

DISPATCH

AIRLIFT

Inside

- ▶ Deployment / 2
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ Girl Scouts / 11
- ▶ Volleyball / 15

Vol. 41, No. 18

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, May 10, 2002

‘Candy Bomber’ drops in on CAFB May 2

Base members help recreate Berlin Airlift’s ‘Operation Little Vittles’ at local school

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streater
437 AW Public Affairs

The Candy Bomber flew again May 2, with a little help from Team Charleston.

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, known as the “Candy Bomber” during the Berlin Airlift, visited Charleston AFB after spending some time at Porter-Gaud School, where candy once again dropped from the air into the waiting hands of children.

Master Sgt. Lee Woody, 373rd Training Squadron Detachment 5 superintendent and Aero Club member, and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Elliott, 437th Logistics Support Squadron and chief pilot at the Aero Club, recreated Halvorsen’s famed candy drop in an Aero Club aircraft.

With a helper on the ground radioing coordinates, Woody flew the aircraft while Elliott dropped candy bars rigged with parachutes.

“We dropped two boxes of 250

candy bars each,” Elliott said.

Elliott said the entire operation wasn’t made any easier by the windy conditions that morning.

“We made several practice runs, and every time the test drops went a different direction,” said Elliott.

In the end, many of the candy bars hit their target, even though some landed in a near-by marsh. For both Elliott and Woody, the experience was rewarding anyway.

“It’s a part of living history, getting to be part of history now,” Elliott said. “When you think back to the Berlin Airlift and the stories of the kids who shared their candy with the ones who didn’t have anything, it’s a good message.

“It was really a great honor,” continued Elliott. “It wasn’t planned, it just kind of fell in our laps, but it was an honor to meet the colonel. I really appreciate what he did.”

Woody said the opportunity to connect the young airmen he works with

in the schoolhouse to the Air Force of the past was especially fulfilling.

“It was a way of connecting the current generation of the Air Force to an Air Force hero, connecting the past with the present,” Woody said. “Those airmen who met with him will carry that with them for the next 20 years and hopefully pass it on.”

Woody said Porter-Gaud students taking part in the event also wanted to “pass it on.”

“They were already talking about raising the funds and coordinating the whole thing for other schools,” Woody said.

When Soviet authorities blocked all traffic by land and water into or out of the western-controlled section of Berlin in June 1948, the first major test of the free world’s will to resist Soviet aggression began, according to the Air Force Museum’s Web-site. Faced with the choice of abandoning



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen watches children at Porter Gaud School scramble for candy dropped by an Aero Club plane. Halvorsen is best known as the “Candy Bomber” who airdropped tons of candy to the children of Berlin during the Berlin Airlift.

See HALVORSEN, page 2

Team Charleston members get ‘15 minutes’ for top 10



By Staff Sgt. Jason Smith

437 AW Public Affairs

Ten Team Charleston members got the chance to be national celebrities May 2, 11:30 p.m., during the Late Show with David Letterman on CBS.

Letterman’s Top 10 List, “Top 10 reasons I love my job,” was recorded live-to-tape in front of a C-17 Globemaster III at Charleston AFB between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. the same day.

“I think I’m more excited than nervous,” said Tech. Sgt. Greg Fennessy, 437th Mission Support Squadron, shortly before rehearsing his line. “I saw the Air Force folks from Germany doing the Top 10 List, and I thought, ‘Wouldn’t that be the coolest thing?’”

Fennessy said he has been a big Letterman fan for years, and it’s a real honor for him

Photo by Senior Airman Bethann Hunt, 1 CTCS

The Late Show with David Letterman made national celebrities of 10 Team Charleston members May 2 when they gave the Top 10 List, “Top 10 reasons I love my job,” from the Charleston AFB flightline, to approximately 4 million television viewers.

See LETTERMAN, page 3

IN THE NEWS

*Humanitarian mission***New Horizons lands CAFB medical crew in El Salvador**

By Staff Sgt. Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Ten Charleston AFB members returned recently from a New Horizons humanitarian deployment to the Central American republic of El Salvador.

Sponsored by U.S. Southern Command, New Horizons deployments are part of a series of military exercises to build partnerships and improve the quality of life for people in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Steve Lucas, U.S. Southern Command spokesman, said New Horizons exercises have been going on since the early 1980s.

"They are really a great deal for the taxpayers," said Lucas. "They get the most bang for their buck. We're accomplishing real-world, hands-on training while benefiting folks at the same time."

Lucas said the missions usually involve medical and engineering personnel from any or all of the military services.

The CAFB team that participated in the latest New Horizons deployment included members from the 437th Medical Group Dely Dental Clinic, Optometry Flight, Family Practice and Public Health. The group spent two weeks on the mission and teamed with other military members from Lackland AFB, Texas, to treat El Salvadorian locals with a variety of problems.

"We (optometry) saw 1,481 patients," said Staff Sgt. Constance Dangerfield, Optometry Flight NCOIC. "We saw mostly middle-aged to older patients and some school-age children."

Thanks to a Florida chapter of the Lions Club, Dangerfield said the group was able to help many of the patients. After making a few phone calls, the Lions Club had 3,000 pairs



Photo by Capt. Tina Lutchinger

Residents of a village in El Salvador stand in line waiting to see American medical personnel, including members of Team Charleston, during a recent New Horizons humanitarian deployment.

of eyeglasses waiting for the group when they got to El Salvador. The leftover glasses are being shipped to Peru for a similar humanitarian mission in June. Even with all the glasses, some people couldn't be helped.

