

# AIRLIFT Dispatch

Vol. 42, No. 36

437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, September 12, 2003



Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jason Bailey

## Child support

Team Charleston children add their special touch to banners commemorating 'Patriots Day,' or 9/11. The "Honoring Our Heroes" banners were placed in base facilities by the Child Development Center, Family Child Care and Youth Programs.

## COMMENTARY

15 AS/CC urges CAFB to keep up pace

Page 3

## RESERVE

315 AW held change of command Sunday



Page 7

## AF BALL

CAFB celebrates Air Force's 56<sup>th</sup> birthday



Page 14

## CONSTRUCTION

Women's locker room undergoes renovations

Page 18

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

## COMMENTARY

# Commander's Comments

### Air Force Ball was a ball!

If you missed the Air Force Ball, you missed an outstanding event! A record 1,100+ people attended! My thanks to **Kathy Knichel**, Wing Protocol; and **Master Sgt. Steven Foster**, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, as the Air Force Ball chairpersons. We could not have done it without you! Thanks also to **Chief Master Sgt. Melvin Willis**, 437<sup>th</sup> Comptroller Squadron superintendent, for being our master of ceremony; **Col. James Joyce**, 315<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group commander, for his support as the vice president of the local chapter of the Air Force Association; **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Corey Ringhisen**, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, for organizing the golf tournament; **Tech. Sgt. Janet Clayton** and **Tech. Sgt. Patricia Clark**, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, for organizing baby-sitting services for 45 children; **Senior Airman Christi Skiles**, 437<sup>th</sup> Comptroller Squadron, for organizing the valet parking; **Capt. Martin Shadle**, 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron; and **Staff Sgt. David Deremer** and **Senior Airman Kurtis Villavicencio**, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, for the video and photos. Additionally, I would like to thank **Debbie Baldwin** and the **315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Management Flight, Staff Sgt. Damien Tymes** and the base **Honor Guard**, and **Public Affairs** for their support of the Air Force Ball. A special thanks goes to the many community and military leaders that sponsored airmen across the wing to attend the gala event. **More than 300 airmen received a complimentary ticket!** I can't wait until next year's ball.

### Recognition

Congratulations to **Capt. Justin Barry**, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, and **Capt. Jeff Olsen**, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. They are the Wing's nominees for the new Air Force Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Officer School. The school gives maintenance officers a higher understanding of agile combat support and the capabilities to produce and sustain the combat capability of an air expeditionary force.

### USTRANSCOM commander visit

**Gen. John Handy**, the U.S. Transportation Command commander and Air Mobility Command commander, will tour Charleston AFB



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

**Col. Brooks Bash**, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, awarded the Spirit Trophy to the 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron and the South Carolina Army National Guard, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 118<sup>th</sup> Infantry, during the 9/11 Memorial Run Tuesday. The next fun run is the Monster Bash Dash Oct. 21, 11:30 a.m., at the fitness center.

Monday and Tuesday. General Handy is the single manager for global air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense.

### Fun run

Another fantastic fun run! More than 500 people participated in the 9/11 Memorial Run Tuesday. The 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron and the South Carolina Army National Guard, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 118<sup>th</sup> Infantry, nabbed the Spirit Trophy from the 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group. Join me Oct. 21 at 11:30 a.m. for the next fun run.

### Safety

Continue to always think safety. Stay focused and be safe in your daily activities. Watch out for your family, friends and co-workers. As always, I am proud of you and the work you do every day. Charleston AFB, you are Simply the Best!

## Action Line caller discusses vehicle decals, security

**Q.** I would like to address the vehicle decal requirement beginning Aug. 21. I understand the benefit of ensuring vehicles entering the base are owned and registered by authorized personnel, but I feel the 100 percent identification check is a more positive control of who is entering our base. Having a registration decal on a vehicle identifies it belonging to as one who works on the base, thereby making it an identifiable target for vandalism, theft, etc. During these times of increasing terrorism and warnings to be vigilant against those who could endanger our safety, I would not like to have a sticker advertising that I am a potential target.

**A.** Thank you for addressing the vehicle decal concern. You are correct. A 100 percent ID check is an excellent means of identifying personnel entering the installation. However, this process is not infallible, much like the use of the Department of Defense Form 2220, DOD Vehicle Registration Decal is not infallible, but together they are an effective means of detection.

