

DISPATCH



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One year ago ...



COMMENTARY

Air Force Ball delivers dinner, dancing; Gen. Handy to speak

By COL. BROOKS BASH
437 AW COMMANDER

Team Charleston members deserve a round of applause for safely completing the 101 critical days of summer and the Labor Day weekend.

Despite rainy weather, everyone did his or her part to stay safe, and we had an incident-free holiday. Keep up the good work, and always remain vigilant!

I have heard lots of great feedback from several airmen about the Air Force Chief of Staff visit. Everyone seemed to appreciate his candor and comments at the Commander's Call and during his unit visits. Lt. Col. Steve Dye, 15th Airlift Squadron, our top-notch Protocol staff and unit project officers provided outstanding support. The base looked great for his visit, and I truly appreciate all of your hard work.

The Air Force Ball, Saturday, will feature dinner and dancing and remarks by Gen. John Handy, U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command commander. Gen. Handy will speak about the anniversary of the terrorists' attacks and provide a unique perspective on our contributions. We expect over 800 people to enjoy the evening as we remember the birth of the world's greatest Air Force. You can still sign up until the day of the ball.

Gen. Handy's comments come at a time when most Americans will remember the events of 9/11. There will be several remembrance ceremonies in the local area and media coverage on the anniversary. We will observe these tragic events, Wednesday, with a one-minute moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. at the Base Chapel and the base flagstaff. Taps will be played, followed by the lighting of a candle in the Base Chapel. This ceremony is not a mandatory formation, but all Charleston AFB members are invited. If unable to attend, take a moment during that time to stop work, be silent, and salute the flag if outside.

During this time of reflection, please know

that I am very proud of the professionals here at CAFB. Team Charleston has been at the forefront of the war on terrorism, and much of the success can be attributed to our people. As President Bush unequivocally stated, "We will not waver, we will not tire, we will not falter and we will not fail." There is no planned end to the war on terrorism, and it is difficult to predict what the future will hold. Team Charleston has made our nation proud, and the American public appreciates what you do every day.

On the horizon, I will hold my first Commander's Calls next week at the base theater. Enlisted personnel will attend Thursday at 8 a.m. or 3 p.m. There will be a Commander's Call for officers Sept. 13, 8:30 a.m., and one for civilians at 10:30 a.m. I will discuss a number of topics to include the upcoming combat wing reorganization. I look forward to sharing my thoughts with everyone. Please use this open forum to ask questions and provide me with feedback.

An original copy of the Declaration of Independence and a special exhibit will be brought to downtown Charleston Wednesday-Sept. 16 and Sept. 18-19, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Old Exchange Building. We will also bring a busload of our people to the opening ceremony Sept. 11 and are working through our first sergeants to identify individuals to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, introduces Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, to the attendees of the ribbon cutting for squadron operations Bldg. 3.

attend.

The original Dunlap broadside copy of the declaration, our nation's 'birth certificate' and one of only 25 copies known to exist, will be showcased in a multi-media presentation. The exhibit is free of charge and open to the public. You can learn more about the exhibit at www.independenceroadtrip.org.

Tuesday, I had the privilege of recognizing our monthly Diamond Sharp recipients. The following individuals were recognized for impressing their first sergeants: Staff Sgt. Janita Brown, 437th Services Squadron; Senior Airman Thyese Brewton, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron; Senior Airman Adam Walker, 437th Contracting Squadron and Airman 1st Class Ryonn Rerzenbach, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron.

I was very impressed by each of these recipients. Keep up the great work!

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend!

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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IN THE NEWS

Laser-based jammer to make C-17 more defensive

By 2nd Lt. Tracy Bunko
ASC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Experts from the large aircraft infrared countermeasures got the green light Aug. 22 to begin low-rate initial production of the LAIRCM system. They hope to deliver the first laser-protected aircraft to Air Mobility Command in early 2004.

The production decision, made after extensive laser and live-fire tests conducted earlier this year, gives Aeronautical Systems Center officials permission to buy the first four LAIRCM production ship sets, with an additional nine systems scheduled for purchase in 2003. AMC officials have asked the special program office experts to equip enough transports to support one small-scale contingency, a total of 79 aircraft.

The countermeasures system will be installed on slower-moving cargo aircraft to autonomously de-

tect, track and jam infrared threat missiles targeting them. Its delivery will fill "an urgent and compelling need," said Lt. Gen. John Baker, AMC vice commander.

Maj. Corey Martin, 437th Operations Group Standardizations and Evaluations deputy commander, said the new LAIRCM is an improvement over the current system.

"Our current countermeasures are flares," said Martin. "The hot metal is meant to distract the heat-seeking (infrared) missiles.

"With the LAIRCM, it's supposed to make our aircraft more survivable against infrared missiles and against Man-Portable Air Defenses, which are shoulder-fired heat-seeking missiles," continued Martin. "It's supposed to work in concert with our current countermeasures program."