"There were some people we saw that we just couldn't do anything for," Dangerfield said. "There was a 104-year-old man who needed surgery, and we don't do surgeries."

Dangerfield said the main complaint her patients had was burning, itchy eyes from the sun. She also had a lot of middle-aged and older patients whose eyes were so bad, they said they couldn't even read. The people she treated didn't have sunglasses or hats to help keep their eyes safe. Even though the group didn't have sunglasses to hand out, Dangerfield said she still felt as if she helped the people she saw.

"They were all very grateful," said Dangerfield. "Helping them and seeing how they live made me realize that I can make a difference; as far as eye care goes."

Airman 1st Class Carmen Stanco, Dely Dental Clinic dental assistant, said she also felt she was helping to

make a difference, but doesn't feel like two weeks was enough time.

"I want to go again," said Stanco. "It's an eye-opening experience, and it made me grateful for all the things I have. Instead of being tourists, we were actually working with the locals and seeing how they really live."

The dental crew performed a lot of extractions, placed some fillings, and did some scaling and root planting (in-depth teeth cleaning), according to Stanco. She said most of the patients were between 5 and 18 years old, and their teeth were already rotted out.

"They eat a lot of mangos, and their main crop is sugar cane," said Stanco. "There's also a lack of minerals in the well water they drink. That combination ruins teeth quickly."

Even though the villages the team visited have local dentists, Stanco said huge lines formed to be seen by U.S. military health care professionals.

"When Americans come, they think we have some great technology with us," said Stanco. "All the local people know about their local dentists, but they don't go unless they hear the Americans are coming. It's weird because with the equipment we had with us, the local dentists were capable of doing anything we did. They were actually very skilled dentists."

Stanco blames the lack of dental visits on money. She said the people she treated were poor and couldn't afford even the most basic dental care.

Capt. Melinda Alsabrook, Family Practice, said the country does provide health care to all of its residents, but no one has the money to buy any medication or even get basic, needed nourishment.

"A lot of patients we saw had headaches," said Alsabrook. "They don't drink enough water. They have wells, but they have to travel pretty far to get what limited water is available."

Alsabrook said the water situation actually worsened about a year ago because the country suffered a major earthquake. Now, the sewage is stagnant and any pipes that moved water prior to the earthquake are not working. The conditions were a lot different than what Team Charleston members are used to. To make sure the team was able to work hard fixing the locals, Capt. David Newman, Public Health, went along to keep the team healthy.

"I worked mainly at the base camp to keep the water supply and food supply healthy," said Newman. "It was already set up and working, I just had to maintain it."

Newman said he did get the chance to work with some of patients, and from what he saw, they were all very thankful for the medical care they were receiving.

When the combined CAFB and Lackland AFB team departed, the 29 members had collectively treated 6,190 patients, according to Col. John Hill, 437 MDG commander.

"This was a mission where everyone won," said Hill. "It fostered goodwill between our two countries, some of El Salvador's people received much needed medical care, our medics had the opportunity to see and treat patients with much different needs than they normally see here at CAFB and finally, it was tremendous morale builder."

The CAFB and Lackland AFB medical team was the last medical team to leave El Salvador as part of this New Horizons deployment. Medical and civil engineer teams will continue to travel to South and Central America in the future as part of the New Horizons program.

HALVORSEN

continued from page 1

the city or attempting to supply its inhabitants by air, the western powers launched the

Berlin Airlift, "Operation Vittles," and for the next 11 months sustained the city's 2.5 million residents in one of the greatest feats in aviation history.

As a lieutenant pilot during the Berlin Airlift, Halvorsen was impressed by the friendliness of the German children outside Tempelhof airdrome and promised to drop candy to them the next day, according to the site. He did as promised

and continued for days after, using handkerchiefs and scraps of cloth as miniature parachutes.

Word of his personal humanitarian mission spread to the states, where donations of thousands of pounds of candy, hundreds of handkerchiefs and other pieces of scrap cloth eventually reached him.

By January 1949, more than 250,000 mini-parachutes with treats attached had been dropped.

Halvorsen credits those children in Berlin with re-teaching him an important life lesson.

"When making decisions

that affect your life, you have to put principles before pleasure," Halvorsen said. "Those kids said, 'We don't need enough to eat, freedom's more important.' They could live on thin rations, but not without hope."

Spreading that lesson is what Halvorsen said is the best part of being the "Candy Bomber."

"I get to meet young people who have decisions ahead of them in life," Halvorsen said.

"I'm interested in the decisions they face," he continued. "I want them to know a little decision can determine one's destiny, so make them carefully."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Tech. Sgt. Jeff Elliott, Aero Club chief pilot, drops candy from an Aero Club aircraft, piloted by Master Sgt. Lee Woody, 373rd Training Squadron Detachment 5 Superintendent, May 2 at Porter Gaud School.

437 LSS airman claims Levitow award

'Candy Bomber' guest speaker at class graduation ceremony May 2

Senior Airman Bryan Edwards, 437th Logistics Support Squadron, earned the Sgt. John L. Levitow Award during Airman Leadership School class 02-E and was presented with the award during the ALS graduation ceremony May 2 at the school.

