

AIRLIFT Dispatch

Vol. 42, No. 26

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, June 27, 2003



Refurbishing history

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Airman Jeremy Hulsey, 437th Maintenance Squadron Structural Maintenance Section, sands the underside of a C-124 wing to prepare the plane for repainting. The aircraft is one of three planes on display in the airpark near the Rivers' Gate.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

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E-6/E-7 rates down, 121 CAFB members move up



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MSS/CS team remains undefeated at 16-0

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

COMMENTARY

Commander's Comments

By Col. Brooks Bash
437AWcommander

Congratulations

Great news for our Charleston AFB NCOs who were notified that they were on yesterday's technical sergeant and master sergeant promotion lists. Congratulations to these leaders who have been entrusted with the next level of responsibility.

We also congratulate the 35 graduates of Airman Leadership School, recognized in a ceremony last night, and look for good things to come from the airmen of ALS class 03-F.

Speaking of leaders, my shadow this week, **Senior Airman Schenecia Smith** earned the ALS leadership award in May. A Personnel Journeyman who works in reenlistment and extensions, she is also working on a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. I am proud to have Airman Smith on our team!

Farewell

As the summer progresses, we say goodbye to a number of wing leaders. With thanks for a career of service and numerous "firsts" in the C-17 community, we bid farewell to **Col. Tim Lewis**, 437th Operations Group director of special operations, who retires soon.

We also say goodbye to **Lt. Col. Charles Capps**, 437th Mission Support Squadron commander, and to **Maj. Gerald Frederick**, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, as they head off to their next assignments.

Farewell, too, to **Mr. Bill Hammond**, Boeing's base manager for C-17 field services, and a crucial partner in the team effort during contingency operations over the past few years. Thank you for a job well done, and all the best in your future endeavors.

Welcome

We welcome **Maj. Gen. Roger Brady**, Air Mobility Command director of operations, next week, as he pays CAFB a visit. While here, he will cut the ribbon on a new operations facility and will get a firsthand look at our flying units.

Fun at the pool

Join friends and family today at the family fun day and pool grand opening. Festivities begin at 1 p.m., with pool ribbon-cutting at 2:30 p.m. Bring the kids out for rides and games, and get into the swing of things with a hula-dancing workshop at 2 p.m. Filipino dancers perform at 3 p.m., and hula dancers put on a show at 4 p.m. There will



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, tries on the new Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology chemical protective suit at the 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron War Readiness section. In many cases, wing members deploying to forward locations in support of Air Expeditionary Force Blue will be issued the new suit. Squadron unit deployment managers ensure personnel are appropriately fitted and keep sizing data in each person's deployment file.

also be a C-17 on display on the flight line near base operations from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. During that time, a bus will run between the pool and the static display, as parking near the flightline is limited. For those of you who bought tickets, the 437th Mission Support Group luau that evening promises to be a good time.

Fun day participants will earn **ATWIND** game pieces for attending. Remember, **kids can play too**. Be sure to register each of your family members, and play at least two tickets per person to help the base earn additional quality of life money.

Safety

As you prepare for a four-day weekend next week, please take into account safety factors. Increase your vigilance as you participate in recreational activities like boating or swimming, and be particularly careful with 4th of July pyrotechnics. Make sure you are well-rested before you drive, and do not get behind the wheel if you have been drinking. Be safe out there!

Corrections

■ The June 20 edition of the *Airlift Dispatch* incorrectly identified a coin recipient. Army National Guardsmen Specialist Harris Dail also received a coin for his role in maintaining base security.

Dispatch

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Mail to: 437 AW PAI, 102 East Hill Blvd. Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154
E-mail to: dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial staff

437 AW Commander - **Col. Brooks Bash**
Chief, Public Affairs - **Maj. Linda Pepin**
Chief, Internal Information - **2nd Lt. Bryan Lewis**
Editor - **Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer**
Staff writers - **Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber**
Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
Photo support provided by 437 Visual Information:
Staff Sgt. Corey Clements
Airman 1st Class Tyrone Pearsall
Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey, Andre Bullard

Making a difference

DFC recipients represent all of Team Charleston

By **Col. William Bender**
437OG commander

The men and women of the 437th Airlift Wing should be justifiably proud of the airmen who were awarded Air Force Distinguished Flying Crosses June 17. After all, every one of the 600 or so who witnessed this momentous occasion play a major role every day in supporting the individuals who received the awards.

As the award citations were read, and as 21st Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Nick Williams pinned on the medals, I was happy for the award winners, but I was overwhelmed with pride for the accomplishments of this entire wing.

Every now and then, it's helpful to think back to when our nation's war on global terror started. Reconsidering the reasons we're doing what we're doing gives me a better overall appreciation of the significance of what this wing does every single day to support the ongoing struggle to defend America's freedom and to guarantee America's future.