The DOD vehicle registration decal and the visitor and vehicle pass, are methods used to control and identify personnel and vehicles attempting to enter the installation. Charleston AFB instructions require all military and civilian personnel permanently assigned to the installation to register their vehicle within 10 duty days of arrival or vehicle purchase.

Unlike overseas, the hazards of military personnel

being targets for terrorism in South Carolina are much different. This is particularly true in Charleston where there is incredible community support for the military. Risk is balanced against the security and safety benefits afforded by an active registration program, which ensures all personnel on base are properly licensed and insured. Another significant benefit of having decals is to identify vehicles that may be suspicious — such as POVs on the flightline, parked in front of critical facilities or abandoned.

— **Col. Brooks Bash**  
437AW commander

For suggestions to the commander's action line, e-mail [action@charleston.af.mil](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil) or call 963-5581.

# Back to basics

## *Be careful not to slide down the slope to failure*

By Lt. Col. Steve Shope  
15AS commander

It is hard to believe it's been two years since that terrible day in September 2001 – the day our way of life, as both United States citizens and members of the U.S. Air Force, changed forever.

I'm sure you've all heard questions like, "Where were you when you heard the news?" or "What was it like before 9/11?" or "When are we going back to operating like we did before 9/11?"

These questions frame the issue of what "normal operations" means today. We all realize what's "normal" will be different in different situations.

However, some things don't change, regardless of the situation, for example, basic military standards.

That day, 9/11, changed the way we operate in the Air Force forever. We're not going back to pre-9/11 operations anytime in the foreseeable future, and that fact should raise some serious concerns for all of us regarding "normal operations."

Typical of any contingency, we, in the Air Force, have modified procedures to fit our needs and successfully accomplish our mission.

To ensure our success in prosecuting the global war on terror, we've had to periodically waive Air Force Instruction requirements and make exceptions to existing guidance and policies.

Of course, we've always kept safety and risk mitigation at the forefront of any such decisions, but the criticality of our mission has, from time to time, required a new approach that hasn't always been by the book.

The key concept in the preceding paragraphs is contingency. Charleston's involvement in the global war on terror is now going

### worth repeating

"We have rules, procedures and instructions, many of them written in the blood of our fellow airmen, and we need to follow them ... meticulously and enthusiastically."

–Lt. Col. Steve Shope  
15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

on two years, so the question becomes, should we still be considering this a contingency?

While I can't speak for everyone, I'm beginning to see some adverse impacts of continuing to operate in the "contingency" mode. My challenge as a squadron commander, and for all of Team Charleston, is to ensure sustained operations under waivers and exceptions to policy don't undermine our long-term ability to get the job done. I'll bet you can identify similar circumstances within each of your units.

After nearly two years at full throttle, it's worth taking a hard look to determine if things have started to fray and unravel our effectiveness, or worse yet, been degraded to the point that our ability to ensure safe and effective mission accomplishment is no longer guaranteed.

I think it's imperative to identify any shortcomings today in order to guarantee future mission success.

In my squadron, I have many people who haven't experienced anything other than wartime operations to frame their reference of what is meant by "normal" operations. To them, war is the norm.

Many of us, who have been in the military since before 9/11, have been operating under contingency guidance for so long, we've begun to accept war as the norm, too. As a result, we have to work harder to ensure we

don't lose sight of the basics ... things like ensuring correct paperwork, customs and courtesies, and other basic facets of military discipline and life.

For example, I find it disturbing that our command chief master sergeant has to remind folks, on more than a sporadic basis, to wear their hats or not to wear utility uniforms to the shopping mall.

Could it be that operating for too long under contingency rules has caused us to become complacent? I think it's very possible.

We need to remember our foundations of military discipline and work ethic – we follow much more rigid rules than civilian society.

We have vital missions essential to the security of our nation, and we have to be prepared to execute that mission to our utmost ability. We cannot fail.

We have rules, procedures and instructions, many of them written in the blood of our fellow airmen, and we need to follow them ... meticulously and enthusiastically.

My point is, everyone across the base needs to pay more attention and work a little harder to ensure we don't allow ourselves to slide down the slippery slope toward mission failure as a result of continued high operations tempo that's become the new normal.

I suggest all commanders and supervisors take hard looks at some of the mistakes and close calls their organizations have experienced lately, and assess whether it's an indication of complacency.

It's time to get back to basics, to tighten up our operations and to ensure we're doing our best to do things by the book.