The Levitow award is presented to the distinguished graduate who is the most outstanding in objective and performance evaluation, demonstrated leadership, and teamwork. It is named in honor of Sgt. John Levitow, who earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions as a loadmaster in an AC-47 over Vietnam.

The then-airman first class, suffering from 40 shrapnel wounds in his right side following a mortar hit to the aircraft, saw a magnesium flare roll amid ammunition cans. Knowing he didn't have much time, Levitow threw himself on the flare and dragged it to an open cargo door, heaving it out just as it ignited.

Senior Airman Dawn Anderson, 1st Combat Camera Squadron received the Academic Achievement Award, given to the class member with the highest academic standing in the class (excluding the Levitow

winner).

Senior Airman Kenneth Byrd, 437th Security Forces Squadron, Senior Airman Billie Palmer, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and Senior Airman Christi Skiles, 437th Comptroller Squadron, received the Distinguished Graduate Award. The Distinguished Graduate Award is given to the top ten percent of the class based on objective and performance evaluations, demonstrated leadership, and performance as a team player.

Earning the Leadership Award, given to the student who made the most significant contribution to the overall success of the class, was Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mathe, 437th Airlift Wing.

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, well-known as the "Candy Bomber" during the Berlin Airlift, was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Graduates from the course also include the following senior airmen:

- 14th Airlift Squadron**
Maria Murray and Terence Williams
- 15th Airlift Squadron**
Justin Malott
- 17th Airlift Squadron**
Duane Nancarrow
- 437th Aircraft Generation**

Squadron

John Bowman, Ian Carpenter, Brian Lawrence, Jamin Norton, Matthew Smith and Stanley Williams

437 APS

Joaquin Chacon, Jason Gates and Gregory Jasinski

437th Civil Engineer Squadron

Enrique DeReza, Charles McDowell, Suhail Malo and Davis Thomas

Detachment 3, Naval Consolidated Brig

Wayne Doyon

437th Medical Operations Squadron

Fayequitla Pauling

437th Maintenance Squadron

Jason Dixon and Fred Duran

437th Operations Group

Jimmy Sosa

437th Operations Support Squadron

Shaun Cox, Jonelle Neeley, Heather Reid and Sherikia Wilson

437th Services Squadron

Camby Howe

437th Transportation Squadron

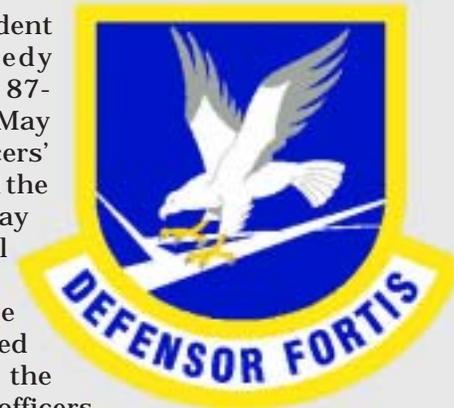
Borislav Komarovsky, Esther Jara-Olivar and Jeffrey Storie

(Information provided by the ALS staff.)

Events scheduled at CAFB to celebrate National Police Week

By Tech. Sgt. Keith Collins
437 SFS

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726, designating May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week.



National Police Week was founded to pay tribute to the law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and to voice appreciation for all those who currently serve on the front lines of the battle against crime.

To celebrate National Police Week, Charleston AFB's Security Forces have scheduled a number of events:

Security Forces Car Wash

Tuesday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Shoppette; proceeds sponsor Pistol Shoot Contest

Children's Candy Parade

Thursday, 2:30 p.m., in Base Housing

Police Memorial Retreat

May 17, 4-4:30 p.m., at the Base Flag Pole; the ceremony will honor police officers slain in the line of duty

Pistol Shooting Match

May 18, 8 a.m., at the Base Firing Range (Bldg. 693); the shooting match will take place between base security forces personnel and local police departments

LETTERMAN

continued from page 1

to be part of the show.

"I think it's neat that they notice what CAFB is doing," said Fennesy. "Airlift wings don't get all the glamour that fighter wings get. It's nice to be

recognized."

Since giving his line, "Gillette's new Mach 3 Turbo works even better if you shave while going mach 3," Fennesy said he has heard from friends he hasn't talked to in years who saw him on the show.

"Right before we gave our lines, the

coordinator told us about how many people were in the studio and that 4 million people will watch from their homes," said Fennesy. "That's when I got a little nervous.

"It went well though," Fennesy continued. "One guy I haven't heard from in three years saw me on TV and sent me an e-mail about it."

Along with making a national appearance on Letterman, Airman 1st Class Tabitha Stewart, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, also made her debut on the local news as a weather reporter.

"I was talking to Mr. Walsh (Bill, Channel 5 meteorologist) about what I do and things like that," said Stewart. "I was next to him, and he told me to give it a try. We were live on the 6 o'clock news."

Stewart said she wasn't nervous at all and called the whole experience a very positive one.

"It was really cool," said Stewart. "I feel I did well. I was just really amazed at how much calculated humor is put into a show like that."

According to Jeremy Weiner, writers' segment coordinator for the Late Show with David Letterman, CAFB was an easy choice for the show's Top 10 List.

"We started doing Top 10 Lists from different military places in January," said Weiner. "We're showing our support and appreciation for all the mili-

tary does every day. We try to represent all branches, and Charleston was the logical choice because of all the essential missions they have going on overseas right now."