Martin also said there were no problems with the

current system, but that LAIRCM would definitely help out.

"(Flares) are not a problem now," Martin said. "But LAIRCM will destroy the (missile) system with a laser, instead of distracting it. Before, we hoped to distract the missile with the flare, but the missile could still track (heat). With (LAIRCM) we'll be able to defeat the missile, and it can't track anything else."

The LAIRCM is a full 15 months ahead of schedule and Baker attributed the program's success to innovative acquisition practices within Air Force Materiel Command.

"The LAIRCM team is a model for AFMC's new enterprise leadership concept," Baker said of the effort. "Using innovative cost and schedule incentives, we are confident that the LAIRCM program for the first 20 C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules aircraft can be accelerated up to 15

months earlier."

System program office experts used what the general called "cross-cutting technology and evolutionary acquisition strategy" to provide early fielding of the system.

For example, much of the technology involved in the system, with the exception of the laser jammer, are non-developmental items, according to LAIRCM program office experts. These items have been previously tested and are in production as part of the U.S. Special Operations Command C-130 directed infrared countermeasures program.

"We leveraged our system off (the program) and added the laser to protect larger aircraft and provide growth for more capable emerging missile threats," said Col. Michael Cappelano, LAIRCM program manager. "This saves the Air Force approximately \$75 million and helped put the LAIRCM program sev-

eral months ahead of schedule."

According to a 1999 U.S. Transportation Command report to Congress, the vulnerability of its large, slow-flying aircraft to the increasing shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile capability is their No. 1 force protection concern. Consequently, high on the priority list was fielding of a large aircraft infrared countermeasures system that can counter this threat. LAIRCM is the answer to that concern, said officials.

LAIRCM is an active countermeasure that defeats the threat missile guidance system by directing a high-intensity modulated laser beam into the missile seeker, said Cappelano. The LAIRCM system also automatically counters advanced missile systems with no action required by the crew. **(Airman 1st Class Amy Perry, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article)**

On the cover



1. Smoldering fires of the World Trade Center are reflected in the visor of Staff Sgt. James Haskell, a MH-53M helicopter flight engineer from the 20th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. **(Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Leonard)**

2. Days after the terrorist attacks on American soil, the towers of the World Trade Center sit as a pile of rubble in the streets of New York City. **(Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Leonard)**

3. A C-17 loadmaster prepares to drop a cargo of Tri-Wall Aerial Delivery System loaded with Humanitarian Daily Rations. C-17s delivered HDRs in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Germany to Afghan refugees inside the borders of Afghanistan. Each C-17 carried over 35,000 HDRs packaged in 84 TRIAD deliv-

ery from C-17 aircraft and the first combat airdrop mission performed by a C-17. **(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock)**

4. A 17th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster, holds up the two-millionth humanitarian daily ration to be airdropped over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The United States and its coalition allies worked around the clock to get food and important humanitarian aid to the Afghan people. **(Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed)**

5. A local Afghan child in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan, holds up a leaflet warning people not to pick up unexploded ordnances in their area. The U.S. soldiers in Mazar-e Sharif handed out over 7,000 to help protect and warn the local populace of these dangers. **(Photo by Staff Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo)**

Collage by Staff Sgt. Jason Smith, 437 AW Public Affairs

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Airlift Wing Staff is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Allison Bethea Sept. 13, 10 a.m., at the Community Education Center Ballroom. For more information, call Master Sgt. Chris Bidmead at 963-5594.

Around the base

Steak: The Charleston AFB first sergeants are holding a steak lunch today, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the base picnic area. The \$5 meal will include a rib eye, baked potato, corn and a roll. For more information, contact a first sergeant.

Chapel: There will be a moment of silence Wednesday, 8:46-8:47 a.m., at the Base Chapel and base flagstaff. Taps will play on the public address system, followed by the lighting of a candle at the Chapel, to signify the start of the event. If unable to attend, base members are encouraged to take a moment during that time to stop work and be silent.

Golf Tournament: The Charleston chapter of the Air Force Association is sponsoring a golf tournament Sept. 13, 1 p.m., at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The cost is \$15 plus green and cart fees. Sign up by calling Capt. Jeffrey Baltes at 963-3252, or Master Sgt. Janet Osborne at 963-4190, or by stopping by the golf course pro shop.

Stepfamilies: The Family Advocacy Program is offering a five-session Strengthening Your Stepfamily Class beginning Sept. 16. For more information, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

Chiefs: The Chief's Group will hold their monthly meeting Sept. 19, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club.

Fashion Show: The African American Heritage Council is hosting A Night in Fashion Part III Sept. 27, 7-11 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more information, or to purchase advanced tickets, contact 1st Lt. Iven King at 963-5436, or Tech. Sgt.