Do you remember the debates about whether war in Afghanistan was the right answer? Do you recall the protesters and demonstrators who said the United States was wrong to answer the atrocities of 9/11 with more damage and destruction by waging a war of our own?

All Americans are entitled to their opinion and have a constitutional right to demonstrate it, but it strikes me that the pro-

worth repeating

"Every one of us at Charleston AFB, officer or enlisted, active duty or Reserve, military or civilian, is making a difference for our country."



– **Col. William Bender**
437th Operations Group commander

testers failed to ask themselves one very important question. The issue was never "do we want war," because no American wants war, but "do we believe war is necessary." The real question the anti-war pundits should have been asking themselves was "are we prepared to do nothing?"

Were they prepared to do nothing about the possibility of a state-sponsored terrorist attack anywhere in the world, even if it were to kill hundreds, or even thousands of people? Were they willing to overlook the chilling significance of a terrorist attack with the scope and complexity of the one that was planned and executed right here in the United States that led to the wanton killing of innocent civilians in New York, at the Pentagon and in a desolate farm field in Pennsylvania?

Instead of protesting war, they should have been offering alternatives to war, but they couldn't because there were no good options. President George W. Bush and those in his administration had exhausted political and diplomatic efforts to avert war,

but had come to understand there were no easy answers.

A couple months ago I gave my squadron commanders an assignment to read either Joseph Ellis' "Founding Brothers," or Thomas Friedman's "The Lexus and the Olive Tree." My purpose was straightforward.

In the case of Ellis' book, it helps us to better understand and appreciate the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness on which the constitution of the United States of America is founded.

Friedman's book discusses myriad dynamics at work in today's world that directly challenge those principles.

Discussing the ideas in these books demonstrates the incredibly difficult work that lies ahead for our country and for her leaders. If we are to protect life and liberty against the tyranny of those who want nothing more than to see those principles destroyed, it will not be easy. For a very long time to come, the answers won't be easy... freedom isn't free.

That's why I'm so very proud of the individuals who received the Distinguished Flying Cross and of all the people in this wing. Every one of us at Charleston AFB, officer or enlisted, active duty or Reserve, military or civilian, is making a difference for our country. Those airmen receiving their awards on the stage represent all of us who answered the president's call in the days following 9/11 and who continue to answer the call today. What you do every day to support this wing is making a difference.

Commander issues new UOD policy

To reiterate Air Mobility Command's uniform of the day policy letter on June 11, the preferred UOD for AMC and its wings, direct reporting units or units is short sleeve blue shirt with or without tie/tab, or long sleeve blue shirt with tie/tab. The only exemptions to this policy are individuals whose daily duties call for wear of utility uniforms, or who are performing work on 12-hour shifts.

Immediate adherence to this policy is mandatory. Squadron commanders will examine their duty sections and determine UOD for each to ensure compliance with the spirit and intent of AMC's policy. Many units will have personnel in both the utility uniform and a blue uniform be-

cause of their diverse work centers. Commanders, superintendents and first sergeants should vary their uniforms as appropriate to match varied duty sections.

A blue uniform combination is the UOD for individuals participating in ceremonial events such as wing promotion celebrations, award ceremonies and special observances. Squadron commanders should also encourage a blue uniform combination for squadron-level ceremonies.

Every Friday is considered warrior day, and UOD is the battle dress uniform or flight suit.

The travel uniform required when traveling in CONUS is short sleeve blue shirt with tie/tab or long sleeve blue uniform with tie/tab.

Military family fun day today

A military family fun day is today, with activities in the pool area from 1-5 p.m., and the opportunity to tour a C-17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parking near the flight line is limited, so people are encouraged to park near the pool and take the bus to the flight line. Near the pool area, adults and children can enjoy rides and games, including a jump castle, pony rides, crafts, mascots, an ice cream social, an Asian Pacific Heritage celebration and much more. There will be a hula dancing workshop at 2 p.m., pool ribbon-cutting at 2:30 p.m., Filipino dancers at 3 p.m. and a 4 p.m. hula show.

NEWS

Maintenance restores historical aspect of CAFB

Crews refurbish last of three planes on static display

By Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

Three floors, one old car and an elevator: no, it's not a parking garage, it's a C-124 Globemaster II on display here.

Members of the 437th Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance section have been refurbishing the three aircraft static displays at the airpark near the Rivers Gate for the past year.

The C-124 Globemaster II, the C-121 Constellation and the C-141 Starlifter were all based at Charleston AFB at some point in history.

"Old Shakey," a pet name for C-124s, is the last of the trio to be refurbished and still sports antique flight controls, three-tiered metal bunkbeds drilled into the back of the cargo portion of the aircraft and tarp-covered latrines.

An old staff car belonging to retired Maj. Gen. James McCombs, Charleston's 15th wing commander, is placed inside as a time capsule, said Master Sgt. Shea Saul, 437 MXS production supervisor and airpark manager.

C-124s were operational here when Jim Cook, 437 MXS propulsion section, arrived in 1966. General McComb's mission to bring the plane to CAFB occurred in the late '80s.