Once CAFB officials found out the show was coming here, 10 people and an alternate had to be selected. One or two members from each group on base, including three members of the 315th Airlift Wing, were selected based on nominations from group leadership. Those who were selected had to be on the flightline by 12:30 p.m., May 2.

Prior to the actual live-to-tape feed, Weiner said the rehearsals went perfectly. Although a few minor adjustments were made before actual taping, the show went off without a hitch, and judging by the laughter of the crowd, Team Charleston was a big hit.

Along with Fennesy and Stewart, the other eight participants were Maj. Mark Banknight, 300th Airlift Squadron; 2nd Lt. Molly Curland, 17th Airlift Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Michael Michaud, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Barbara Greenwald, 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Master Sgt. Dennis Ingold, 437th Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Greg Arceneaux, 437th Security Forces Squadron; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Gaines, 315th Security Forces Squadron; and Tech Sgt. Darin Elwood, 437th Medical Group.

Top 10 reasons I love my job

10. The frequent flier miles really pile up.
9. When the pilot's not looking, we throw water balloons out of the jet.
8. Gillette's new Mach 3 Turbo works even better if you shave while going mach 3.
7. Growing up, mom always told me not to throw food. Well, guess what mom? The U.S. Air Force is paying me to throw food.
6. The cockpit is full of shiny buttons and lights.
5. I know he's not a refugee, but sometimes I'll drop stuff on Letterman's house just to mess with him.
4. The dental plan.
3. The sense of fulfillment after a day's work...Just kidding. The planes go, like super fast.
2. Sometimes, I sneak a crate of freeze-dried beans for myself.
1. I'm at the controls of a \$200 million jet. What do you drive?

NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry**Capt. Karen Hennigan**437th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate

Capt. Karen Hennigan is the 437th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate claims officer, an assistant SJA, and the legal assistant and preventive law chief.

"We handle any claims people have when they move," Hennigan said. "If the movers break anything, we investigate the claims and pay the ones that are substantiated.

"For personal injury cases, we investigate the case and relate the information to higher headquarters to recommend whether or not we believe there's a basis for payment," she said.

The legal office is also responsible for prosecutions, providing trial counsel to the government, writing wills and powers of attorney, providing legal assistance and handling small claims personnel make, Hennigan said.

A New York City native, Hennigan went to Air Force Commission Officer Training a week before Sept. 11.

"I knew people in and around the building, people who saved people and people who died," Hennigan said. "The trade center was a big part of the skyline I grew up looking at.

"Being from New York, it has given me a new sense of purpose that I might not have had if 9/11 never happened," Hennigan continued. "It's changed my perception on the job with what it means and makes me prouder than I ever would have been."

Hennigan enjoys the experience the military has given her in law.

"I like that I'm doing something totally different every day and getting exposed to things and people I would never see anywhere else," Hennigan said. "There's no place in the world I would be a prosecutor and help people write their wills, except in the military."

When Hennigan isn't working she enjoys catching up on New York sports, rollerblading, reading and writing.

graduate degrees. Classes meet once per week in the evening or on Saturday during each nine-week term. For more information, call 572-2675.

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

Motorcycle shipment: The government of Japan has imposed a requirement that all motorcycles or mopeds over 250cc, manufactured July 1, 1999 or later, must comply with Japanese brake standards. The compliance testing costs about \$2,000. There are no testing facilities on Okinawa, therefore, motorcycles subject to the new requirement cannot be shipped there. For more information, call 963-2261.

Supply: The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office can help meet mission requirements. All Department of Defense organizations can screen free excess assets at www.drms.dla.mil. For more information, call 963-4826.

Discount: Whirlin' Waters Adventure Waterpark is offering a discount to military members and dependents May 18. Each person with a military or dependent identification card will receive a \$9.99 rate that day. The rate also applies to children who are too young for their own identification card.

Shoplifting: The Civil Recovery Act, which went into effect March 1, allows the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to collect a flat administrative cost of \$200 in addition to the value of the shoplifted items from those caught shoplifting in an AAFES store. The \$200 is meant to offset the expenses AAFES incurs because of shoplifting, said an AAFES spokesperson. Military exchanges spend millions of dollars each year to foil shoplifters, including measures to deter and detect thefts, the official said. Under the terms of the new program, sponsors are responsible for their family members' actions. Parents of minors caught shoplifting will be billed for the costs, AAFES officials explained. They added that this administrative charge is separate from any criminal prosecution or military disciplinary action. AAFES apprehends more than 11,000 shoplifters each year.

Family Support Center

Pre-deployment Briefing: Daily, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Thrift Savings Plan Briefing: Monday, May 28 and 29, 8:30-10 a.m.

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

Spotlight

YOWS: There will be a Year of the Warrior Spirit Warrior Briefing Tuesday, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Members of the 437th Logistics Group will highlight individual and unit accomplishments during Operation Enduring Freedom.

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

Retirement: The 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron Gator Sortie Generation Flight is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Timothy McCutcheon May 17, 2 p.m., at the Community Education Center.

Luau: A going-away luau for Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley and his wife, Sandy, is scheduled for May 28, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Tickets are \$17 for club members and \$20 for non-members. RSVP by May 22 to the 437th Services Marketing Office.