Whether it's crossing the T's and dotting the I's for paperwork, refueling an aircraft, loading a C-17, filing a flight plan or handling a weapon, attention to detail is absolutely critical to safe and successful mission accomplishment.

## Dispatch

The *Airlift Dispatch* is published by Diggle Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication,

including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DOD, Air Force or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

### Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is prior to noon of the Friday preceding

the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* staff reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

### Advertising

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Mount Pleasant, S.C., 29465, or e-mailed to [classified@digglepub.com](mailto:classified@digglepub.com). Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active-duty military members and their spouses, retirees and reservists.

### Address/Numbers/e-mail

Editorial content is provided and edited by the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 224. Phone: (843) 963-5608, Fax: (843) 963-5604

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

### Editorial staff

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

## Left behind, but not forgotten

# Squadrons help families of deployed troops

By Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amy Perry  
437 AW Public Affairs

Every military family will experience separation during the member's career, but squadrons can make it easier on those left behind.

When a loved one goes on temporary duty, spouses' groups and first shirts join together to support families.

In the 437<sup>th</sup> Security Force's Squadron, Master Sgt. Sheri Oulton, first sergeant, requires everyone about to deploy to fill out a comprehensive worksheet to show how everything will be taken care of during the deployment, including financial issues, family members and animals. Spouses are also invited to a senior leadership briefing, which Sergeant Oulton takes very seriously by making personal calls to every spouse. She does not take no for an answer.

"The meeting is important because it is chance to match faces to names and to let them know that, without their support, we couldn't accomplish our mission," said Sergeant Oulton. "We give them a card with key numbers on them to include the security forces chief, shirt,

commander, Red Cross and the Family Support Center. We reiterate to them that they can call day or night for help, and if we can't do it, we'll find someone who can."

The 437 SFS also started a support group during a recent deployment to give spouses an opportunity to share feelings, stories and coping mechanisms.

During that deployment, one spouse took full advantage of the squadron's help.

Francesca Lane and her husband, Staff Sgt. Richard Lane, 437 SFS, have six children, and Sergeant Lane worked another jobs to support his family.

"When my husband left, I called Sheri, and she helped me go in the right direction to get financial help," said Mrs. Lane. "She went out of her way to let me know about any squadron meetings and to make sure I was okay. She made me feel included in everything that was going on."

Spouses' groups are a trend at Charleston AFB, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron sports an active one.

When the 14 AS deployed, the spouses' group stepped up and got people involved by creating Spouses

in Arms, said Master Sgt. Ray Cordero, 14 AS first sergeant.

Spouse teams created a network of help based on where they lived. If any issue came up, spouses could go to their small group first, and the main group second.

Tricia Groenheim, wife of Lt. Col. Steve Groenheim, 14 AS commander, was a driving force during the deployment to help spouses. She assembled the spouses on a monthly basis for events like the Spouses Get Together (a general information meeting about events in squadron), Lunch Brunch, a playgroup and a newsletter. During the deployment, the spouses' group stepped it up a notch and created a monthly Girls' Night Out and Family Night.

Even while deployed, Sergeant Cordero was a conduit for the spouses and the squadron members.

"While I was deployed, I was able to get information from the spouses to the deployed member," said Sergeant Cordero. "In an airlift squadron, it's hard to get everyone in one place, but having contact with the spouses' club made it easier to put the information out. You can always check e-mail, but may not

always get a chance to call."

Other than the spouses' group, squadrons have additional means of supporting families.

Whenever base residents deploy, Sergeant Oulton provides a list of her deployed troops to the housing office and asks them to give her a chance to fix any problems with the house or lawn care before points are assessed to spouses for problems. The Family Support Center also has a list of volunteers that are willing to help out, and Sergeant Oulton uses the list.

Both Sergeants Oulton and Cordero agree that communication is key to making deployments successful from both sides.

People who have been in the military awhile take for granted their knowledge about temporary duty, said Sergeant Cordero. It's important to keep spouses in the loop about deployments, places they can go for help and free programs, such as childcare and auto maintenance.

"This is one of the first times I've seen such help in the Air Force," said Mrs. Lane. "Sheri showed she was concerned and motivated to try to help me."

## Oktoberfest set for Sept. 26; recognizes junior enlisted

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter  
437 AW Public Affairs

The Top 3 Association is scheduled to host Charleston AFB's fifth annual Junior Enlisted Block Party Oktoberfest Sept. 26, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., in the area between the base dormitories.