"In this particular mission (bringing the C-124 to CAFB), we almost lost the aircraft," said Mr. Cook. "They almost had to abort the mission because the elevators were not balanced."

Riding alongside of General McCombs and his crew was an aircraft maintaining radio contact to ensure they would make it, said Mr. Cook. The aircraft was prepped for two years before

they could attempt to fly it.

When the aircraft was loaned out to CAFB by Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, an agreement was made to keep the planes historically intact, said Sergeant Saul.

"One of the responsibilities of having an airpark is maintaining and keeping it historically accurate," he said.

First, maintainers inspected the structural integrity of the aircraft to determine what needed to be fixed to keep the plane standing, said Sergeant Saul.

"We repair all of the broken, cracked and fatigued metal," said Airman 1st Class Dustin Mercer, 437 MXS structural maintenance section. "Right now we are in the process of sanding (the C-124) to get it ready for painting."

Leadership asked for volunteers and chose crews who had completed

their upgrade training, said Sergeant Saul.

"I learned different repairs that we wouldn't use on C-17s," said Airman 1st Class Joshua Adams, 437 MXS structural maintenance section. "I got more experience for sheet metal on aircraft. C-17s are all composites, not sheet metal."

Airman Jeremy Hulsey, 437 MXS structural maintenance section, was one of the original members of the refurbishing crew. He started on the C-121, the second plane refurbished.

"I was one of the people selected to start the project, and since I started it, I just want to complete it," he said.

Crew members also included Staff Sgt. Eddie Busby, Senior Airman Dustin Floyd, Senior Airman Marcus Ford, Senior Airman Christopher Gilliland and Airman 1st Class William Badgett.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

'Explosive' fun

Airman Del Guile and Airman 1st Class William Senecal, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight journeymen, show more than 300 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from all over the nation the EOD-8, the latest blast and fragmentation protective suit for bomb technicians. The heavily padded and reinforced bomb suit provides specialists a measure of protection against a blast. The cadets were here June 11 as part of a two week cadet officer leadership program the Air Force conducts each summer at the Citadel. The career day was a chance for the JROTC cadets to interact with airmen from different career fields at Charleston AFB.

PROMOTIONS

121 at CAFB promoted to tech., master

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas – Air Force officials have selected 4,832 of 18,903 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant, a 25.56 percent selection rate, and 7,116 of 32,501 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant, a 21.89 percent selection rate.

Charleston AFB had 59 selected for master, for a 24.7 percent selection rate, and 62 selected for technical, for a 14 percent selection rate.

A higher retention rate—opening fewer vacancies for each rank—was one reason promotion rates are lower than last year, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

The final tally will increase as tests are received and scored for deployed airmen, said officials. They have 30 to 60 days after they return to test.

“People who have been deployed will be allowed to test when they return, and we’ll automatically consider them for promotion. We do this on a monthly basis until everyone is considered,” said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Billingsley, enlisted promotions branch chief.

The master sergeant selection rate dropped 7.67 percent from last year, while this year’s technical sergeant rate fell 11.62 percent from last year.

“Overall, we are seeing tech and master ser-

worth repeating

“It’s important to keep this in perspective — these are the fifth-highest rates of the last 20 years. That’s pretty remarkable and should encourage people that the next stripe is still well within reach.”

– Chief Master Sgt. Mark Billingsley

Air Force Personnel Center enlisted promotions branch chief

geant promotion rates drop down to about where we suggested as we reach the goal of increasing the ‘top five’ enlisted grades from 48 to 56 percent (of the enlisted force),” said Sergeant Billingsley. “It’s important to keep this in perspective—these are the fifth-highest rates of the last 20 years. That’s pretty remarkable and should encourage people that the next stripe is still well within reach.”

The complete list of selectees is posted to AFPC’s Web page, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/>.

People who tested can get an electronic copy of their score notice by logging into the virtual mili-

tary personnel flight at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

The average master sergeant selectee score was 340.99 points, based on the following:

- 134.26 for enlisted performance reports
- 75.06 for promotion fitness exam
- 66.05 for specialty knowledge test
- 27.21 for time in grade
- 35.94 for time in service
- 11.88 for decorations

The average master sergeant selectee has 3.45 years time in grade and 17.06 years in service. People selected will be promoted to master sergeant from August to July 2004.

The average technical sergeant selectee score was 321.01 points, based on the following:

- 132.73 for enlisted performance reports
- 71.83 for promotion fitness exam
- 55.89 for specialty knowledge test
- 35.13 for time in grade
- 26.70 for time in service
- 6.13 for decorations

The average technical sergeant selectee has 4.80 years time in grade and 12.22 years in service. People selected will be promoted to technical sergeant from August to July 2004. (**Air Force Personnel Center News Service**)

Team Charleston members selected for promotion

Technical Sergeants

Air Force Climatology

Pichai Polprasert
Richard Stage

1st Combat Camera Squadron

Wayne Clark
Harry Fisher II
Jerry Morrison

Cecil Ricardo Jr.