Air Force ball approaching

The 437th and 315th Airlift Wing commanders are scheduled to host the Air Force Ball 2002 Saturday, 6 p.m., at the North Charleston Convention Center. For \$25, attendees will have the opportunity to experience a night of dinner and dancing. For ticket information, call Kathy Knichel at 963-5644, or Capt. William Reynolds at 963-6173.

The 437th Transportation Squadron will be providing transportation to and from the Air Force Ball. There will be three pick-up/drop-off spots: the parking lot across from the golf course, Base Exchange parking lot and Hunley Park soccer field parking lot. The pick-up times are 5:45 p.m., 6:10 p.m. and 6:35 p.m. Buses will leave the ball to go back to the parking lots at 9:30 p.m., 10 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Call Vehicle Dispatch at 963-4236 and 963-4238 to pre-book a seat on the bus.

Denese Bellamy at 963-2262.

Retirees: The Retiree Activities Program is looking create an e-mail

distribution list for retirees, their spouses, widows and widowers. Those interested in being added to the list should send an e-mail to raymond.borelli@charleston.af.mil.

Retiree council: The Retiree Activities Office is looking for retired military members on serve on the Air Force Retiree Council. A term on the council usually lasts four years. For more information, call retired Col. Raymond Borelli at 963-2228.

Family Support Center

Resume I: Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon.
Educational Opportunities Counseling: Tuesday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sip 'n Chat: Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m.
TAP Three-Day Workshop: Sept. 17-19, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Women and Self-Esteem: Sept. 18, noon-1:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: Sept. 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Investing for beginners: Sept. 20, 8:30-10 a.m.

Troops-to-Teachers: Sept. 23, 10-11 a.m.

Resume II: Sept. 24, 9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Smooth Move: Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

For more information, call the FSC at 963-4406.

Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Airman 1st Class Gail Utkan
437th Mission Support Squadron

Airman 1st Class Gail Utkan is an evaluations and decorations clerk in the 437th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight.

"I process evaluations by reviewing them and updating them in the MILPDS (Military Personnel Data System)," said Utkan. "I also work as a deployment processing flight member where I have deploying members review and update emergency data cards."

Utkan said her favorite part of the job is making people happy.

"I like helping people out," said Utkan. "I like figuring out answers to complex situations. I like getting the job done."

The Milford, Mich., native has served in the Air Force almost three years. In January 2003, Utkan will go to Stuttgart, Germany, on a special duty assignment to give personnel services to Air Force members stationed there.

"Since I got my orders to Stuttgart, I've been reading travel books for Europe," said Utkan. "I'm definitely looking forward to the assignment."

Other than reading travel books in her free time, Utkan said she enjoys reading novels and hiking.

NEWS

Returning from deployment: *Family Support Center offers services to lessen stress when returning home from deployment*

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As Charleston AFB members are seeing longer deployments, families are reminded the Family Support Center is there for them before, during and after deployments.

Returning from deployments is a process, not an event, said Master Sgt. Ken Gilmore, 437th Mission Support Squadron Family Support Center Readiness NCO.

The FSC, along with other base helping agencies, can help with the transition back into the way of life before deployment, said Gilmore.

"Deployments are difficult for every member of the family," said Gilmore. "For the person deployed, they want life to return as if they never left, while the family members that stayed behind have grown more independent and self sufficient in most cases."

The Family Support Center has many programs available to help Team Charleston members during deployments. Here are just a few:

Car Care Because We Care: The Auto Skills Center provides free oil changes and minor maintenance on the primary vehicle

E-mail: Use computers at the FSC free of charge during deployments

Video Phone: Phones are available to check out for the military member and spouse to see each other

Free Calling Cards: Personnel who are deployed or on TDY are eligible for a free \$20 calling card

Give parents a break: One Saturday each month, the Child Development Center and Youth Center will watch children for free for five hours

Defining roles and responsibilities prior to reunion can ease the stress that many families face, according to Gilmore. He said reunion is very difficult for children also. Younger children may become unattached during the separation, and it may take a few days to warm up to the returning parent. The parent should be patient and try not to feel left out.

For returning members who were experiencing marital problems

prior to deployment, most problems will not just go away. Gilmore said it's important to seek counseling prior to deployment, during deployment, if available, and upon return.

"Couples tend to think if they had marital problems before that 'distance makes the heart grow fonder,'" Gilmore said. "That may be true for the first few days, but the same problems will still be there after the initial feeling wears off."

Single members may also experience a loss of newly found friends during the deployment, or they may have to deal with a long-distance relationship, said Gilmore. Either way, the transitions they face can be testing and difficult.

Depression is also very possible for military members, spouses and children at any time before, after or during a deployment, Gilmore said.

"Help is available," said Gilmore. "For military members, the (437th Medical Group) Behavioral Science Flight is available to you. For dependents, TRICARE Choice Behavioral is available at no cost."

The self-referral program allows military family members to see professionals in the local area based on their needs, said Gilmore.

The number for behavioral sciences is 963-6852. The Beneficiary Information Services number is 1-800-444-5445.

Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Senior Airman Bethann Hunt

Hard day's work

A trainee from the new Afghanistan National Army relaxes on his bunk after a day of training in Kabul, Afghanistan. The program of instruction is approximately 10 weeks long, during which time Afghan trainees learn basic soldier skills and progress to more complex tasks. The training is led by approximately 275 U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C. The purpose of the training is to establish the core of the new Afghanistan National Army that will foster a secure and stable environment and help prevent the re-emergence of terrorist forces.

Around the Air Force

Health care: Demobilizing reservists who wish to receive transitional health care benefits need to update their records and obtain transitional medical care cards for their family members when they out-process. Reservists called to active duty for more than 30 days to support a contingency operation are eligible for transitional health care benefits, which are based on the reservist's total active military service. (AFPN)

Travel cards: More than 100,000 of the Air Force's government travel cards will be canceled in early October for lack of use, according to the service's travel card program manager. The move is part of a service-wide effort to "clean up the books" and will affect those people who have not used their card for a year or more. (AFPN)

Joint duty: Officers who served at joint task force

headquarters in nine operations can qualify for retroactive cumulative joint duty credit, Joint Staff officials said recently. The 2002 National Defense Authorization Act allowed the Defense Department to give officers credit for time served. To be eligible, officers must be on active duty; majors or above; and served at least 90 consecutive days on the JTF headquarters staff. (AFPS)

Terrorists: Vice President Dick Cheney said the terrorists who struck America on Sept. 11 are ruthless and striving to get weapons of mass destruction. He said there's no doubt they wish to strike again. "It is a certainty that the al Qaeda is pursuing such weapons and has succeeded in acquiring at least a crude capability to use them," Cheney told the Chosin Few, a Korean War veterans group, at their annual reunion. (AFPS)

AF chief of staff gives inside on Charleston AFB role

During commander's call, Gen. Jumper tells CAFB airmen about hunting down terrorists

By Staff Sgt. Jason Smith
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To a packed audience at the Charleston Club Aug. 30, Gen. John Jumper's message was clear; the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks severely angered him.

The Air Force chief of staff held no punches while telling Team Charleston members exactly how he felt about Osama Bin Laden and any other terrorists who wish to bring harm to the United States.

"Who is this guy?" asked Jumper. "What's he all about? It turns out what he is, is a zealot. He wants all of us dead. He wants our families dead. He has no respect for anything, and neither do any of his cronies."

The only solution for the United States in dealing with Bin Laden is to track him down and take him out, Jumper said. Charleston AFB members are a big part of that mission.

"The people who the nation depends on to do that are sitting right here in this room," said Jumper. "You can be proud of your fellow airmen who are out there, all over the AOR (area of responsibility), doing the nation's work."

Despite the increased operations tempo and continual terrorist threat, Jumper said there's never

been a better time to wear the uniform of the nation. It's a time when people who wear the uniform signify the pride and strength of America. It's also a time when the nation needs to see and feel that strength.

After thanking the crowd for all they do in fighting the war on terror, Jumper talked about the flaws of the Total Quality Management system that he said plagued the Air Force in the past.

"A few good things came out of it," said Jumper. "We got to look at some processes, but we confused the processes with the product, and we forgot about the product. We lost our way."

There was also a period in the early 1990s when the Air Force had a crisis in leadership, according to Jumper. Leaders thought if they even suspected something was wrong, they should call in the inspector general or the Office of Special Investigations. The Air Force got away from the tried and true solution of strong verbal counseling.

"The next time someone runs through the room with a banner that says 'TQM,' shoot them on the spot," said Jumper. "I expect strong leaders to stand in front of people who need help. I expect them to give them that help and pull people

through tough times."

Since TQM has been put aside, Jumper said he's seen huge improvements in leadership, most prominently in NCOs. Jumper talked about various instances where leaders from all over the world told him Air Force NCOs do the same job their officers and senior officers do. They respect the U.S. Air Force as the world's greatest.

After once again thanking everyone in the room for their hard work and dedication, Jumper opened the floor to questions. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission was a hot topic, but Jumper said he couldn't give any real answers except that another BRAC would be coming in 2005.

"This wing is doing a great job," said Jumper. "The active duty and Reserve work well together here."

Another hot issue Jumper covered was the cancellation of bicycle ergometry testing. Jumper said the chief master sergeant of the Air Force is working out the details on a new pro-

gram to bring back running, sit-ups and push-ups.

"We'll change the fitness rules to get back to doing things that people actually do," said Jumper. "We'll still hold the bike test for special cases, but for the most part, we're going to revamp the old program."

In closing, Jumper again thanked the crowd for all their hard work, and asked everyone to look in the mirror and be proud of what they see.

"No other Air Force in the world is capable of what this Air Force is capable of, and nobody else is as good at their jobs as you all," said Jumper. "God bless each and every one of you, and God bless the United States of America."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, walks the line, inspecting members of the 437th Security Forces Squadron during a recent guardmount.

