

AIRLIFT Dispatch

Vol. 42, No. 28

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, July 11, 2003

On the road again ...



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personnel deploy**
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Photo by 2nd Lt. Bryan Lewis

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Team Charleston: One family, one mission, one fight!

COMMENTARY

Commander's Comments

By Col. Karl Young
437AW vice commander

I hope everyone enjoyed some well-deserved time off over the holiday. If you celebrated, you did it safely as we had no significant happenings ... great work and keep it up. We need every member of Team Charleston.

Our mission continues to challenge us. More than 100 support personnel, including civil engineers, services and security forces, deployed recently, and the 16th Airlift Squadron headed out this week to continue the fight in the War on Terrorism. Let's continue to take care of each other and help out the families of our deployed folks.

Congratulations

We salute **Capt. Neil Thomas Jr.**, 14th Airlift Squadron, who was selected by the Air Force Astronaut Nomination Board to vie for a position as a NASA mission specialist. Captain Thomas will compete with other service nominees and civilian applicants in early 2004. Best of luck, and we are proud to have Charleston AFB represented.

Farewells

We will be seeing many new faces in leadership positions this summer. Next week we bid a fond farewell to **Col. John Hill**, 437th Medical Group commander; **Col. David Snodgrass**, 437th Mission Support Group commander; and **Maj. Jeffrey Hunt**, 437th Security Forces Squadron commander. Also, **Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Robinson**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, retires this month after 30 years in the Air Force. Thanks to you all for a lot of hard work during your tenure.

A special thanks to another departing comrade in arms, **Col. Steven Lesniewski**, 315th Operations Group commander. Team Charleston is the epitome of the total force concept.

Recruiting

Airmen First Class James Kern, Kevin Radico and Stephen Gerke, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Airman 1st Class Tim Brady**, 437 APS; and **Airman 1st Class Ramsay Gonzales**, 437th Airlift Wing Command Post, showcased their career fields to nearly 50 future airman during a delayed-enlisted program visit sponsored by Charleston-area Air Force recruiters. The pride and professionalism shown by these Team Charleston airmen was outstanding.

Quarterly Awards Lunch

Mark your calendars and come out to support your unit winners

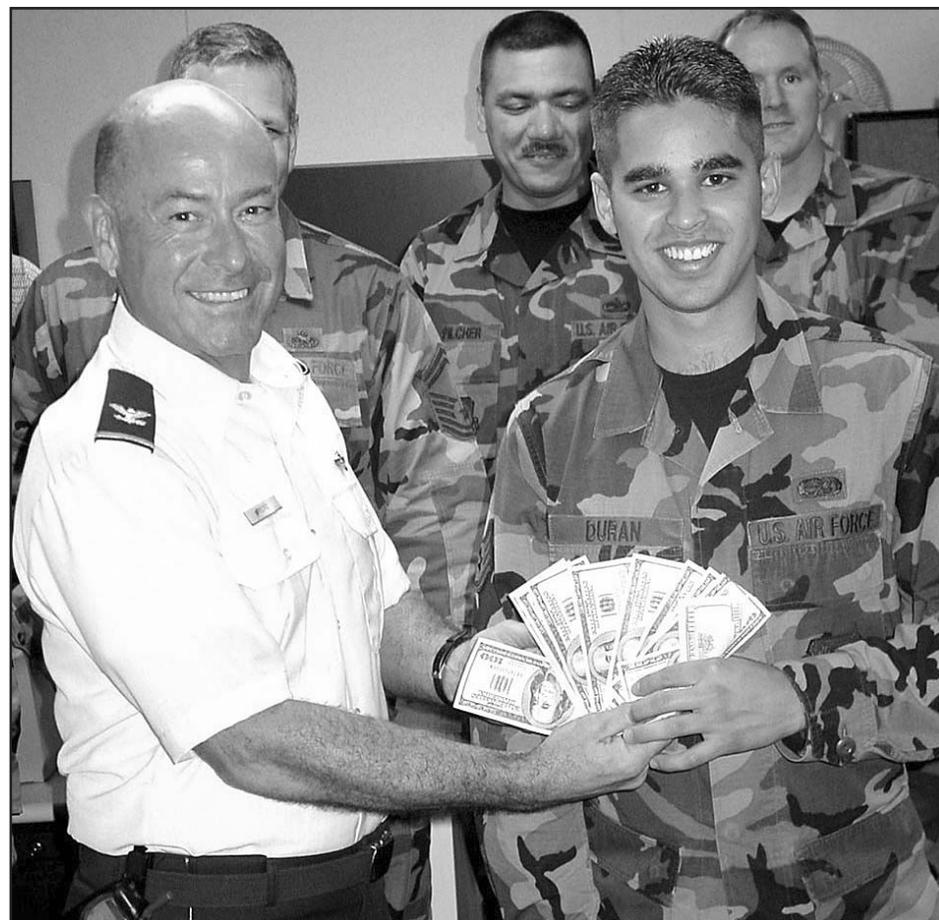


Photo by Britt Lock

Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, presents a \$1,000 Around the World in Ninety Days prize to Staff Sgt. Fred Duran, 437th Maintenance Operations Squadron. Sergeant Duran won the ATWIND prize with the first ticket he played, the free number for all participants. Tickets are available at a variety of 437th Services Squadron locations and events. For more information, go to www.atwind.com.