14th Airlift Squadron

Michael Gordon
Charles Lauderdale
James Lewis

15th Airlift Squadron

Kenneth Kluge
Todd Marwine

16th Airlift Squadron

Brett Newman

17th Airlift Squadron

James E. Athens Jr.

373rd Training Squadron, Detachment 5

Bradley Rawn
Richard Spotts

437th Aerial Port Squadron

David Burkhardt
Brian Charlebois
Robert Milller
Robert Rose

437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Gregory Bartle
Robert Carlberg
Chip Cluley
Brad Kline

John Pearson Jr.

Patrick Perry

Marc Robinson

Neill Singletary

437th Airlift Wing

Rodney Umbaugh

437th Civil Engineer Squadron

William Arcuri

Aubrey Barkley

Shawn Chenault

Michael Newbern

Curtis Peltier

Richard Pugh

Brian Rowe

437th Communication Squadron

Corey Clements

Curtis Jamison

437th Comptroller Squadron

Julie Brannan

Antwan Carlisle

Cindy Irvin

437th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Matthew Amerson

Lance Boeding

Alan Jenkins Jr.

Richard Johnson

Jeffrey Mercer

437th Maintenance Squadron

Joseph Clark

Edwin Haynes

Anthony Landingham

Daniel Mcomber

Cedric Warren

Julie West

437th Maintenance Group

Gregory Bicknell

Michael Robinson

437th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Jeffrey Alan Cliff

Eric Landry

437th Medical Operations Squadron

Virginia McMullin

437th Operations Group

Toby Thompson

Geoffrey Mason

437th Security Forces Squadron

Christopher Collins

David Rich

Security Forces, Det 3, OL-3

Paul Funk

437th Services Squadron

Jermode Pharr

Master Sergeants

AFROTC SE, Det 765, Citadel

Bryan Keough

1st Combat Camera Squadron

Ricky Fitzgerald

Cary Humphries

James Lotz

Darrin Newman

14th Airlift Squadron

David Becker

15th Airlift Squadron

Martin Alleyne

Shane Pilgrim

16th Airlift Squadron

Mark Henriquez

17th Airlift Squadron

Michael Bevins

Edward Ebersole

Herman Rose

373rd Training Squadron Detachment 5

Antonio Delgadillo

Thomas Lemon Jr.

Collin Papke

John Richardson

Frederick Smith

437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Paul Leon

437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Michael Beard

William Budkey

Kenneth Chandlee

Michael Kyser

Elauo Martiz

Carol Poindexter

Christopher Salinas

Timothy Smith

Anthony Sordillo

Nathan Villar

437th Airlift Wing

George Brown

Derick Rosen

437th Civil Engineer Squadron

Jeffrey Bache

437th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Steven Beasley

Charles Irvin

Eric Ritchie

Michael Ritz

David Sopshier

Sven Stauber

437th Maintenance Group

Brian Athens

Timothy Ferguson

437th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Boris Rollins

437th Maintenance Squadron

Michael Asher

Eric Brandt

Roland Delauney

David Hughey

Kenneth Lane

Danna Prrish

Raymond Sagan

Christopher Smith Jr.

John Tollison

437th Medical Operations Squadron

Janet Clayton

Wayne Lightburn

437th Medical Support Squadron

Tundra Gatewood

Shaun McEvoy

Isiah Walker

437th Mission Support Squadron

Randy Jackson

437th Operations Support Squadron

Joseph Beyer

Alfred Gregg

437th Security Forces Squadron

Keith Collins

Daniel Timko II

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

AF considers new, distinctive uniform

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials are considering an Air Force-distinctive uniform to replace the current battle dress uniform, according to service officials.

A fit and wear test of the uniform is pending, officials said. The test will determine the best direction to respond to Air Force needs for a 21st century utility uniform.

Many new Air Force uniforms and uniform items are fit or wear tested in the field before becoming

available.

This wear test usually lasts between six months to one year but can be extended based upon the complexity of the uniform and feedback from the wear testers, officials explained. Positive and negative feedback is collected to ensure necessary improvements are made to the uniform or item before any decision is made to adopt it or not.

At the conclusion of the wear test, Air Force leaders will review the feedback and input from testers and a decision will be made to implement all, some or none of the test uniform. **(Air Force Print News)**

Roadmap outlines tanker fleet changes for future

WASHINGTON – The Air Force released a plan June 18 outlining the retirement of the 133 remaining E-model KC-135 Stratotankers and the proposed integration of the 100 KC-767A tankers it is leasing from Boeing.

Through the “tanker roadmap,” the Air Force is laying out the initial stages of tanker recapitalization which run through 2017, according to Col. Scott Wuesthoff, chief of the Air Force global mobility division at the Pentagon. The changes are critical because the average age of the service’s KC-135 E-model tanker is more than 43 years old, he said.