Around the base

Medal: The Deputy Secretary of Defense has authorized award of the National Defense Service Medal to all

members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving on active duty on or after Sept. 11.

Closure: North O'Neal Drive will be closed from 9 a.m. today until 4 p.m. Saturday, from the entrance to the Youth Center to the stop sign at Lawson Drive. The alternate route to avoid the closure will be from Hill Boulevard to West Jackson Drive to Batson Drive to Gross Avenue, which connects to North O'Neal on the other side of the closure.

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

Math CLEP: There will be a Math CLEP preparatory class at the Community Education Center Monday-Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Students who successfully complete the Math CLEP class will be administered the CLEP General Mathematics exam May 16. Successful completion of this test meets the Community College of the Air Force requirement for mathematics. This class will be offered to Air Force personnel assigned to Charleston AFB only, as

the purpose is to meet CCAF requirements. Personnel desiring to take this exam must sign up in person at the CEC. All those signed up must confirm their seat no later than 3:30 p.m. May 9, by calling 963-4575. Seats not confirmed will be open to the waiting list.

Chiefs' group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, 11 a.m., in the Charleston Club. Representatives from Heritage Trust will address the group, and lunch will be provided.

Commissioning: A commissioning briefing is scheduled for Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., at the Community Education Center. The briefing will be conducted by Capt. Dennis Nuttall, unit admissions officer for Air Force ROTC Detachment 772, Charleston Southern University. For more information, or to reserve a seat, call 963-4575.

Embry-Riddle: Pre-registration for Summer II Graduate and Undergraduate classes is going on now-May 28 in Room 128 at the Community Education Center. New students should call 767-8912 to discuss available degrees.

Webster: The Charleston Campus of Webster University is now registering for its next term, which begins May 27. Webster offers a variety of

COMMENTARY

Team Charleston continues to amaze others

By Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

At staff meeting, I was honored to recognize some of our outstanding folks in the 437th Medical Group. Receiving Air Mobility Command awards were: the staff of the Health and Wellness Center for the Best Small Base Health Promotion Program of the Year; Master Sgt. **David Hayes** was recognized as the Outstanding Bioenvironmental Engineering NCO of the Year; and Tech. Sgt. **Tundra Gatewood** was named as the Patient Administration/Managed Care NCO of the Year. Congratulations to everyone in our medical community for ensuring the well being of our workforce.

I was also pleased to attend the 2002 Federal Executive Association of the Year Awards luncheon May 3. Twenty-three federal employees and three organizations were honored, and Team Charleston captured a number of the awards.

Some of the award winners from the 437th Airlift Wing included the following individuals in their respective categories: Outstanding Scientific/Professional, **Anna Marie Urrutia**, 437th Contracting Squadron; Outstanding Technician/Assistant, Staff Sgt. **Carolyn Brandt**, 437th Comptroller Squadron; and Outstanding Safety/Security, **Michael Ruey**, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Receiving Special Recognition were **Charlie Jenkins**, 437th Maintenance Squadron, in the Outstanding Trade/Craft category, and **Debra Etheredge**, 437th Supply Squadron, in the Outstanding Clerical/Administrative category. We also had one runner-up award winner in the Outstanding Managerial/Executive category, **Ronald Wiggins**, 437 CES. The 315th Operations Group won runner-up in the overall team category.

We recognized some of our brightest and sharpest airmen with the Diamond Sharp awards for May. Receiving this recognition Tuesday from their first sergeants were Senior Airman **Robert Jones**, 437 MXS; Airman 1st Class **Jonathan Adams**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; and Airman 1st Class **Danielle Johnson**, 437th Logistics Support Squadron.

Team Charleston will accept the lion's share of the Air Force Association awards at the annual South Carolina AFA Awards Banquet at Shaw AFB Saturday. We have a good showing of folks from both wings attending the banquet. It is great to see the AFA take a leading role in recognizing our outstanding people.

The 437 AW was named outstanding active-duty wing, and the 315th Airlift Wing was named outstanding Reserve wing in the state. The 437th Operations Group was selected as the outstanding group, while Capt. **Brad Cochran** was named outstanding officer of the year. **Jo Ann Russell**, 315 AW, was named as the Outstanding Air Force Person of the Year in the civilian category, and Master Sgt. **Betty Hill**, 315 AW, was named Recruiter of the Year in the Air Force Reserve category.

Col. **Steven Lesniewski** assumed command of the 315 OG from Col. **Jim Roberts** on Sunday. We welcome Col. Lesniewski on board and congratulate him on his recent promotion. We enjoy a great relationship with the 315 AW.

The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce invited our wing leaders to attend the Joint Area Business Council Breakfast honoring the area's Armed Forces on Wednesday at the North Charleston Convention Center. I had the opportunity to speak with about 100 or so community leaders about our efforts in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Your sacrifices are truly appreciated by the community.

The event also marked the first time the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee recognized two Air Force airmen for the quarter. This new program began in

January, and each quarter, the chamber honors one of the four military services. The chamber's MAC chose to honor the 437 AW and 315 AW for this quarter. Receiving Air Force honors were: Staff Sgt. **David Perkins**, 437 MXS, and Staff Sgt. **Keith Bright**, 315 AW Staff Judge Advocate's Office. The airmen were recognized for their volunteerism and efforts in the local community.