during the next quarterly award lunch, 11:30 a.m., Thursday, at the Charleston Club. If you haven't been to one of these events, now is the time. See your first sergeant for tickets.

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

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

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



Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW
commander

Dispatch

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Black hat or white? IG sets record straight

By Lt. Col. Brian Trout
437 AW Inspector General

All too often, the thought of the inspector general or his staff coming to visit invokes feelings of dread because you know it can't be good.

They come in wearing that imaginary "black hat" and are always trying to find fault where it doesn't exist. Whether it is in the form of an exercise or inspection, or as an investigation of a complaint, the IG is someone you just don't want to see around.

That thinking, although not far off the mark in years past, only serves to stifle legitimate complaints, preventing an important part of the commander's complaint resolution program from working as it should. Today's IG is much more likely to be helping someone in need, or assisting an organization to improve, than it is to be "busting" someone.

The IG reorganization in 1997 resulted in a new emphasis. The wing IG previous to 1997 was normally the vice wing commander — someone in the direct chain-of-command of the organization. This position in the wing often led to the perception of a lack of independence, responsiveness and thoroughness, sometimes, justifiably so. After all, with all the other duties required of a vice wing commander, when was he supposed to analyze and investigate complaints?

When the IG office reorganized, the IG was moved out of the chain of command and made directly responsible to the installation commander. This allows the IG and staff the free-

worth repeating

"Today's IG is much more likely to be helping someone in need ... than to be "busting" someone."



—Lt. Col. Brian Trout
437th Airlift Wing Inspector General

dom to investigate complaints at every level in every organization of the wing without conflicting interests or competing demands. And since no one outside the IG office reports to the IG, there is no self-investigation.

Another major change at the wing level was to remove the responsibility for exercises and inspections from under the IG and place it in wing plans, although exercises and inspections remain under the IG at major command level and above.

Charleston completed the last portion of the reorganization in 2002. This effectively changed that imaginary "black hat" to "white" in most instances.

With the reorganization, the role of the IG became one of being the "eyes and ears" of the commander. In that role the IG became the "honest broker" responsible for fact-finding in the resolution of complaints.

But the IG is not the only complaint resolution program, nor is it the primary one. The primary and most important complaint resolution program is the chain of command. In fact,

there are only two specific categories of complaints that are required by law to be investigated by an IG: reprisal and improper mental health evaluation referrals.

At Charleston, the squadron commanders and I have worked very hard to forge a team approach to resolving complaints. Your first thought when you have a complaint should be to involve your supervisor, first sergeant or commander, unless they are the nature of your complaint.

If you haven't given your chain of command the first crack at resolving the issue, and your issue is appropriate for command, I will probably refer your complaint back to your commander. If your complaint is more appropriate for another established complaint resolution process, I'll refer it there.

This doesn't mean the only time you should bring a complaint to the IG is when it involves reprisal, an improper MHE referral or a complaint about your commander. On the contrary, I don't expect you to know who handles every type of complaint, nor do I want you spending an inordinate amount of time trying to determine who can help. Your first sergeant is a wealth of knowledge, but if you don't feel comfortable taking your complaint there, come see me.

One final thought. No one can prevent you from communicating with an IG or a member of Congress. It is your right given to you by Congress under Title 10 of the United States Code — the same U.S. Code that protects you from reprisal. So, in answer to the question posed in the headline, it should be obvious that imaginary the "white hat" sits firmly on the head of the IG and his staff.

Charleston chat

What is your best tip for making PCS moves painless?



"Start the process as early as possible."

— 1st Lt. Kevin Bass
14th Airlift Squadron



"Call ahead ... to find out about your new job and find out what their expectations are."

— Senior Master Sgt. Steve Denzik
437th Maintenance Group



"Be proactive and forthcoming with your sponsor about your needs (so they can better assist you.)"

— Tech. Sgt. Tundra Gatewood
437th Medical Support Squadron



"Ask questions about your benefits, allowances and limitations."

—Master Sgt. David Hudspeth
437th Airlift Wing



"(When you arrive), go to the Chamber of Commerce and find out about the culture and the city."