Online pay

By Airman Stephanie Hammer
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Servicemembers at Charleston AFB now have available to them an Internet source full of information on pay, allowances, retirement options and other benefits.

Tired of the hassles of waiting in line at the financial office or frustrated over not knowing whom to ask about what's happening with a paycheck?

Anything and everything there is to now about military pay is now a click-of-the mouse away. The Office of the Secretary of Defense has a military compensa-

tion Web site at <http://militarypay.dtic.mil/pay/index.html>.

"It's a great tool for people to look at," said Capt. Teresa Grindrod, 437th Comptroller Financial Services Flight deputy financial services officer. "However, a lot of times people are looking for very specific information, and this Web site only offers answers to very general questions."

The differences between basic pay and other allowances are easily explained here, showing the purpose of the various allowances. The Basic Allowance for Subsistence is also explained on this Web site. This allowance is designed to compensate military

members for the cost of their meals, but does not offset the cost of meals for their family members.

Also available on the site is a separate Basic Allowance for Housing primer that explains various BAH issues, including why the rates can vary so much from one location to another.

Servicemembers can get a glimpse of how their pay and allowances compare to civilian pay with the Regular Military Compensation Calculator link.

Also accessible to military members who find themselves approaching their 15th year of service is the retirement choice calculator, especially members who entered active

duty after July 31, 1986. These servicemembers will have to choose between the "high-three" or "redux" retirement plans.

When it comes to retirement pay, "high-three" pays approximately 50 percent of a member's average of their three highest paying years while in service. "Redux" refers to the retirement plan that pays bonus of \$30,000 at the 15-year mark, and then pays 40 percent of the member's base pay per month starting the year of their retirement.

If interested in seeing how much each option would provide over a 40-year period, the Web site offers a calculator to input personal data. Then the calculator

outputs charts as visual aids in understanding the difference between the retirement plans.

If interested in survivor benefits or the Thrift Savings Plan, there are also sections on the site that explain these benefits and others while providing additional links to other resources that can provide more details.

There are also other online sites that can provide additional information on military pay. The reserve-component and civilian pay charts can be found at www.dfas.mil, and state-side and overseas per diem rates can be found at www.dtic.mil/perdiem/pdrates.html.

From tragedy to triumph; Charleston supports freedom in the Year of the W

By AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Almost a year ago, Americans were facing tiresome struggles over banning cell phones while driving, being hunted by sharks, arguing over stem cells, debating dress codes for schools, getting anxious over clones and debating yet another tax cut.

Suddenly, planes crashed, and as buildings tumbled, old American struggles seemed to disappear as the world fell silent in the aftermath of disbelief. Americans then stared fear in the face as they tried to conquer endless airport security measures, letters with anthrax and a faltering economy.

The world watched as America struggled to regain some sense of normalcy in its daily routines. As the red, white and blue

went up on cars, homes and businesses, how did Team Charleston cope with the fear, feelings of helplessness and the growing, unyielding anger that inevitably surround a tragedy of this magnitude?

Following the attacks, Charleston AFB immediately went into Force Protection Condition Delta, and the C-17s jumped into action, playing a huge role in transporting needed materials for rescue efforts in New York. Two Charleston C-17 Globemaster IIIs airdropped about 35,000 humanitarian daily rations into Afghanistan Oct. 8, marking the first U.S. military airdrop of humanitarian aid to that region. Dec. 21 marked the end of the humanitarian airdrop mission as the C-17's aircrews surpassed the two-millionth mark, dropping over 2.14 million HDRs into Afghanistan. The 437th Airlift Wing aircrews played the biggest role of all in the C-17

mission, operating 75.3 percent of all C-17 missions.

With unpredictable days ahead, approximately 50 CAFB augmentees left the comfort of their everyday jobs to pull 12-hour shifts as entry controllers at the base gates. Entering the base through the Commissary was no longer possible, and the shortcut to Rivers Avenue through Midland Park Road was shut down. Although the gate at

the Commissary is open again, Midland Park Road remains closed and traffic though the Rivers Gate has to undergo an additional checkpoint near Aviation Avenue.

Surrounding communities felt a huge blow as co-workers stepped out of their heels and ties and stepped into camouflage and combat boots. Reservists have played a huge role in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, with approximately 465 reservists activated at CAFB since Sept. 11. Approximately 1,434 members of Team Charleston have been deployed in support of the war against terror.

As the military geared its response to the attacks, the base started to feel a sense of growing anxiety. Terrorist attacks left their biggest marks on the smallest of targets, America's children. With the constant TV coverage of panic-stricken people searching for loved ones in hospitals, CAFB was faced with the challenge of explaining such a horrific event to innocent children.

Protecting the base became a major concern as the 437th Maintenance Squadron custom made 75 tan, heavy-duty vinyl covers to give the base a more professional appearance, replacing garbage bags covering building signs.