“These Eisenhower-era aircraft are the oldest combat weapons systems in the inventory and have been experiencing ever-increasing maintenance costs and serious corrosion problems, which equate to decreasing availability and less bang-for-the-buck,” he said.

The KC-767s have greater range, carry a larger payload and more passengers, can be aurally refueled and can refuel any type of receiver aircraft with either boom or drogue, Colonel Wuesthoff added.

“(The KC-767) is also capable of taking off at maximum gross weight from approximately 1,000 more runways around the world than the KC-135, allowing the warfighter numerous options and increased flexibility,” he said. “The Air Force gains both capability and availability.

“Ensuring we have a robust air refueling force enables us to protect our homeland, conduct combat operations worldwide and provide humanitarian relief around the world,” Colonel Wuesthoff said. “We’re an aerospace nation, and our tankers allow us to do things no other nation in the world can do. They’re an essential part of the overall global mobility equation.”

As part of the roadmap, Air Reserve Component units at the following locations will convert from E-model to R-model KC-135s: Salt Lake City International Airport; Bangor IAP, Maine; Pittsburgh IAP; Forbes Field, Kan.; McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.; McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; Scott AFB, Ill.; Sioux City ANGB, Iowa; Beale AFB, Calif.; Phoenix Sky Harbor IAP; and

Selfridge ANGB, Mich.

“This is really only the first step in the recapitalization of the fleet,” Colonel Wuesthoff said. **(Air Force Print News)**

AEF Center improves ‘online’ site

LANGLEY AFB, Va. – The Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center recently launched an improved version of their Web site, “AEF Online,” to help airmen learn more about the AEF and provide information about deployments.

“We’ve made the site more user-friendly and more pleasing to the eye. Our goal was to organize information to allow people to find what they need more easily and quickly,” said Maj. Beverly Nozolino, the chief of the AEF Center systems integration branch.

AEF Online continues to offer airmen links to many deployment locations, checklists and requirements.

“AEF Online helps airmen better prepare themselves for deployment,” Major Nozolino said. “They can also use the site to learn more about the AEF, including information about the AEF Center, points of contact and useful tools.”

Airmen will find more up-to-date information on the new site, she said.

“Based on feedback received from airmen across the total force, the AEF Center Web team not only improved the usability of the site; it also added more relevant information,” she said.

“The AEF is how the Air Force intends to conduct 21st-century warfighting — it’s here to stay,” said Brig. Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, the commander of the AEF Center. “As the AEF continues to evolve, especially during very dynamic contingency operations like Operation Iraqi Freedom, getting the most current and relevant AEF information out to our airmen is a top AEF Center priority. Our newly revamped Web site, AEF Online, is intended to do just that. We encourage all airmen to visit the site and, if they have ideas on how to make it even better, don’t hesitate to let us know.”

Airmen can access AEF Online from any dot-mil computer at <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil>. **(Air Combat Command News Service)**

Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Master Sgt. Carla Kippes

Impact point

A member of the Combined Weapons Effectiveness Assessment Team surveys the impact point of a precision-guided 5,000-pound bomb through the dome of one of Saddam Hussein’s key regime buildings in Baghdad, Iraq. The impact point is one of up to 500 the team will assess in coming weeks.

NEWS BRIEFS

Around the base

MPF: The 437th Mission Support Squadron will be closed today, 9-11:30 a.m., for a change of command ceremony.

CLEP exams: Some College Level Examination Program exams are going to computer-based testing Monday. Today is the last day the Community Education Center can test anyone on the following CLEP exams: General - Humanities; Subject exams - General Chemistry, College Level German, General Biology, and Western Civilization I and II. For more information, call CEC customer service at 963-4575, or 963-7201.

Commissary: The Commissary will be open Monday and closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Clinic closure: The clinic will be closed Thursday - July 4. For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, call the on-call provider at 963-6790.

School physicals: The Family Practice Clinic is performing school summer and sports physicals for Family Practice patients only Monday. To schedule an appointment, call 963-6880. Patients must bring shot records.

Red Cross Dental Assisting Program: The 437th Dental Flight is now accepting applications for the Red Cross Dental Assisting Program beginning in August. This program includes hands-on dental assisting training with a qualified dental assistant. Some duties include preparing a dental treatment room, taking and recording vital signs, preparing dental materials for use and admin-

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Lauren Gradick 437th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Lauren Gradick is a patrolman for the 437th Security Forces Squadron. Her duties include monitoring and directing traffic, investigating offenses and traffic accidents, and conducting building checks and identifying crime hazards.

Sergeant Gradick said the best thing about her job is the personal interaction with other units.

She joined the Air Force, "to serve my country and for the Air Force experience -- travel, education and camaraderie."

Her future goals are to get her college degree.

The Atlanta, Ga., native was stationed at FE Warren AFB, Wyo., before coming to Charleston AFB 13 months ago.