— Master Sgt. Jariette Mace
315th Mission Support Squadron

NEWS



AEF deployments keep CAFB hopping

A number of Team Charleston members assigned to various squadrons, including the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, 437th Services Squadron, and 437th Security Forces Squadron, are deploying as part of AEF Blue.

More than 170 have processed for deployment to date, according to Capt. Jason Nulton, 437th Airlift Wing deployment officer.

This deployment goes to show that even though action in Iraq is settling down, the operations tempo at CAFB remains high.

AEF Blue is the first of two transitional air and space expeditionary forces, established to put the deployment schedule back on track by March 2004 and to bring home deployed personnel as soon as possible.

These special AEF deployments are scheduled to last 120 days each, said Maj. Gen. Timothy Peppe, special assistant for AEF matters at the Pentagon, in an Air Force News article.

According to the general, airmen in AEFs 9/10 and 1/2 who were identified to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, but did not deploy, will likely be the most vulnerable.

(Air Force Print News. Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter, 437AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tyrone Pearsall
Capt. Thomas O'Connell, 16th Airlift Squadron pilot, waits for his "deadhead" flight to take off. The 16 AS deployed to Rhein Main AB, Germany, Tuesday to take over stage operations from McChord's 8th Airlift Squadron.

16 AS takes over stage ops in Germany

By 2nd Lt. Kristy Miller
 437AW Public Affairs

Members of the 16th Airlift Squadron deployed Tuesday to Rhein Main AB, Germany, for 90 days.

The 16 AS replaces the 8th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash., which has been running stage operations at Rhein Main since April 15.

The last four months have been particularly busy for the 16 AS while they made numerous preparations for deployment.

"There are a bunch of things you have to do to stay current in the C-17, and we've had to get everyone's training for the quarter done before heading overseas," said Maj. James Shoemaker, assistant to the 16 AS commander.

Major Shoemaker said Boeing employees on base worked with the 16 AS to help crews finish simulators early for this quarter. Completing all of their training early was important for the crews because training equipment, such as simulators, are not available overseas.

"A lot of behind-the-scenes work also takes place in preparation for a deployment like this," Lt. Col. Gary Goldstone, 16 AS commander, said. "The little things like office supplies and equipment that don't seem essential have to be considered."

Colonel Goldstone said 16 AS personnel will be doing any and every sort of job related to the C-17 mission while deployed in Germany.

"Our focus is on the mission," Colonel Goldstone said. "Frankfurt is the center of gravity for anything that's happening regarding C-17 airlift right now."

Deployed members of Team Charleston will have plenty of work waiting for them in Germany, and Colonel Goldstone said he does not see the operations tempo slowing down any time soon.

"We're always busy, and there's never enough airlift," Colonel Goldstone said.

While this is a planned, 90-day full-unit deployment, only a handful of the 16 AS will be deployed for the entire 90 days.

"My director of operations, my

first sergeant and I will be there for the full 90 days," Colonel Goldstone said. "Everyone else will rotate in and out on a 45 day schedule."

As with all deployments, many families can find themselves separated for long periods of time.

The Family Support Center offers many programs geared towards making deployments easier on families, including a support group, childcare, automobile services, e-mail and a video phone.

"Communication before, during and after a deployment is extremely important," said Master Sgt. Ken Gilmore, family readiness NCO. "Sometimes just a two-minute phone call can mean the world and set someone's mind at ease."

Colonel Goldstone urged families of the 16 AS to stay engaged with what their spouses are doing and also the programs offered by the Family Support Center.

Spouses and families should also stay connected with the squadron, Colonel Goldstone said.

The 16 AS is projected to return around October 15.

Education

SLC survey focuses on top issues

The School Liaison Committee wishes to thank those parents who took the time to answer the recent survey about their children's education.

The SLC had a 28-percent return-rate (216 of 780 surveys returned), which greatly assisted the committee in gaining a clearer perspective of how parents of school-aged children feel about the education their children are receiving.

The following are some of the SLC's findings based on this survey:

- 91 percent of the off-base respondents (114 of 125) indicated that 50 percent or more of their decision to live off-base was due to their perception of the schools that support Charleston AFB residents

- Of those who live on-base, 71 percent of the respondents report they are satisfied with the quality of education

- 51 percent of those satisfied (33 of 65) attend either Lambs or Hunley Park Elementary Schools

- Of those who live off-base, 79 percent report they are satisfied with the quality of education

- 49 percent of those satisfied (47 of 96), attend Dorchester District II schools

A number of respondents addressed their concerns in writing, which have been categorized into four areas:

- Overall Quality of Education: including the condition of facilities, overcrowding, old text books, state ranking, school report cards and dwindling budgets

- Safety/Discipline: including classroom disruptions, school violence and school safety

- Transition Issues: including curriculum, special programs and transfer of credits

- Miscellaneous: including lack of sensitivity to military lifestyle, resistance to parental involvement, and the cost of private schools

Representatives of the SLC will continue to address areas of concern with school administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and parents.

