterred determination and inner strength make her anything but.

Rieflin began her career at Cornell University, N.Y., when she accepted an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship to help defray college costs. Although her father was an airline pilot and Rieflin's initial interest came from him, becoming a career pilot herself wasn't initially a consideration.

"Military flying intrigued me but I didn't think about it as a career option," said Rieflin. "At the time, women weren't flying airplanes in the Air Force." She planned on entering the Air Force as an engineer.

While earning her mechanical engineering degree from Cornell, the Air Force began to open up certain aircraft to women pilots. Rieflin was chosen to be one out of



Maj. Debi Rieflin, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing chief of safety, receives last minute instructions from CBS the film crew. Rieflin, a C-17 aircraft commander and mother of four, was interviewed via satellite by Jane Clayson of CBS Tuesday.

only 25 women to enter a pilot training class of 950.

"I was very lucky and very happy to have the opportunity to go to pilot training, and I enjoyed it all along," the major said.

Upon completing initial training, all candidates put in a dream sheet of which planes they wished to fly. For women, regardless of demon-

strated skill, the choices were very limited, no fighters or combat aircraft. Although graded "fighter" qualified, Rieflin was assigned to the C-141 and sent to Charleston AFB.

Being one of very few women who were pilots, Rieflin faced a few skeptics.

"There was this aura of having to prove yourself," she said. Some people didn't think it was a suitable career field for a woman, she added.

"I decided I would show them I could do the job and they could make their own biased or unbiased opinion."

Rieflin set out to not only do the job, but to do it at an outstanding level. When Charleston was transitioning to the C-17, Rieflin was chosen as one of the original cadre of pilots for the C-17.

"We started with a clean slate," she said. "A new aircraft right off the assembly line, there were a lot of skeptics, but it has proven to be a great airplane."

She went on to become the first female C-17 aircraft commander and continued on to be the first female chief of safety for the wing.

"I think her professional accomplishments are the result of her incredible work ethic and commitment to serving our country," said Edward Rieflin, the major's husband of 17 years. "She never forgets how important it is to lead by example."

Despite her complete love for her country and her list of accolades, including a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Rieflin says family comes first.

"Raising my children is the most important thing to me," said Rieflin. She and her husband have four children: Alex, 10; Sean, 9; Trent, 7; and Gracie, 3.

"I don't overlook my responsibility as a parent. I try to never let it take second seat to careerism."

Rieflin credits her family with helping her reach her goals. She said the key to making it all work, having both family and career, is having a partnership with your spouse.

"Family is first, and we try to stay focused on our priorities," said Edward in agreement.

Rieflin tackles the task of keeping a two-career family running smoothly with the same tenacity and skill she does her professional life.

"By my measure, she's just your average, every day super woman," said her husband. "Alex, Sean, Trent, Gracie and I are all proud of her."

Rieflin, who has been through and survived it all, offers this advice: "Have faith in yourself and a clear picture of who you are. You'll undertake the things important to you and make it work."



Rieflin inspects for possible safety violations in wing offices. The first female C-17 aircraft commander, she has found the balance between family and an outstanding Air Force career.

# Luncheon honors Retiree Activities Program volunteers

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
437 AW Public Affairs

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Retiree Activities Program Awards Luncheon recognized several retirees for their continuing service March 21 at the Charleston Club.

"We do our best to make sure the folks at Charleston AFB know that the retiree volunteers and the non-retiree volunteers do a tremendous service to help the air base," said retired Army Col. Raymond Borelli, director of retiree activities. "They're here to help the GI's as well as helping other retirees, and we have a lot of retirees in and around the greater Charleston area."

Retiree volunteers work in a variety of areas on base, including the clinic, the Dorchester and Rivers Gates and the Family Support Center, to name a few, according to Borelli.

At the awards luncheon, volunteers were awarded certificates for extended service. Borelli said this year is a "catch-up" year, where all volunteers with more than five years of service received recognition. He said

starting next year, awards will be given to those volunteers at five, 10, 15 and 20 years.

Receiving a certificate for 14 years of volunteering was Joseph Devito, who retired from CAFB after serving as a first sergeant and helping to stand up the organizational maintenance squadron, now the aircraft generation squadron. Devito volunteers at the clinic, and gave credit to his wife, Joan, who is also a volunteer.

"I like helping other people," said Devito.

Another volunteer, Jack Linder, received recognition for his 11 years of volunteer work. Linder works at the Rivers Gate visitor's center issuing passes. Linder, who retired from CAFB in 1959, said he likes volunteering because it keeps him busy.

Eighteen other volunteers received certificates for their service: Tho-

mas Loftain, 5 years; Loren Hall, 6 years; Edward Cotter and Joseph Gatti, 7 years; June Griggs and Elrod Rice, 8 years; John McDonagh, Forrest Ott and Herbert Rumph, 9 years; Elizabeth and John Dupont, 10 years; Charles Barksdale, William Chaney, Joseph Mestnik, James Miller and Paul Canant, 11 years; and Richard Thomas and John Romagnano, 12 years.

Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, said he and the rest of CAFB appreciate all retirees did for the nation to pave the way for current military members. He also thanked them for their continuing service to the country.

Headquarters U.S. Air Force established the Retirees Activities Program to serve military retirees, spouses, widows and widowers, and to provide support to their respective Air Force bases around the world.