"I think Charleston is a great base, and I really enjoy the many attractions in the area, especially the beach," said Sergeant Gradick.

In her spare time, she enjoys exercise, movies and taking her dogs to the beach and park.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber

istrative tasks.

The program lasts approximately six months, with a 40-hour work-week. Benefits of completing this program include certificate of training, certification in CPR and exposure to a wide variety of dental specialty procedures. To apply for the program, pick up an application at the dental clinic's reception desk. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Zelma Garcia at 963-6842. Deadline for applications is Tuesday.

Youth Soccer: Youth Soccer regis-

tration begins Tuesday. Volunteers are needed. For more information or to sign up, go by the Youth Center, or call Allen Fleming at 963-8326.

Tobacco cessation: The next Tobacco Cessation class is Tuesday, noon, in the Fitness and Sports Center classroom. The class meets one hour a week for five weeks and provides stress management, behavior modification, fitness, nutrition, and Zyban and nicotine replacement therapy. For more information or to sign up for a class, call the Health and Wellness Center at 963-4007.

Housing Office closure: Due to the Fourth of July holiday, the Housing Office will be closed Thursday. For emergencies, call the Fire Department at 963-3777.

Recycle: The upcoming curbside recycling dates are Thursday, July 17 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.

Air Command and Staff College 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 early August and concludes June 2004. Members meet once a week for a three-hour session. Enrollment by July 7 is encouraged. For more information or to enroll, call the CEC at 963-4578.

Community Assessment survey: The last day to complete the 2003 Air Force web-based Community Assessment survey is July 15. 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.

Air Force ends Stop Loss

WASHINGTON - The last of the airmen whose retirement or separation was delayed by Stop-Loss for Operation Iraqi Freedom were released Monday and will be eligible to leave the service July 31.

Air Force officials authorized Stop-Loss for 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties in early March to meet national security objectives, specifically for the war in Iraq. More than half of the specialties were released from the program May 14.

The Stop-Loss release applies to all active-duty, Reserve and Air National Guard people in all enlisted grades and officers in the grade of colonel and below; however, deployed airmen must remain in place for the duration of their deployment.

Released airmen will be allowed up to five months transition time. **(Air Force Print News)**

FEATURE

Right: Master Sgt. Michael Best, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, shares pictures he took of Iraqi children who now live on the grounds of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense in Baghdad, Iraq.

Below: Sergeant Best searches for photo opportunities inside a bomb-damaged Iraqi Ministry of Defense building in Baghdad.



ON FILM

Team Charleston warrior captures Baghdad

Story and photos by Capt. Roger Burdette
*Combined Weapons Effectiveness
Assessment Team Public Affairs*

Master Sgt. Michael Best has taken photographs for 28 years. The past 20 years, he has made his living taking photos for the Air Force.

But on a sunny, sultry day in mid-June in Iraq's capital city, he is looking for more than just photos. He is looking for snipers.

"I'm sure the force-protection guys have that in mind, but we all have to be vigilant," Sergeant Best said.

As he spoke, his eyes — hidden behind tinted goggles designed to protect him from the sun and blowing sand — scanned high-rise buildings easily within rifle range. A black professional-grade digital camera hung around his neck, and a black 9 mm pistol was strapped to his side.

Sergeant Best, from Charleston AFB, is a combat-camera photographer traveling with the Combined Weapons Effectiveness Assessment Team. The team of nearly 100 experts from the United States, United Kingdom and Australia began traveling in Iraq in early June. In the next several weeks, the team is scheduled to visit up to 500 impact points where bombs dropped during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The team is led by U.S. Central Air Forces and will report its findings to U.S. Central

Command this fall.

Sergeant Best is one of three combat-camera photographers traveling with the team. The other two are Master Sgt. Carla Kippes, also from here, and Tech. Sgt. Chris Stone, from Langley AFB, Va.

As experts in weapons, targeting, structural engineering and other disciplines collected data at the site, Sergeant Best captured digital images of the damage, weapons fragments and other sites of interest to the team. Its findings, along with the photographers' images, will be used to assess the performance and to improve weapons and tactics in the future, according to team officials.

"(Combat-camera photographers') primary mission is to capture images wherever U.S. forces are in the world," Sergeant Best said. "We record for history and for our leadership what our forces actually do."

Regarding the team specifically, Sergeant Best said he and his colleagues are capturing images to help "tell the air component story from OIF." The end product of this assignment will be visual images that "show whether or not the weapons worked as designed for their intended targets," he said.

Best recently took photos of several facilities including a bridge across the Tigris River, a radio relay communications station in downtown Baghdad, an intelligence headquarters, a Baath Party stronghold and surface-to-

air missile launchers in farmers' fields.

This is "probably one of the coolest assignments I've ever had," Sergeant Best said.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be part of this team and see the people of Iraq," he continued. "I have a place in my heart for the Iraqi people. I feel sorry for them for what they've gone through."