Col. David Snodgrass, 437th Mission Support Squadron commander and chairman of the SLC, met recently with Charleston County School Superintendent, Dr. Ron

McWhirt, who shared information on the Charleston County School District's five-year plan.

The plan calls for building a state-of-the-art high school on Cross County Road to replace Stall High School. Stall will then be converted into a middle school. In addition, a new middle school will be constructed on Ashley Phosphate Road. Completion date for both schools is projected for August 2006.

Dr. McWhirt indicated that attendance lines may be redrawn to allow AFB residents to attend these new schools.

Base leadership is committed to ensuring the best possible education for Air Force children and recently established a full-time school liaison officer position. Officials hope to hire someone for the position within the next few months.

The primary purpose of this position is to promote, coordinate, and improve education policies, programs, standards, activities and opportunities for military families. This is in accordance with national, DoD, Air Force, and Air Mobility Command policies and objectives.

The school liaison officer will act as an advocate and intermediary among parents, the military community and local school districts.

During this past school year, the SLC worked on several initiatives in addition to the survey, which include the hosting of a Parents of Military Children Seminar in February, and development of a briefing for educators on the unique issues and challenges military children face.

Another initiative being worked by the Youth Programs Center leadership is to establish an additional school bus pick-up and drop-off point at the YPC for Charleston County middle- and high-school students who are current youth card holders. Ms. Denise John, YPC Director, proposed this initiative as a way to enhance the safety and welfare of Air Force youth by providing a safe and supervised place while they wait for their school buses.

For more information on the activities of the SLC, or to become a parent representative, contact Chief Master Sgt. Donna Jackson at 963-2202.

(Submitted by the SLC.)

Change of Command

Lt. Col. Kyle Hicks assumed command of the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron in a ceremony Wednesday.

Upon graduating John Hopkins University in Baltimore with a degree in engineering science, Colonel Hicks received his commission through Officer Training School in 1983.

As a career civil engineer, Colonel Hicks has served in many leadership positions. Starting at Scott AFB, Ill., he was a civil engineer, Prime Beef officer and environment programmer. He spent the following years as chief of construction programs and chief of resources and requirements at Misawa AB, Japan.

Colonel Hicks decided to stay overseas and accept the position as the engineering flight deputy chief for a Red Horse squadron at Osan AB, Republic of Korea. After his short



Lt. Col. Kyle Hicks

tour at Osan, Colonel Hicks moved to Headquarters Air Intelligence Agency at Kelly AFB, Texas, as the staff program engineer. He then moved to Headquarters Air Force as the programmer and force protection civil engineer manager of the Civil Engineer Directorate.

Colonel Hicks first became a commander when he served as the operations flight commander at Dover AFB, Del., and commander of

the 366th Training Squadron at Sheppard AFB, Texas. The 366 TRS is where civil engineers are trained.

Colonel Hicks' military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the National Defense Service Medal.

- **Interesting fact:** "I was standing on the roof

of the CE complex building shoveling off ash after Mount Pinatubo erupted at Clark AB, Philippines."

- **Favorite movie?** First Blood

- **Major pet peeve?** Lack of attention to detail

- **Favorite author?** Tom Clancy and John Grisham

- **Favorite quote?** "No pain, no gain." Terry Haise, 1964 Olympic Wrestling team member and Colonel Hicks' high school wrestling coach

- **Why did you join the Air Force?** "To travel the world and serve my country."

- **How would you describe your leadership style?** "Hands on, but I believe in delegation of authority as long as people remember they are still responsible."

- **Who is your role model and why?** "My father, William Hicks. He always taught me nothing in life is free, and if you want something bad enough, you have to work hard to earn it."

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Changes made to travel vouchers

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – Air Mobility Command personnel who return from travel after Wednesday will notice two changes to the way they file their travel vouchers, according to AMC finance officers.

Beginning on this date, all Air Force-filed travel vouchers have to be reviewed and signed by the traveler's supervisor or approving official, said Col. Tony Levy, AMC Comptroller chief of Programs and Analysis Division. In addition, split disbursement payments will be mandatory for military members who put charges on their government travel card and highly encouraged for civilian personnel.

Colonel Levy said the supervisory review and signature has been Department of Defense policy for two years. The Air Force was the only service that didn't implement the policy because it was waiting for automated systems to allow electronic routing of the forms.

"Supervisory review is not a new requirement, but it is new for the Air Force," he said. "This puts us in compliance with [Office of the Secretary of Defense] policy from several years ago and prepares us for the automated travel systems of the future, like the Defense Travel System."