Today we kicked off our Honorary Commander's program in the Charleston Club. The purpose of the program is to introduce community leaders to our people and mission and give them a chance to develop a personal relationship with our many squadron and group commanders. The idea is that they will share their experiences with their friends in the community and our relationship will be strengthened.

We have approximately 38 honorary commanders returning in the program with another 20 brand-new folks joining the program for the first time, giving us a grand total of 58 civic leaders involved in the program. It is our largest participation ever in the program, and it has been growing ever since we started it in February 2000. Having a cadre of informed community leaders working on our behalf can only mean good things for Team Charleston and our people! Please give this program your full support.

I hope to see a good turnout for the Company Grade Officer's Council sponsored Year of the Warrior Spirit Softball tournament Tuesday, 8 a.m. to noon. There will be one team per group competing with a three-inning limit. Playoff games will be seven innings.

On the same day at 3 p.m., the 437th Logistics Group will provide briefers for Warrior Day at the Charleston Club. Use this opportunity to learn more about the hard work of our logistics group warriors in their support of the war on terrorism. I would like to see a great turnout once again for these warrior briefs. Hope to see you there.

Next week, we will have a couple of changes in squadron leadership. Lt. Col. **Nancy Dezell** will assume command of the 437th Medical Operations Squadron from Lt. Col. **Vickie Moore** on Monday. Moore will head to Scott AFB, Ill. Dezell comes to us from Brooks AFB, Texas. Thanks Vickie, for all your hard work and God-speed as you depart Charleston!

Lt. Col. **Stephan Shope**, current chief of safety, will assume command of the 15th Airlift Squadron from Lt. Col. **John Zazworsky Jr.** We welcome Lt. Col. Shope and his wife, Michelle, to the ranks of squadron command. Col. Zazworsky will join the command section of the 437 OG as a deputy commander for a couple of months before heading to the Naval War College this summer. Our thanks to Lt. Col. Zazworsky and his wife, Monica, for all they've done to make the 15 AS the great unit it is today.

Planning is already underway to bid farewell to Col. **Karl Young**, 437 AW vice commander, on May 30, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Although Karl will stay on a little longer after I leave, it is very important to bid him farewell and recognize his outstanding achievements and leadership. We want to make this a very nice event recognizing all the many things Col. Young has done for this wing.

As hurricane season approaches in June, we will begin some training preparations and have an exercise to prepare the base. For now, everyone needs to mark his or her calendar for training at the 15 AS auditorium May 21, 7:30 a.m.-noon. The training is geared for commanders, disaster preparedness representatives and unit first sergeants. Everyone needs to start thinking about what they would do should a hurricane threaten us.

Once again, thanks for your superb day-to-day performance. It's such a joy to be a part of the finest airlift wing on the face of the planet!

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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

Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, Air Force, or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All photos are Air Force photos unless identified otherwise.

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.

Advertising

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

Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.
Phone: (843) 963-5608
Fax: (843) 963-5604
Mail to: 437 AW PAI
102 East Hill Blvd.
Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154
or send to:
dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander
Brig. Gen. Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II

Chief, Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

Editor
Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. Jason Smith

Staff Writer
Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Action Line

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

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



Commentary: Suicide prevention is a year-round task

By Lt. Col. Rick Campise

AF Suicide Prevention Program

“Suicide is our most preventable cause of death,” said Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton Jr. “Leadership and mentorship are our two most important tools in preventing these tragic losses!” Suicide is the second leading cause of death for active-duty Air Force people, surpassed only by unintentional injury. Awareness of suicide and the risk factors associated with suicide are key to the prevention of such loss of life and its traumatic consequences for our families and our communities.

May is National Mental Health Month, according to the National Mental Health Association. The first full week of May is National Suicide Prevention Week, which is sponsored by the American Association of Suicidology. But how do we know when someone is in significant distress? A misconception about suicide is that suicide occurs with little or no warning. There are often many clues that someone may be in distress or at risk.

The most commonly associated factor with suicide in the Air Force is problems in intimate relation-

ships, including marital and dating relationships. Other high risk factors that should alert us to vulnerability include abuse of alcohol or other substances, financial and legal problems, few social ties or loneliness, prolonged unmanageable stress, and feelings of depression or worthlessness.

A key signal of distress is obsessing or talking about death, dying, and violence, as well as purchasing firearms or other weapons. This runs counter to another misconception: those who talk about suicide will not do it.

Other significant signs that someone may be in need of assistance include withdrawing from friends and family or suddenly making amends with others, sudden changes in behavior, loss of interest in work or usual activities, and giving away possessions.

What can we do to help? Talking with someone directly about suicide is one of the most helpful things you can do. Most people contemplating suicide are seeking an end to the emotional pain they are experiencing, not an end to life. Talking with them may open doors to assistance to help them through their distress.

Some buy into the myth that if we talk about suicide with someone, it will give that person the idea to harm him or herself, or if someone has decided to harm him or herself there is nothing we can do to change his or her mind. This belief is not only wrong, it also creates barriers to preventing suicide.

The key to the prevention of suicide is early intervention. Seeking assistance and encouraging others to do the same when having difficulty coping helps prevent more serious problems from developing. If serious warning signs are present, including threats of suicide with a plan, do not leave the person alone. Call 911 or seek emergency services immediately.

Air Force leaders have stated repeatedly that “one suicide is too many,” and their actions in providing standardized tools and working to remove the stigma applied to those who turn to mental health for professional assistance bear this out. Today, the Air Force uses an integrated delivery system that involves chaplains and professionals from mental health, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers and family advocacy — all working

together and taking responsibility for prevention.