The 437th Supply Squadron's mobility and war readiness sections worked overtime to provide mobility bag support for the wing as the Gaylor Dining Facility worked longer hours to provide meals to the increased amount of personnel.

Team Charleston began really preparing themselves, profession-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock

A Member of the U.S. Air Force inspects Tri-Wall Aerial Delivery Systems stored in a hanger awaiting to be filled. C-17s delivered Humanitarian Daily Rations in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Germany to Afghan refugees. The HDRs were delivered in a first-of-its-kind, high-altitude airdrop. This was the first operational TRIAD delivery from C-17 aircraft and also the first combat airdrop mission performed by a C-17.



**Military personnel
Bourgeois
March 29
killed whi**

TURE

AFB

Warrior Spirit

ally and personally, for long deployments that could happen at any given time. Stop-Loss, effective Oct. 1, had the potential of affecting approximately 382 people at CAFB.

The Air Force wing organizations were scheduled to undergo major changes by Oct. 1, creating a new maintenance group, restructuring support groups and reducing the taskings of operations groups. The new organization was intended to enhance the service's war-fighting capabilities. CAFB even reactivated the 16th Airlift Squadron July 26 in support of the planned arrival of nine additional C-17s in fiscal 2003.

The Family Support Center stepped in and helped ease the pain of deployment with services such as the video telephone, Operation R.E.A.D., phone cards, childcare, free oil changes and rental cameras to record special events. The base Chapel worked even harder to con-



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class David Mercil
Marines with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit line up to board a C-17 Globemaster III. The aircraft, loaded by 436th Aerial Port Squadron transported the Marines to Camp Rhino, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

tinue to serve the military community, despite high deployment rates of chapel personnel.

A patriotic community pulled together to encourage Team Charleston with various avenues of support. The Message of Hope Book Drive donated books to American troops and victims of Sept. 11;

Project US provided care packages, post cards, food and gifts for military members and their families; Connecticut Kids for Kids presented CAFB with a banner signed by elementary school kids to show their support in the efforts in the war; and the Lowcountry residents honored the men and women of CAFB on Valentine's Day with a banner covered in rubber-stamped kisses. Even Walt Disney World and Disneyland resorts offered active-duty military members complimentary admission to their parks as part of "Disney's Armed Forces Salute."

Facing a war on foreign soil didn't stop Team Charleston

from continuing on with life on the home front. Overcoming adversity, CAFB continued on with day-to-day operations, supporting the need to strive for normalcy. Construction began on a new Commissary, the pharmacy at the Medical Group was renovated, and even the 437th Security Forces Squadron's military working dogs moved into a new home. CAFB started to receive due recognition when the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron was named the Air Force Outstanding Civil Engineer Organization in the large unit category and the 437th Airlift Wing was named the best in the 21st Air Force. Team Charleston is also home to two of 12 of the Air Force Association's Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

So many amazing feats have been achieved at CAFB over the past year because of the disciplined professionals of Charleston AFB and the way they always demand the highest degree of personal integrity and professionalism from themselves and others. CAFB has shown its strength in its ability to accomplish missions with a sense of pride, and still offer needed support to each other as well as family and friends.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marvin Moore

Personnel pay their respect to Chief Petty Officer Matthew Bourgeois, 35 of Tallahassee, Fla., during his Fallen Soldier ceremony at Ramstein AB, Germany. Bourgeois, a Navy SEAL, was killed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

CAFB's total force success story

COMMENTARY BY COL. TOMMY HIXON
437 LG COMMANDER

Myself, and probably most of us, will never forget that beautiful fall Charleston day when inhumane terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., abruptly halted our normal activities, stunned the nation and forever changed our world. The events of that morning are etched in my memory; the same as most other Americans. After catching the news on CNN of the aircraft slamming into the second World Trade Center towers, I headed to the airport thinking I was leaving on TDY. However, upon arrival at the airport, I received news of the crash into the Pentagon, airlines were immediately grounded and I returned to the base where Charleston's military might was put into motion.

I'm sure each of you have similar memories as you recall where you were on that day, almost a year ago. Since that time, we have all experienced significant changes in our lifestyles and attitudes, security has taken on a new meaning and the value of freedom is no longer just spoken words. The attacks on America affected our military at many levels, with significant impacts to each of us at the 437th Airlift Wing. Horror and shock were followed by grief and sadness as the world looked on, and as we began to realize the magnitude of the death and destruction.

In the immediate hours that followed, threat conditions and security measures were heightened. In the days and weeks that followed, Team Charleston rose to the challenge and answered the bell, regardless of the task. A key ingredient that made it all possible are the hundreds of activated reservists, many of who left their families and civilian employment to join in the nation's fight. It was the team of active and Reserve warriors we often talk of that became reality. It is time now, as we return to a more normal posture, that our Reserve partners return to their civilian lifestyle and standby for the next time they are needed.