Mandatory split disbursement is also not a new policy to many AMC members. Most AMC wing commanders have already implemented this policy in an attempt to reduce late payments and delinquencies on the government travel card, he said. This change makes the disbursement payment mandatory throughout the Department of Defense.

When a travel voucher is filed through split disbursement, finance offices will first pay the charges on the government travel card bill and then pay the leftover amount to the traveler.

Charleston AFB members are reminded to use the July 2002 version of the Department of Defense Form 1351-2 to ensure the signature block is on the form. Also, supervisors' signatures are only required on the final travel voucher. It is not mandatory for accrual vouchers. The travel voucher drop-box will be unavailable beginning Monday until further notice. **(Air Mobility Command News Service)**

Roche to get 'Order of the Sword'

WASHINGTON – Air Force noncommissioned officers will bestow their highest honor on the secretary of the Air Force as they induct him into the service's Order of the Sword Sept. 13 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Dr. James G. Roche received word of his induction during the recent Town Hall Meeting at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, June 5.

During the meeting, Roche, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray fielded questions from 300 people about various Air Force issues.

As closing discussions focused on Roche's pending nomination to become secretary of the Army, Murray told the secretary all the Air Force command chiefs contacted him and wanted him to pass on a message.

"Mr. Secretary, we absolutely cannot believe that your nomination will not go forward, and we recognize that you'll soon be leaving to become the secretary of the Army," Murray said. "We are envious of the Army, but are thankful for the time we've had you as secretary."

"In this forum today, I would like to request that you join the enlisted men and women of the United States Air Force on the occasion to be inducted into the United States Air Force Order of the Sword in a ceremony."

Pushing his glasses to the top of his head and wiping tears, Roche accepted an Order of the Sword plaque from Murray and said he was truly honored with the induction invitation.

"This is something I would not have expected — I didn't think I had worked long enough or hard enough to ever come near to

earning this," he said. "Thank you all very much; you'll always be in my heart." **(Air Force Print News)**

AAFES waiting on uniform fabric

DALLAS, Texas – Delays in getting certified fabric have backed up production of selected Air Force and Army optional uniforms.

Those items include Air Force polyester/wool blend shirts and blouses, polyester slacks and skirts, mess dress uniforms and officer service coats sold through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

The shortages are expected to continue through fall, AAFES officials said.

Lengthened delivery times on certified fabrics have caused the shortage. There is now a four-to-five month gap in the pipeline, officials said.

AAFES officials continue to work with the Air Force and Army clothing and textile offices to find additional manufacturers to supply certified fabric, officials said. In the meantime, military clothing sales store workers are moving merchandise to different stores to meet the immediate needs of military members. **(Courtesy of AAFES)**

Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Saddam has left the building

A combat control team member inspects the rubble at one of Saddam Hussein's palaces. The team is assigned to Baghdad International Airport, which is a primary base of operations for U.S. troops, cargo and humanitarian airlift for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie Thurlby

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Quarterly awards: The 437th Airlift Wing will recognize its quarterly award winners at a luncheon Thursday. The menu is grilled chicken fresca salad and costs \$11 for members and \$13 for non-members. Contact first sergeants to attend.

Around the base

Summary Court Officer: Effective this date, Capt. Brady Goebel, 437th Security Forces Squadron, is detailed as Summary Court Officer to secure and make proper disposition of the personal effects of Tech. Sgt. James Soulantikas, deceased. Anyone having knowledge of money or property due to the deceased or claims against the deceased's estate, please contact Captain Goebel at 963-6146.

Base housing water: Utilities personnel will be flushing fire hydrants on main base and Hunley Park housing areas through July 18. This may cause water discoloration. Check water clarity before use. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Michael Hohorst at 963-4275.

Recycle: The upcoming curbside recycling dates are Thursday and July 31. Aluminum cans have an average of 55 percent recycled content. Aluminum recycling is a closed-loop process, saving 95 percent of the energy needed to produce aluminum from ore. It can take as few as six weeks for an aluminum beverage can to be back in a store for consumer purchase.

First Six: The next First Six meeting is Thursday, 2 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Brandi Mathews at 963-6704.

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Michael Bassford
437th Airlift Wing

Staff Sgt. Michael Bassford is a military justice paralegal in the 437th Airlift Wing Legal Office. His primary duties include processing Article 15 punishments and handling court-martial proceedings.

After weighing career aspects and college, Sergeant Bassford determined the military life was more appealing.

The previous dirt boy (Heavy Equipment and Pavement Repair troop) said he enjoys his responsibilities as a paralegal.

"People now look to me for answers," said Sergeant Bassford. "The bar is raised and lowered by how I respond."