To date, suicide prevention efforts include an emphasis on involving and training leadership, annual suicide prevention training for all military and civilians and a database that tracks not only suicides but also suicide attempts.

The Air Force’s community approach in suicide prevention and education has received national recognition, including praise in May 2001 from then-U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, who declared the program a model for the nation and incorporated it into the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. The Air Force Suicide Prevention Program began in the summer of 1996. For the five years prior to the program’s inception, the Air Force averaged 60 deaths annually, a rate of 14.3 per 100,000 personnel, the standard measurement of suicide rates nationally. From 1999 through 2001, the service averaged 28 suicides annually, a rate of 8.1 per 100,000 personnel.

For more information about suicide prevention, call the 437th Medical Group Behavioral Sciences Flight at 963-6852.

FEATURE

Girl Scouts do more than sell cookies

By Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

For nearly a decade, Girl Scouts have provided girls with enriching experiences while instilling the importance of volunteer work.

Two military family members exemplify these fundamental qualities of Girl Scouts.

Vanessa Swan, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Robert and Hyon Swan and Rebekah Bevins, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Michael and Angela Bevins, recently achieved the highest award possible that their rank allows.

Vanessa, a Senior Girl Scout, attained the highest award in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award.

"To earn the award, you have to complete several projects before you even start the work for the award," said Vanessa. "For the actual award, you have to do 50 hours of volunteer work."

For her award, Vanessa designed and sent out 41 care packages for personnel deployed from the 17th Airlift Squadron in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She included personal items as well as cookies for each member.

"I did the award for the 17 AS because the Girl Scout council wants you to do a project for the community," said Vanessa. "For me, I've

always considered the military my family. I know how hard it is when a family member is gone, and I know how hard it can be for the military member to be away in a harsh environment."

Rebekah, a Cadette Girl Scout, achieved the highest award a cadette can obtain, the Silver Award.

According to the Girl Scouts website, the Silver Award is symbolic of accomplishments in Girl Scouting and community activities. The requirements for the award help the girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills and make commitments to improving themselves.

For the award, Rebekah had to do 30 hours of community service.

"I put together little baggies for bilingual children that included toothpaste, a toothbrush and stuffed animals," Rebekah said. "I also made 20 toiletry bags for children at the Department of Social Services.

"I chose the bilingual children for half of my project because I consider them to be at-risk children due to the language barrier," Rebekah added.

"The DSS children have no parents or uninvolved ones" Rebekah continued. "That's why I chose them for the second part of my project."

Angela, Rebekah's mother and the girl's troop leader, supported the girls the entire time.

"If the girls have the motivation, they can get the award," said Angela. "They have to have a support level that their friends, family and troop provides.

"I'm very proud of them, and they are outstanding young women," Angela continued. "With all the bad stuff that goes on, it's great that they can put the spotlight on two children that are trying to do good."

Recipients of the Gold award are eligible for different scholarships. The military also recognizes it as the equivalent of two years of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps experience. Vanessa already has that experience and more.

"At school, I participated in the JROTC for four years, and outside of school, I work for the Civil Air Patrol," said Vanessa. "In CAP, we learn about search and rescue, medical stuff and military drill. Other than that, if there's a downed



Courtesy photo

Older Girl Scouts focus on service activities and ways to support their communities. For her Gold Award project, Vanessa baked cookies and packed other sundries in care packages for deployed military members.

or crashed aircraft and the beacons are going off, we help do search and rescue."

Vanessa, a senior in high school, is set to graduate this year and will be attending the Citadel with more than \$11,000 in scholarships so far. Rebekah, a freshman in high school, will remain in Girl Scouts and hopefully work toward her Gold Award.

These two military family members show the true spirit of volunteering within their community, exemplifying what all Girl Scouts strive to show.



Courtesy photo

Vanessa Swan, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Robert Swan, prepares care packages for deployed military members. Vanessa is a Senior Girl Scout.

Girl Scouts history

Founded in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, by visionary Juliette Gordon Low, Girl Scouts started with a membership of only 18 girls and a dream. Juliette, referred to as "Daisy," dreamed of giving the United States "something for all the girls." She envisioned an organization that would bring girls out of their cloistered home environments to serve in their communities and experience the open air.

Nurtured by Daisy's personal funding and her unique brand of enthusiasm, the Girl Scout movement attracted the attention of many women and girls by providing an outlet for their abilities.

When the United States entered World War I, Girl Scouts served their country on the home front, working in hospitals, growing vegetables, and selling defense bonds.

With the coming of World War II in the early forties, Girl Scouts again served on the home front, collecting fat and scrap metal and growing Victory Gardens.

The social unrest of the 1960s was reflected in organization actions and Girl Scout program change, including introduction in 1963 of four program age levels for girls: Brownie, Junior, Cadette, and Senior Girl Scouts.

The National Board went on record as strongly supporting civil rights. Senior Girl Scout Speakout conferences were held around the country and the "ACTION 70" project was launched in 1969, both as nationwide Girl Scout initiatives to overcome prejudice.

The 1980s began with the introduction of new program resources and a new Daisy Girl Scout age level for girls five years old or in kindergarten.