At CAFB, the program provides ad-

vice and assistance on TRICARE for Life, identification cards and other programs. It also conducts an annual post-retirement seminar, publishes the Greater Charleston Area Retiree Newsletter, participates in the base open house, coordinates volunteer recognition programs and responds to suggestions from the Air Force Retiree Council.

Borelli said although the program has many volunteers, more are always welcome and needed. Volunteers can be retirees, spouses, widows and any other dedicated American citizens, according to the program's information pamphlet. Volunteers are asked to give three-four hours per week to the program, and can spend the time working in a number of areas around base.

For more information, or to volunteer, call Borelli at 963-2228. Those interested may also stop by the Retiree Activities office in Bldg. 246, room 116, or e-mail Borelli at [raymond.borelli@charleston.af.mil](mailto:raymond.borelli@charleston.af.mil).

Information is also available at <https://www.charleston.af.mil/retireeactivities/RAPOCharleston.htm>.



## 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 Easter Services

**Good Friday:** Today, 5:30 p.m.

**Holy Saturday:** Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

#### Protestant Easter Services

**Good Friday:** Today, noon.

**Easter Sunrise:** Sunday, 6 a.m. (Service will be held on the rear lawn of the Chapel.)

**Easter Service:** Sunday, 11 a.m.

**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.

#### **"Collateral Damage" – Arnold Schwarzenegger**

Firefighter Gordon Brewer is plunged into the dangerous world of international terrorism after he loses his family in a bombing credited to Claudio "The Wolf" Perrini. Frustrated with the official investigation, Brewer takes matters into his own hands, teaming up with an unlikely ally; the wife of the terrorist. (R) 115 minutes

### Saturday, 2 p.m.

#### **"Big Fat Liar" – Paul Giamatti**

Jason is a 14-year old who thinks on his feet. When he has to prove that Hollywood producer Marty Wolf stole his class paper and is turning it into a blockbuster movie, he is ready for battle. (PG) 88 minutes

### Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

#### **"Rollerball" – Chris Klein**

Jonathan is the most popular player in Rollerball. Along with his teammates, he's living the high life for giving viewers what they want. Things go wrong when Rollerball's creator, Petrovich, realizes that serious on-court accidents bring higher ratings. Soon, Jonathan and his friends are playing for their lives. The teammates find themselves trapped in a game without any rules. (PG-13) 100 minutes

### April 5, 7:30 p.m.

#### **"Hart's War" – Bruce Willis**

## Fitness & Sports

# Hoop dreams coming to close

*CAFB 2001-2002 intramural basketball playoffs end Tuesday*

**By Jessica Kaleina**  
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston AFB 2001-2002 Intramural Basketball regular season came to a close with APS 1 leading the standings.

The team ended the regular season with a 13-2 record, followed by a tight race between SFS and MXS 1 for second place. As the season was winding down, the two teams ended up in a dead tie at 12-2. The final game of the season saw SFS pushing MXS 1 into the third place spot.

Since APS 1 had beat SFS earlier in the

### Final standings

Place	Team	Wins	Losses
1	APS1	13	2
2	SFS	13	2
3	MXS 1	12	3
4	MED GP/1 CTCS	9	6
5	CES	9	6
6	AGS	9	6
7	OSS	7	8
8	SUP	6	9
9	CS/SVS	5	10
10	NAVY HOSP.	5	10
11	MXS2	2	13
12	APS2 (dropped)	0	15

season, APS 1 was awarded the top spot.

"It was actually a three-way tie for first," said Michael Brandon, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron sports representative and member of the team. "We lost the last game to SFS moving us into third."

Brandon said MXS 1 has played to the level of their competition all season. MXS 1 was down to AGS by 10 points on Monday with eight minutes to go. The team quickly tied the game and ended up pulling out a 55-51 victory.

Tuesday's action went MXS 1's way also as they defeated SFS 69-64. MXS was scheduled to play APS 1 Thursday, but the results were not in at press time. Since the championship tournament is double elimination, it's still anyone's title.

Of the 12 teams to compete in the league, only eight made it to the play-offs. The double elimination championship tournament started Monday and will last until Tuesday.

The final championship game will be held Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., at the Starlifter Court. Since the tournament is double elimination, if a team with one loss plays a team with no losses, and the team with one loss wins, it could be possible to have two games to determine who will be the 2001-2002 CAFB champions.

# Volleyball season under way

**By Jessica Kaleina**  
437 AW Public Affairs

In its third week, the 2002 Charleston AFB Intramural Volleyball season is well on its way with SUP and 1 CTCS leading the standings.

"I think we're in second now," said Robert Anderson, SUP coach and captain. "We lost to 1 CTCS last night (Monday), so we're 4-1 now."

Anderson said supply has a good team this year and he expects the season to end in a tight race between SUP and 1 CTCS.

"We have lot of first-time players, but we're a good team," said Anderson. "1 CTCS is our biggest competition."

The two teams will meet again April 17, 5:30 p.m., in the Globemaster Gym.

In seasons past, there have been at least 12 or more teams competing in the league, but this year, the league consists of only eight teams. Eddie Goad, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Fitness and Sports Center sports director, attributes the low number of teams to the constant deployment of Team Charleston members.

"So many people are back and forth on TDY that some squadrons couldn't get enough people to make a full team and therefore, can't participate in the league," said Goad.

This has also happened to other leagues since Sept. 11. Goad said all the teams have been lacking people since the base went into a heightened Force Protection Condition. Most of the programs were completely suspended when a large number of people were deployed. The numbers are starting to go up, and it's expected that there will be about 15-20 teams registered for the upcoming softball season.