The Laurel, Md., native has been in the Air Force for more than five years and makes education a priority. Sergeant Bassford plans to finish his Community College of the Air Force degrees, and then move on to higher degrees.

Since Sergeant Bassford's brother and his family live in the local area, it's helped him enjoy the two years he's spent at Charleston.

"The area couldn't be better," he said. "(There's) beautiful weather and good city-life available everywhere you turn."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Parenting class: A common-sense parenting class is July 22 and meets six consecutive Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information or to register for the class, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

New college: Park University is coming to Charleston AFB. Contact Debra Smalls, PU director, Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. to register for the fall term beginning Aug. 4 at 552-8301.

ACSC Seminar Recruitment: The Community Education Center

is seeking major-selects and above, and GS-11s and above, in all service components for the Air Command and Staff College seminar program.

The seminar begins in early August and concludes June 2004. Members meet once a week for a three-hour session. Enrollment by Monday is encouraged. For more information or to enroll, call the CEC at 963-4578.

Community Assessment survey: The last day to complete the web-based 2003 Air Force Community Assessment survey is Wednesday. Active duty and Reserve servicemembers and spouses were randomly selected to complete the survey. The survey is an opportunity for people to express their opinions about various topics, including sense of community, family adaptation, and health and well being. For more information, call the FSC at 963-4406.

SNCO Seminar: The Senior NCO

Professional Development Seminar is July 22-24. All master sergeant selects are required to attend.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. George Broome at 963-4646, or Senior Master Sgt. Susan Barnes, 963-5776.

Historical Society: The South Carolina Historical Society is seeking letters and photographs of South Carolina veterans who have served in conflicts to preserve and publish in South Carolina history. These would include World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Donations from OEF, OIF and other current operations need to be screened by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office before they are submitted. Memorabilia can be sent to the South Carolina Historical Society, 100 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC, 29401, or by calling 723-3225 ext. 19.

To submit information considered for News briefs, send an e-mail to dispatch@charleston.af.mil with subject: **NEWS BRIEFS**; or send a fax to **963-5604**, ATTN: **NEWS BRIEFS**. Submissions must be received no later than close of business Friday the week before publication.

FEATURE

Vet cares for Fidos & families



New leader of pack at clinic

There's a new face leading the way at the Charleston AFB veterinary clinic.

Army Capt. Rebecca Benisch arrived in late April to command the veterinary services here.

After growing up on a 36-acre farm in Franklin, Texas, she graduated from Texas A&M in 2002, and was commissioned as a veterinary doctor in September.

In January, Captain Benisch officially started her military career at Army Officer Medical Basic, where she spent 10 weeks learning about being an Army officer and five weeks learning about the job of a Veterinarian Corps officer. She is responsible for running the base veterinary clinic, taking care of the military working dogs, inspecting local food vendors for the Charleston military community and ensuring the food provided to the military is sanitary and safe.

Captain Benisch said she hadn't planned on becoming a veterinarian who worked primarily with dogs and cats. Her focus was geared more toward large animal medicine so she could help out at home.

"When I went to veterinary school, I was just looking to take better care of my own animals," said Captain Benisch.

After veterinary school, Captain Benisch was searching for her life's work and turned to her parents, especially her mom for guidance.

"My mom is a retired major in the Army Nurse Corps," said Captain Benisch. "She told me I'd get a lot of leadership experience in the military, and I would get to travel. Both of my parents have been strong supporters of my joining the Army. I've had a good time so far, and I hope to spend 20 years in."

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

The Charleston AFB Veterinary Clinic offers a variety of care for the military community.

Army Capt. Rebecca Benisch, veterinary clinic OIC, said the clinic is doing its best to meet the needs of CAFB and surrounding areas.

Welfare of the military working dogs is one of the clinic's primary concerns.

"We do 100 percent of care for the military working dogs," said Captain Benisch. "Anything they need checked, from weight and health checks, to yearly dental work, is done by us. We are constantly checking on the dogs to make sure they are fit to work."

The clinic provides preventative medicine, routine vaccinations, heartworm checks, fecal tests, routine blood work, checks minor medical problems and performs surgery on a limited, space-available basis for pets, she said. The surgeries include neuters, spays, mass removals such as skin bumps, dental work and heartworm workup and treatments.