Sergeant Best toured one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces. Despite looting and recent neglect, evidence of opulence in the palace was obvious. One room had marble floors and a blue wooden chair graced with intricate carved designs and yellow, floral-print upholstery.

"There's no telling how much money was spent on these palaces," he said, "yet there are people out there barely scratching out a living."

Sergeant Best has also watched children run barefoot across cement blocks and other debris strewn across the ground and in buildings at the defense complex. The bomb-damaged buildings have become their playground. After the bombings, local families moved into the buildings — despite the broken windows and shattered roofs.

"This trip is allowing me to see firsthand how a dictator can ruin things for his own people, even though he claims he loves them," Sergeant Best said. "He's only out for himself and for his (political) party. This trip has been very eye-opening."

You asked ...

CC answers commander's call questions

Q: Is there a plan for civilians to fill military positions where there is a shortage of military personnel, and do you foresee more deployable civilian positions?

A: Currently, there is no long-range plan for civilians to fill military jobs that are short on manpower, either through end-strength numbers or as a result of deployments. However, there are two items that may be of interest: First, since 2001, Charleston AFB has actively pursued authorization to hire emergency civilian personnel to assist squadrons heavily tasked by Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. These positions are exactly what their title describes. They are not permanent, term or temporary. They exist only in a state of emergency. As war efforts dissipate and we return to steady-state operations, the authorization to hire under the emergency process may go away. Concurrently, we will be forced to terminate our emergency-hire employees. Secondly, an initiative titled Human Capital Task Force was commissioned to look at smarter ways we can better utilize military manpower. Some of the ideas are beginning operational implementation, while other ideas need more inquiry. The official report will be signed by the secretary of defense and Air Force chief of staff, and will identify 16 new ways of doing business.

Q: Can children of retirees participate in youth sports?

A: Yes. Retirees' children are authorized to play youth sports and participate in all youth programs, except the School Age Care Program.

Q: Are there any plans to build a new child development center?

A: Yes. We have a new Child Development Center as the number-two priority in our military construction program. Our current CDC accommodates 115 children. The new CDC will be approximately 40 percent larger and accommodate 400 children. However, military construction projects are authorized by Congress, so the exact fiscal year that it will be approved is up to Congress. Based on its priority, it is probably between two and five years from being built.

Q: Why does a life-long, dues-paying member of the club have to pay so many fees to have a retirement ceremony at the Charleston Club?

A: The club is a Nonappropriated Category C activity that generates all of its revenue from sales and dues. The club receives no direct appropriated fund support. Unfortunately, the club cannot afford to hold functions without minimal charges to cover normal overhead costs such as utilities, napkins, copy paper, table linens, silverware, glassware, toilet tissue, light

bulbs, labor expenses, and the list goes on and on. We recently received a cost comparison from two local hotels for a retirement ceremony with a cake and punch set-up. One hotel price was \$358 and the other was \$600, plus service charges and taxes. The club price is \$156.18 for the same service. A set up fee of \$100 can be waived for members when the member provides the room setup of chairs and tables (linens not included) and restores the room after the function. As you can see, by being a club member there is a substantial savings, and although we can't afford to give this service free, we are able to keep prices at a minimum. When the club staff provides stages, public address equipment and setup, appropriate fees must be charged to offset expenses. All Air Force clubs are required to make a profit, and these profits are returned to the membership in the form of modern facilities, member programs, reduced dining prices and more. Pat Simpson, club manager, is available in person at the club, by e-mail at pat.simpson@charleston.af.mil or by telephone at 963-3914 ext. 202, to answer any questions regarding club membership programs.

Q: Are there any plans to create a turning lane for the Commissary gate and the entrance to Hunley Park?

A: This issue has been studied several times over the years with local police officers. There are no plans to create additional turning lanes. However, we do use our gates for traffic control and force protection. We anticipate completing design work and awarding projects this fall for the improvement of the Hunley Park, Dorchester and Rivers' gates. The new gate improvements on Dorchester will consider various ways to improve flow of traffic onto the base. The project to construct a gatehouse for Hunley Park should also help incoming traffic. More information will be provided for these projects when it is available.

Q: Why are we not allowed to move from an older house that hasn't been renovated into one of the vacant houses that has been renovated.

A: All assigned housing units on base are considered to be adequate units. Housing units are assigned to members on the waiting lists as units become available. Families are only moved from one housing unit to another if a new entitlement is gained, such as an increase in the number of dependents or a promotion to a higher grade qualifying the member for a larger house or a different category of housing. When personnel are adequately housed, they are not moved from a unit based solely on renovations. If you have questions about your housing unit, please call the Housing Office at 963-3868, or 963-3860.