I am most familiar with the impact the reservists made in the logistics group, although I am well aware of the significant contributions they have made throughout the wing. Regardless of the

organization, security forces, civil engineering, supply, transportation, aerial port or maintenance, the capability the reservists brought to the fight allowed us to accomplish miracle after miracle, without fail. They were invaluable at home station as we stepped up the tempo, and many of them deployed overseas, side by side with the active duty and, in a word, "saved the day." I clearly remember the pride in their eyes as they sat in pre-deployment briefings, ready to go, but unsure of what was waiting at the other end.

What many of us seem to forget is that most of the reservists who were activated had to "deploy" even to serve at home station. Remember, all of them do not call Charleston home. And when they deployed to Charleston, they not only left their families behind, they also left their civilian employment behind. In that context, I can imagine what was going through their heads as they sat ready to deploy for the second time, now to an overseas stage operation, leaving their families and employers further behind. Untold uncertainties ran through their minds; how long would they be gone, would their job be there when they returned, and would their family be OK?

We have all, as members of the total force, made extreme sacrifices over the course of the last 11-12 months. I challenge each of my fellow active-duty warriors to recognize the sacrifices made by those reservists who were uprooted from their families and employers to join us in the nation's defense. As much as we still need them, it is now time for most of them to return to their lives as they were before Sept. 11. And as you pat them on the back and say "thanks," remember, you are also thanking their families and their employers for letting us borrow them for an extended period of time. I'm confident that

when called upon again, they will perform just as admirable. This last year has had a sobering effect on most of us. Sobering in how much we take the security of our homeland for granted; and, sobering in how much we rely on our Reserve counterparts to defend our nation when the going gets tough. My thanks to all of you, for helping the 437 LG and entire wing accomplish all that has been asked of us.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock

A C-17 maintainer taxi's the plane for takeoff on a humanitarian flight. Charleston AFB C-17s delivered Humanitarian Daily Rations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Both active-duty and Reserve members supported the missions.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive
Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Phone: 963-2536.

Yom Kippur Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur is a day of fasting, prayer and soul searching. It is the culmination of the 10-day period of repentance that began on Rosh Hashanah.

This year, Yom Kippur is celebrated on Sept. 16. Fasting begins before sunset on the day before Yom Kippur and lasts until nightfall the next day.

Yom Kippur is a complete Sabbath. No work can be performed on this day. Not even water is allowed during the 25-hour holiday.

Any fasting restrictions can be lifted where a threat to life or health is involved. Children under the age of 9 and women in childbirth are not permitted to fast.

For more information, call Synagogue Emanu-el at 571-3256.

Movie schedule

Admission: 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor 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.
"Stuart Little 2" – Geena Davis

This sequel of the life of the mouse, Stuart Little, focuses on family, love and freedom. **(PG) 70 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.
"Country Bears" – Christopher Walken

Beary is a ten-year-old cub that is raised by a human family, unaware that he is adopted, until his brother tells him. When Beary leaves home to find out where he belongs, he befriends a band from Tennessee. **(G) 88 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
"Road to Perdition" – Tom Hanks

Michael Sullivan is a hit man for an Irish gang in the Depression. When his work crosses into his private life, his wife and son end up dead. Sullivan and his surviving son set out on a journey of revenge. **(R) 119 minutes**

Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.
"Master of Disguise" – Dana Carvey

SPORTS & FITNESS

Week Two

Name/Phone #: _____

Comments: _____

Sunday, Sept. 15**Chicago @ Atlanta****Detroit @ Carolina**Jacksonville @ **Kansas City**New England @ **N.Y. Jets****Tennessee @ Dallas**N.Y. Giants @ **St. Louis**Denver @ **San Francisco**Oakland @ **Pittsburgh**Cincinnati @ **Cleveland****Green Bay @ New Orleans**Miami @ **Indianapolis****Tampa Bay @ Baltimore****Arizona @ Seattle**Buffalo @ **Minnesota**Houston @ **San Diego****Monday, Sept. 16****Philadelphia @ Washington**

Monday night total points: _____

Swami's Monday night points: 55

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.
Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

Picks must be submitted by Friday, Sept. 13, 4 p.m.

Swami wins Week 1 action, says 'no competition'

BY THE SWAMI
PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

The Swami has decided to grace the people of Charleston AFB with his presence for another football season. Besides, without the Swami, who would your children look up to? The Swami didn't ask to be a role model, it just happened to him.

Let it be known, the Swami has won week 1. The Swami knows the games have not been played yet. He also knows no one at CAFB could beat him anyway, so he didn't waste his time, and perfectly good newspaper space, with a selection sheet. The score is: Swami-1, rest of the base-0.

The Swami has one major piece of advice for all North and South Carolina residents; give up on the Panthers. They're going to have another long and miserable season. Become a Jets fan while you still can.