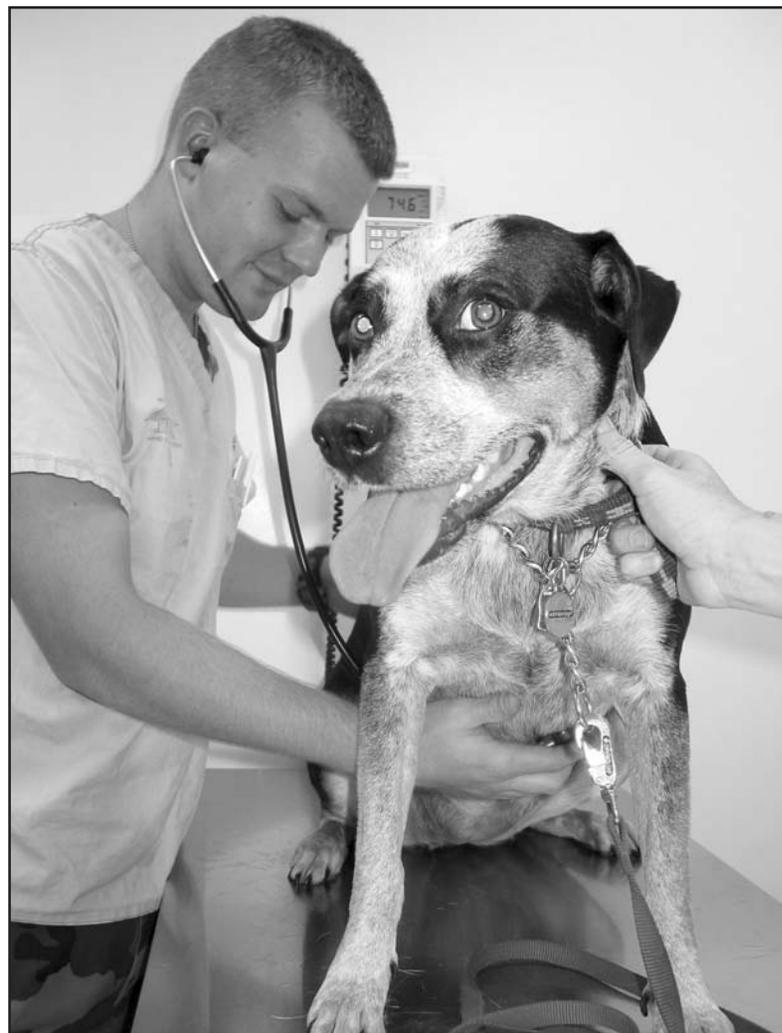
While family pet care is not one the Army Veterinary Command's highest priorities, the clinic keeps Charleston's family pets' health at its best.

"Our clinic is practically brand-new," said Captain Benisch. "It's less than three years old, and it is state of the art for [Army Veterinary Command]."

Pet clinics are held Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and, if time permits, on Wednesdays by appointment. All pet surgeries are done on Fridays. The front office is open Monday-Friday for buying product purchases.

For routine pet care, veterinarians have extra help, said Army Spc. Morgan Bryant, veterinary technician.

"We answer questions from the owners, schedule appointments, do vaccinations, deworm and



Army Spc. Morgan Bryant, veterinary technician, checks Sydney's heart during a routine visit.

assist the veterinarians in exams," said Specialist Bryant. "We also do bite reports.

"If someone is bitten on base by pets or strays, we process it from this side," he continued. "We quarantine the animal and make sure it has had its rabies shot."

Aside from caring for pets and military working dogs, the veterinary clinic also watches out for military members and their families.

"We have a food mission at the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston," said Captain

Benisch. "We have food inspectors there who monitor all food received at the Commissary, and inspect all food coming into the galley from the prime vendors to make sure it is also wholesome and safe."

For more information or to make an appointment, call the Veterinary Clinic at 963-4264.



Lauren Estes, veterinarian, and Army Pfc. Maria Moss, veterinary technician, work together to give a shot to Abbie.

CC answers commander's call questions

Q: Will commercial transportation ever be allowed on base?

A: Taxis are allowed on base during Force Protection Condition Alpha. The rules for taxis entering the base during FPCON Normal and FPCON Alpha are: taxis with Department of Defense affiliated patrons may enter any gate; and taxis without patrons must enter through Rivers' Gate to facilitate vehicle searches. Base personnel requiring taxi service must call the Rivers' Gate with an on-base phone number for a required security forces call back. Personnel must provide approximate time, number, pick-up location and taxi company name. Taxis will show valid driver's license and will be subject to search at all times while on base. For fast food delivery, the sponsor will meet the delivery at the gate for FPCON Normal through FPCON Delta unless the delivery driver is DoD affiliated (e.g. active-duty member working as part-time delivery person).

Q: The softball fields with lights are muddy. Will you consider putting in lights at the other softball fields?

A: Intramural softball games have been played on all four fields since the season started in May. The softball infield sand and clay composition on field No. 3 and No. 4 consists of more sand than clay and allows for a quicker recovery from rainstorms. Our sports staff has added 40 yards of ball field sand and clay on fields No. 1 and No. 2 in the last month in an attempt to battle the drainage problem. Additional sand and clay are being added this week to correct this problem. Since the softball field complex is used to support programs throughout the year, the 437th Services Squadron will readdress the completion of the original Softball Complex design that includes lighting fields No. 3 and No. 4.