The site is designated by the wing commander as an alternate duty location for E-6 and below, according to Master Sgt. Scottie Franklin, Oktoberfest coordinator and 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron assistant first sergeant.

"The Top 3 is putting this on to recognize the sacrifices and achievements of the first six throughout the year," Sergeant Franklin said. "It's also aimed at im-

proving morale and camaraderie among the troops."

Free food and beverages are also available for the first six ranks, Sergeant Franklin said. The menu includes bratwurst, sauerkraut and chips and will be served by base first sergeants. Members of the Company Grade Officer Council will serve beverages.

Master sergeants and higher can pay \$5 to participate in the event. All Top 3 members are encouraged to attend, Sergeant Franklin added.

Two local radio stations, along with local musician Charr (Staff Sgt. Charlene Lowe, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron), will provide music for the event, Sergeant Franklin said.

In addition to entertainment, prizes ranging from hotel stays to free oil changes are available.

The Enlisted Spouses' Club, CAFB Commissary and many civilian companies play a big part in making an event like this work, said Sergeant Franklin. Without their support, this event wouldn't be possible.

"In the past four years of this event, we have averaged nearly 1,000 people in attendance each year," said Senior Master Sgt. Matt Harless, Oktoberfest coordinator and 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing career assistance advisor.

"The new Oktoberfest mugs are in and will be given away to the first 500 people that show. Prizes will be given out throughout the day, with over \$1,500 in prizes going to airmen basic through technical sergeants."



# Cook assumes command of 315 AW

By **Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber**  
315 AW Public Affairs

Col. Gary Cook assumed command of the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Brig. Gen. Gerald Black in a ceremony Sunday at the C-17 nose dock 2.

Maj. Gen. James Bankers, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force commander and former 315 AW commander, presided over the ceremony.

Colonel Cook comes to Charleston from the 934<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn., where he oversaw a wing of C-130E aircraft and approximately 1,200 Reserve members.

During his assumption speech, Colonel Cook said he wants to build on the last three years of superior leadership General Black provided the wing.

"I expect the group commanders to pass on their wisdom to me on how the operation truly works," Colonel Cook said.

He also said he looks forward to working with Col. Brooks Bash, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, and Team Charleston.

"I will require his counsel and the help of the local community to be successful in this job," Colonel Cook said.

Colonel Cook concluded by reflecting on the



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Hall

**Maj. Gen. James Bankers, 22nd Air Force commander, prepares to hand the 315th Airlift Wing guidon to Col. Gary Cook as Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Petersen brings it around in an ceremony Sunday at the C-17 nose dock 2.**

importance of volunteers, like Doolittle's Raiders who responded to their country's needs after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor during World War II.

"They put aside their family and community commitments, and joined the Air Force to save the country," the colonel continued.

Likewise, Colonel Cook said members of the 315 and 437 AW responded to their country's

call after the tragic events of 9/11.

"I am proud to join you, and I commit to support you," Colonel Cook said.

When introducing the new commander, Bankers said, "Cook is a man of integrity, and he respects his people."

Colonel Cook, a graduate of Central Washington State University, Wash., earned a Bachelor of Science in physics in 1974. He served on active duty in various KC-135 billets from 1974 to 1984.

In 1984, he separated from active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve.

His command assignments include operations group commander of the 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Mich., from May 1998 to May 2000 and director of operations of 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force, March ARB, Calif., from May 2000 to February 2002 before assuming command of the 934 AW in February 2002.

Colonel Cook, a command pilot, has more than 7,000 flying hours.

Before relinquishing command, General Black received the Legion of Merit for his service as commander of the 315 AW since June 2000. After more than 36 years of service, General Black is retiring in the Charleston area and going to work for a computer company.

## Day of Caring CAFB helps out local community

By **Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stephanie Hammer**  
437 AW Public Affairs

A Day of Caring in honor of the anniversary of 9/11 was scheduled to take place Thursday in many places around Charleston.

More than 200 Team Charleston volunteers lent a helping hand to improve different aspects of the surrounding community, according to Senior Airman Erin Brock, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Staff Chapel religious program support.

"This day brings everyone involved together in sharing the greatest gift of volunteering," she said.