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.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

"Daddy Day Care" – Eddie Murphy

A father loses his "dotcom" job, and finds himself in jeopardy of financial ruin. To combat this, he joins his friends in opening a free-spirited "guy-run" business called "Daddy Day Care," much to the chagrin of the owner of a more traditionally-operated rival center. **(PG) 94 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"The Matrix Reloaded" – Keanu Reeves

Neo, Morpheus, Trinity and the rest of their crew continue to battle the machines that have enslaved the human race in the Matrix. Now more humans are waking up out of the Matrix and attempting to live in the real world. As their numbers grow, the battle moves to Zion, the last real-world city and center of human resistance. **(R) 137 minutes**

Sunday, 3 p.m.

"Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas"

Free sneak preview (seating first-come, first-serve) — **(PG) 95 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS

MSS/CS remains undefeated in intramural softball

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber
437 AW Public Affairs

Dave Deremer, Todd Walker and James Apholtz each had four hits to lead undefeated Mission Support Squadron/Communications Squadron past the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command 20-9 in intramural softball action Tuesday.

MSS/CS improved its league-leading record to 16-0, while NNPTC from the Naval Weapons Station fell to 2-10.

"We had a slow beginning, but in the second inning we began to play better," said MSS/CS coach Joel Obman. "After that, we started shutting them down."

MSS/CS trailed 3-1 after the first inning but outscored NNPTC 19-6 over the next five innings. That closed out the game 20-9 as the 10-run rule was enforced after six innings.

"We made a couple of errors that cost us seven runs," said NNPTC coach Jason Hefley. "We usually hit the ball a lot better than we did last night."

Deremer had a triple, two doubles and a single for MSS/CS, which collected 22 hits. He also scored four runs and had three RBIs.

"As a leadoff hitter, my role is to get on base to get things started for our team," said Deremer.

Walker got two triples and two doubles, as well as scoring two runs and driving in three runs. Apholtz had a triple and three singles, scoring four runs and two RBIs.

Ron Tidd went 3-4 with a double, four RBIs and three runs scored. Obman had two hits (3B), two runs scored and two RBIs. Tim Losh got two hits (HR), two runs scored and three RBIs. Cecil Wilson drove in two runs.

Pacing the NNPTC offense were Clayton Smith (3-4) while Hefley, Fred Trujillo and Ty Sales each had two hits.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements
David Deremer of the undefeated Mission Support Squadron/Communications Squadron intramural softball team blasts one of his four hits in his team's 20-9 victory Tuesday. The left-handed hitting leftfielder had a triple, two doubles and a single along with four runs scored.

MSS/CS took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Walker's two-out triple scored Deremer.

NNPTC took the lead 3-1 in the bottom of the first on a run-scoring single by Smith and run-scoring sacrifice flies.

MSS/CS scored five runs on four hits to take a 6-3 lead. After Ron Cullum and Tim Losh reached base on errors, Apholtz hit a two-run, opposite-field triple. Deremer's sacrifice fly scored Apholtz. Ron Tidd singled and scored on Obman's triple. Obman scored on Walker's triple.

NNPTC closed the gap to 6-5 with two runs in the bottom of the second. A sacrifice fly scored Trujillo, and Smith hit a run-scoring double.

MSS/CS extended its lead to 11-5, with a five-run fourth inning, when they sent 11 men to the plate and collected six hits. Deremer's two-run, opposite-field triple to left center and run-scoring single by Michael David highlighted the inning.

MSS/CS added three runs in the fifth inning

for a 14-5 advantage on run-scoring singles by Tidd, Walker and Wilson's sacrifice flies.

MSS/CS padded its lead to 20-5 by scoring six runs with two outs in the top of the sixth. Losh's solo homer, Deremer's two-run double and Wilson's RBI single were featured in the inning.

NNPTC struck back with four runs on four hits in the bottom of the sixth to make the final 20-9. Trujillo and Bowman had RBI singles.

"We are undefeated because we have won some close games, plus the intramural league talent is way down this year," said Obman. "I think many squadrons are hurt because of deployments and ops tempo."

Obman said the two-time defending base champions, the Flyers, will be the team to beat in the playoffs, set to start July 14.

"They don't normally take the regular season too serious but they kick it in during the playoffs," he said.

2003 Softball Standings

Place	Team	Won	Loss	Place	Team	Won	Loss
1	MSS/CS	16	0	7	LRS 1	8	9
2	CES	14	1	8	AMXS 2	7	10
3	AMXS 1	11	3	9	APS	4	11
4	SFS	13	4	10	CPTS/AW	3	13
5	FLYERS/OSS	11	6	11	MOS/373 TRS	3	14
6	MXS	8	7	12	NNPTC	2	10
				13	NAVY BRIG	2	14

2003 Final Soccer Standings

Place	Team	Won	Loss	Tie
1	MDG	8	0	0
2	CES	6	1	1
3	AMXS	5	2	1
4	CS	5	2	1
5	LRS	4	4	0
6	NNPTC	3	4	1
7	FLYERS	1	7	0
8	MXS	1	7	0
9	NAVY HOSP	0	8	0