Q: The education center rooms are extremely hot. Is there a fix in the works?

A: The Community Education Center has three air conditioners. The air-conditioning

unit that covers Room 133 was repaired on 12 May. The next day, a new air conditioner was installed that covers the testing room and classrooms in the back of the building. We are expecting the unit that covers the auditorium to be repaired very soon. We also purchased two fans for each classroom.

Q: Are there any plans to open the youth center earlier to support military personnel dropping off their 6-year-olds, since the CDC will not accept them.

A: There are no plans for the Youth Programs Center to open earlier to accommodate 6-year-olds. Throughout the school year, summer months, and on specific holidays the youth center operates the School-Age Program, which takes care of children 6-12 years of age. Children can attend the program Monday-Friday beginning at 6:30 a.m., and will be taken to school and picked up from school, and participate in center programs and activities until the SAP finishes each day at 6 p.m. During the summer camp time frame from June 2-Aug.8, SAP hours of operation are 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Open recreation for children not enrolled in this structured program begins at 3 p.m., Monday-Friday, and at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Q: How does Air Mobility Command and CAFB fit into the Air Expeditionary Force rotation, and how will the command address reconstitution?

A: The AEF program is undergoing some adjustments now that we're recovering from OIF and posturing for a new sustainment. The Air Force has designated transitional 120-day AEFs called Blue and Silver. The AEF Center at Langley AFB, Va., has structured Blue to consist of people who did not deploy from AEF 9/10 (cycle 3) and AEF 1/2 (cycle 4). Silver will consist of AEF 3/4 and 5/6 (cycle 4). CAFB will rotate personnel in both Blue and Silver, since our primary buckets are 1/2 and 5/6. The AEF Center expects that we will resume the normal 90-day battle rhythm rotation in March 2004 with AEF bucket 7/8.

437 MDG PUBLIC NOTICE

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of the 437th Medical Group, Charleston AFB SC, July 22-24.

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded to the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins.

The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to:

Division of Accreditation Operations
Account Representative
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting. This notice is posted in accordance with the Joint Commission's requirements and may not be removed before the survey is completed.

Chapel schedule



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

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.

Protestant Services: *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Bldg. 217 (old Chapel).

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: Synagogue Emanu-El, 5 Windsor Dr., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 571-3264.

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

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.
"The Italian Job" – Mark Wahlberg

Charlie was pleased after pulling off an amazing gold bullion heist from a heavily guarded palazzo in Venice, Italy. The plan was flawless; the job was executed perfectly; the escape was clean.

The only threat Charlie never saw coming was from a member of his own crew. He couldn't believe it when one of them turned out to be a double-crosser. Now the job isn't about the payoff, it's about the payback. **(PG-13) 105 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
"Finding Nemo" – Animated

Marlin desperately searches the seas for his missing son, Nemo. Little Nemo finds himself in a dentist's fish tank in Sydney, Australia, along with other underwater captives. As Nemo works with his new friends on a plan to escape their tank, Marlin swims closer, but he'll need more than just fins to get into the dentist's office. **(G) 101 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS



Medical Group goalkeeper Tim Tarrant launches a goal kick during his team's 6-2 victory in the base intramural soccer championship. Tarrant's diving saves were instrumental in his team's victory.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey



Juan Flores, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, clears the ball from the backfield.

UNDEFEATED: MDG beats out AMXS to win soccer championship

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber
437 AW Public Affairs

Undefeated Medical Group broke up a close game with three second-half goals to beat Aircraft Maintenance Squadron 6-2 in the base intramural soccer championship July 1.

Steve Olbino, Bryan Debowsky and Adilson Vieira de Andrade each scored two goals for top-seeded MDG, which finished 12-0.

Bob Waterman and Juan Flores scored goals for No. 3 AMXS which finished 8-4-1.

MDG took a 2-0 first-half lead on goals by Olbino and Vieira de Andrade.

In the second half, MDG increased its lead to 3-0 as Debowsky's high shot over Chavez hit the center of the net. But AMXS became more offensive minded as Waterman's successful penalty kick cut the lead to 3-1.

Moments later, fired up AMXS trailed 3-2, as Flores' shot found the empty net after Tannant misjudged the ball on the slippery field.

It looked like AMXS would tie the game, but Tannant made another diving stop.

MDG responded to the defensive gem and scored breakaway goals making the final 6-2.

Dominick Dangora spearheaded the MDG defense, according to Cutlip.

"For most of the games we had key people gone, and he took it upon himself to stop everything that came his way," Cutlip said. "Goals win games, but defense is what wins championships."