"The Day of Caring is part of Trident United Way's effort to build resources that strengthen our community by enlisting roughly 4,000 volunteers for service on a day that conveys sadness and loss," added Barry Waldman, Trident United Way communications and marketing president.

This is the second year Charles-

ton AFB has been involved in Day of Caring.

"Last year, Day of Caring produced \$1 million in goods and services on Sept. 11 alone," said Mr. Waldman.

"However, many organizations involved have developed ongoing relationships with their Day of Caring agencies and have volunteered and donated far beyond the scope of that one day," he continued.

Many people, like Staff Sgt. Timothy Beers, 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron operator records and licensing NCOIC, volunteered Thursday to give back to the Charleston community.

"The Charleston community does a lot for this wing," Sergeant Beers said. "Volunteering is my way of saying thanks for all the support the community shows us."

**Editor's note: Check out the Sept. 19 edition of the Airlift Dispatch for more coverage of the Day of Caring.**



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Charlie Hall

### Hosed down

Retired Brig. Gen. Gerald Black, former 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, gets hosed down by his family after his final flight in a C-17 Sept. 4.

# AROUND THE AIR FORCE

## Air Force leaders issue Patriot Day message

**WASHINGTON** – The following is a Patriot Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

“The second anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, pro-

vides us all an opportunity to remember those murdered in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania, as well as those patriots who have sacrificed their lives in the war on terror.

“Through tragedy, our nation renewed its unending resolve to fight terrorism, to defend our way of life and to give hope to others suffering under repressive regimes that sup-

port terror. Patriot Day reaffirms the airman’s obligation to fight for what’s right — obliterating terrorism on every front to ensure a safe tomorrow for future generations of Americans and freedom-loving people around the world.

“You — America’s finest men and women who comprise our Air Force — are doing absolutely remarkable work around the globe. From our own skies to the front lines in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world, our superior Total Force of active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen continues to respond brilliantly as the world’s greatest air and space force. Rest assured, you’re making it more difficult every day for terrorists to have their way.

“On this Patriot Day, let’s remember those who are deployed in harm’s way. Just as important, let’s renew our commitment to the families of those who are deployed. The unwavering commitment to their loved ones far from home is phenomenal; the cause for which their loved ones serve is noble and just.

“As we’ve seen, winning the war on terrorism is a long and deliberate journey — we’re confident you are up to the task. Be patient and stay the course — we will continue to face challenges and overcome obstacles as we win the war on terrorism. Thanks for all you do for America and our Air Force.

“May God bless you, and may God bless America.” (*Air Force Print News*)

## MREs debut new items

**WASHINGTON**— Servicemembers in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere will soon have several new meals, ready-to-eat, options to choose from for their deployed-dining pleasure.

The newest MREs feature three new entrée items: pot roast with vegetables, barbecue pork ribs and vegetable manicotti. The menu also includes clam chowder, both peanut butter and crispy M&Ms, almond poppy seed pound cake, pumpkin pound cake, chocolate mint cookies, and vanilla waffle-sandwich cookies.

The new entrée additions come at a cost, according to Defense Logistics Agency spokesman Jack Hooper.

“We are dropping three menu items that were found to be less popular than others,” Mr. Hooper said. “We will continue working with military members who are consuming the products — finding their likes and dislikes — and adjusting as necessary.”

Jamaican pork chops, pasta with Alfredo sauce and beef with mushrooms are no longer on the MRE menu.

Air Force feedback came mostly from the service’s largest consumers of MREs — the special-operations community, air-combat controllers, elements of the civil-engineering community such as Prime Beef and Red Horse, and Prime Ribs from Air Force Services.

While feedback from all services is what ultimately influences changes to the MRE lineup, Mr. Miller said the Air Force was instrumental to the addition of a couple of MRE items.

“We had a lot of input into some of the new snack items, (like) the cheese spread with bacon and the jalapeno cheese spread,” he said.

The jalapeno cheese spread first appeared in the MRE in 1996. If all goes according to plan, Mr. Miller said bacon-cheese spread should appear in MRE pouches sometime next year.

MREs are designed to provide a complete nutritional meal for servicemembers while in the field, Mr. Miller said. They are also designed to be a certain weight and size. There is always discussion on how to balance those two requirements and still maintain palatability.

“The bottle of hot sauce has some weight to it,” Mr. Miller said. “We asked if we could add something more nutritious than hot sauce to the MRE. Maybe increase the size of the entrée or add a fruit module such as raisins — anything to replace that hot sauce for nutritional value.”