With that said, it's apparent the Swami thinks the Jets will go far this season. How far exactly is up to Vinny and Curtis. If they both play at their prime all season, the Swami sees Superbowl rings in their futures.

Watch for the Steelers defense to annihilate the other teams all year long.

Also watch for Kordell to finally fall from grace. He's been holding the team to mediocrity for too many years now. The people of Pittsburgh are finally going to catch on, and Tommy Maddox will be starting before long.

The Dallas fans reading this can rest easy knowing that the Cowgirls will never win another game, let alone division title or Superbowl. The Swami thinks if the Cowgirls and Texans combine their talent collectively to one team, then that team, we'll call them the Texgirls, may be able to beat one of the local high-school teams in a scrimmage. It's doubtful, and the Swami's money would be on the school team, but should the moon and stars align just right, it could happen.

For those new to the Swami picks, it's easy to play. Fill out the attached pick sheet, and turn it in to the public affairs office, or send an e-mail to the Swami with the week's picks. Every week, the top performer will receive some great prizes from the 437th Services Squadron.

The Swami could write all day, but the people of CAFB probably can't pay attention that long. Good luck, and keep those comments coming in.



CAFB to host invitational golf tournament

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 2002 Charleston AFB 33rd Annual Invitational Golf Tournament is set for Sept. 20-22.

The amateur tournament is a three-day stroke play event. Invitees play their own ball all the way through the tournament with no team members.

Team Charleston spectators are welcome to watch the event. The tournament rounds begin at 7 a.m. each day. Also on Sept. 20, there will be a Longest Drive Contest at the No. 10 tee.

Karen Harrell, 437th Services Squadron Wrenwoods Golf Course manager, said the tournament is held every year to support the CAFB Youth Center.

"It's a fundraiser for the Youth center," Harrell

said. "The Youth Center sends people to help with the tournament. After the bills are paid for that day, we give them the remaining profit. In the past, they've sent kids to a leadership school with the money."

Invitations are sent to 180 people to play the three-day 18-hole course.

"We have more than 550 people on the mailing list to receive an invitation," said Harrell. "This year we sent invitations to members who played in the 1998, 1999 and 2000 tournaments. No tournament was held after Sept. 11, due to the fact most of the players couldn't get on the base."

Harrell said invitations are sent out to quality players in the local area who play in the South Carolina and Charleston tournaments.

"For \$125, the invitees get a practice round before the tournament begins," said Harrell. "They have three days of tournament play with a golf cart. There will also be a long drive contest. Lunch on Saturday and a steak barbecue on Sunday are included."

Harrell said the tournament is always divided into eight-10 flights. The winner from each flight wins a set of golf clubs.

Wrenwoods Golf Course is open from dawn to dusk. Currently there is a membership drive for the golf club occurring, and all new members will be put in for a drawing for a free set of clubs with a golf bag.

All members who refer a new member will be put into a separate drawing for a free set of clubs and a golf bag.

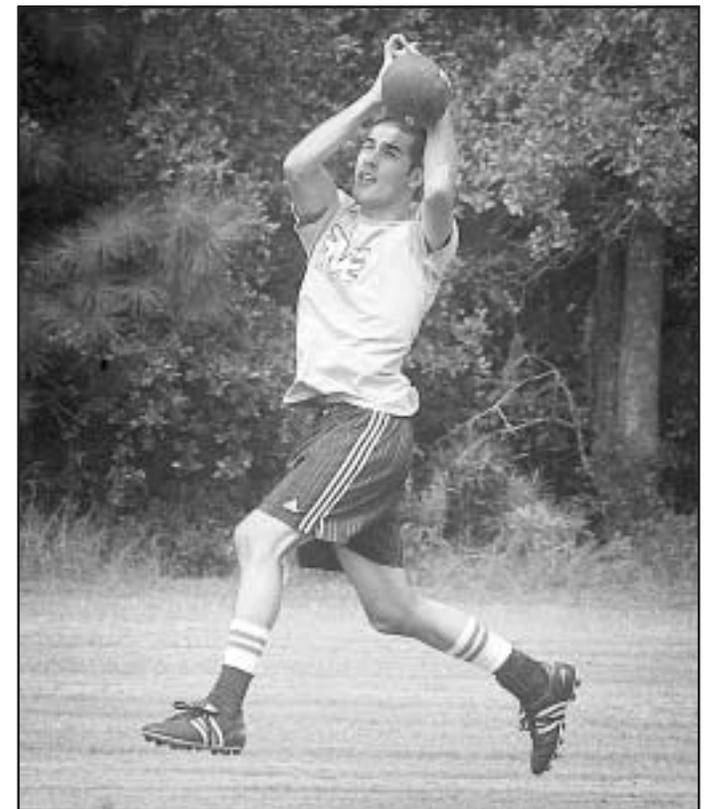


Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Reachin'

Airman 1st Class Kurtis Villavicencio, 437th Communication Squadron videographer, attempts to catch a pass during squadron football practice.