During the nineties, Girl Scouting experienced a renewed emphasis on physical fitness with the inauguration of a health and fitness national service project in 1994 and the *GirlSports* initiative in 1996.

(Information from www.girlscouts.org)

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Phone: 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services

Saturday -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

Weekdays -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

Protestant Services

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

Thursday -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Blade 2" – Wesley Snipes

After an accident triggers the deadly "Blood Tide," a part human and part vampire warrior, Blade must find a way to reverse the process and save the world that has been completely overrun by vampires. **(R) 108 minutes**

Saturday and May 18, 2 p.m.

"Ice Age" – Animated

During the Ice Age, 20,000 years ago, the planet's creatures begin migrating South to avoid a really bad frostbite. Manny, Sid, Diego and Roshan embark on an incredible journey. They narrowly escape avalanches, battle over food, careen through a prehistoric roller coaster of ice funnels and traverse ice bridges over lakes of volcanic lava. They become the weirdest herd of this, or any, age. **(PG) 81 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Monster's Ball" – Halle Berry

A young man, who has grown up in a racist family, falls in love with the widow and an African-American inmate at a death row prison he works for. The trouble is, she has no idea of the young man's connection to her dead husband. **(R) 108 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

CTCS spikes a 'three-peat' in Base Intramural Volleyball

Story and photo by
Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

CTCS beat AGS twice May 1 to become the Base Intramural Volleyball Champions for the third year in a row.

AGS sent CTCS to the loser's bracket earlier in the playoffs, forcing CTCS to beat AGS twice to win the title.

In the first game, CTCS dominated over AGS in two games winning 25-20 and 25-18.

In the second game, CTCS continued their winning streak, 25-18 and 25-20.

"We got a few of our key players back compared to the other times we played AGS," said Mark Depass, CTCS assistant coach. "For the first time in a few weeks, we played well together."

Depass also said AGS was good competition but CTCS didn't let them get into the groove.

"We were constant going into this game," said Nathan Zahn, AGS coach. "But we were just out-played."

CTCS has maintained an impressive record over the past three years said Eddie Goad, base sports director.

"Their collective record for the

past three years is 36-2 in the intramural season," said Goad. "Prior to their loss in the playoffs, CTCS won 19 games in a row and was undefeated in 2001."

Due to CTCS deployments, CTCS weren't the favorites in the championships, said Goad.

"CTCS lost a lot of people to deployments, and they weren't favored to win," said Goad. "They came back and won the game, proving everyone wrong."

AGS knew of CTCS's accomplishments going into the game and wasn't surprised that they won.

"We knew that CTCS was the most well-rounded team on base because of their record," said Zahn. "We played them three times during the season and did pretty well, they just played better. The better team won."

CTCS, although proven to be champs over and over, still remains uncertain about the future.

"It feels great to win three times in a row," Depass said. "Hopefully next year we can have a lot of the same people to be able to remain competitive."

"It's amazing we have so many talented volleyball players in a unit so small," Depass continued.

"We're looking forward to next year."



Larry Simmons, CTCS, reaches for a spike while his teammates look on. CTCS won the base intramural volleyball championship for the third time May 1.

2002 CAFB Hurricanes Ice Hockey Schedule

The Charleston AFB Hurricanes ice hockey team kicks off its inaugural season May 12, 7:15 p.m., at the Carolina Ice Palace. All games are held at the Ice Palace, and admission is always free.

The Carolina Ice Palace is on Northwoods Boulevard next to Lowes. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jason Smith at 963-5536 or Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones at 963-5657.



- May 12, 7:15 p.m., AJ's vs. Air Force
- May 19, 8:30 p.m., Air Force vs. Gladiators
- May 26, 7:15 p.m., Air Force vs. Saints
- June 2, 8:30 p.m., Wolves vs. Air Force
- June 9, 9:45 p.m., Sharks vs. Air Force
- June 16, 9:45 p.m., AJ's vs. Air Force
- June 23, 7:15 p.m., Air Force vs. Gladiators
- June 30, 9:45 p.m., Air Force vs. Saints
- July 7, 7:15 p.m., Wolves vs. Air Force
- July 14, 8:30 p.m., Sharks vs. Air Force
- July 21, 9:45 p.m., AJ's vs. Air Force
- Aug. 1, 9:30 p.m., Wolves vs. Air Force

Sports briefs

Golf tournament

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

Racquetball tournament

A May fitness racquetball tournament is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m., at the Fitness and Sports Center. Monday will be singles competition, and Tuesday is for doubles. Participants can sign up 30 minutes prior to start time. For more information, call 963-3347.

YOWS softball tournament

The Company Grade Officers Council is sponsoring a Year of the Warrior Spirit softball tournament Tuesday, 8 a.m.-noon, at the base field. Each functional group is allowed one team with a 10-player minimum. The single-elimination games will be three innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first. The final game will be a full seven innings. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Pete O'Neil at 963-5178.

Walleyball tournament

A May fitness walleyball tournament is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Fitness and Sports Center. Teams can sign up 30 minutes prior to start time. For more information, call 963-3347.

Golf tournament

The Air Force Association is hosting a golf tournament May 31, 8 a.m., at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The cost is \$15, and all proceeds go toward the 2nd Annual Air Force Ball. Cart rental and green fees apply also. There will be pig roast for all participants after the tournament. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Sara Fisher at 963-3612, or Master Sgt. Janet Osborne at 963-4190.