Palatability won out in this case, even though the alternative might have been nutritionally better for the troops. Troops in the field nearly threatened to go on a hunger strike if they did not get their hot sauce, he said.

“They don’t care if you put raisins or a candy bar or anything else in there, they aren’t going to eat (the MRE) without that hot sauce,” he said. (*Air Force Print News*)

## Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Pearsall

## Making friends

A C-17 from the 58<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron meets with a KC-135 of the 55<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron during training at Altus AFB, Okla., Aug. 26.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Spotlight

**Command section:** The command staff will relocate to the XP office, building 1600, room 227, starting Sept. 22. Phone numbers for the staff will remain the same.

**Retirement:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group Special Operations is hosting a retirement ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Christopher Schick Sept. 26, 2 p.m., at the 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron auditorium. For more information, call Master Sgt. Paul DeGroot at 963-7403.

**Change of Command:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron is hosting a change of command ceremony for Maj. Doug Bugado Oct. 1, 8 a.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Capt. Jason Nulton at 963-5530.

## Around the base

**Dining Facility closure:** Due to minor maintenance, the midnight meal at Gaylor Dining Facility will not be available today. However, the flight kitchen will be open. For more information, call 963-3590.

**Job fair:** A joint Air Force and Navy job fair is today, noon–2 p.m., at the Community Education Center ballroom. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 963-4410.

**Fitness test:** The Health and Wellness Center is offering the new physical fitness test as a trial run at McCombs Way today at 6 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. They will also offer to grade one-minute push-ups and sit-ups, and offer a waist circumference measurement. For more information, call the HAWC at 963-4007.

**Road closure:** Arthur Drive, from Hill Boulevard to Aviation Avenue, is closed Saturday, 6:50–9:30 a.m., for the Charleston AFB triathlon.

**Commissioning:** The next commissioning briefing is Wednesday, 9 a.m., at the Education Center.

**Healthcare council:** The Healthcare Consumers Council meeting is Thursday, 2 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The council

## Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

### Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tonita Edney 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Operations Squadron

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tonita Edney is the family member relocations clearance coordinator for the 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Operations Squadron. Her duties fall under the Special Needs Identification and Assignment coordination process, formally known as the exceptional family member program.

She is also responsible for the SNI program enrollment and maintenance process, which consists of establishing one-on-one contact with Charleston AFB personnel who have a family member requiring special medical, educational or emotional needs.

“I have a chance to ease their minds about their family members getting the necessary services at this or their next base, which leaves me feeling as though I made their transition that much smoother,” she said.

Airman Edney plans to complete her master’s degree in social work and become a program manager at an agency that provides care and resources for children in need of help. She said she wouldn’t mind staying in the Air Force and being a Family Advocacy officer.

“There are people who need help everywhere,” she said.

The Philadelphia native has been at CAFB for 16 months and spends her spare time studying, watching movies and reading science fiction.

broadens beneficiaries’ awareness about updates on healthcare benefits and services. The meeting is open to everyone eligible for military health care. For more information, call the 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group at 963-6505.

**Math CLEP:** There is a free math CLEP preparatory class at the Community Education Center Sept. 22–24, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. The class will be followed by the CLEP College Mathematics exam Sept. 25. Those who pass the test will be awarded the CCAF credit for the math requirement. All interested must sign up for the class at the CEC in person no later than noon Sept. 19.

**Study skills:** There is a study skills seminar at the Family Support Center Sept. 24, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and is open to everyone. For more information, call the FSC at 963-4575 no later than Sept. 22.

**Recycle:** The next Military Family Housing recycling pick-up date is Sept. 25. The U.S. generates more corrugated cardboard than

any other single-waste material. Corrugated boxes can be dropped off in the cardboard recycling containers and should be emptied, flattened, and free of food or cooking oil contamination. For more information, call the pollution prevention manager at 963-2690.

**Marriage enrichment:** The Family Advocacy Program is offering a marriage enrichment seminar starting Sept. 30 and meeting for six consecutive Tuesdays, 6–8:30 p.m. For more information or to register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

**TRICARE:** TRICARE can be accessed online at [www.nhchasn.med.navy.mil](http://www.nhchasn.med.navy.mil), or [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com) to schedule routine and follow-up appointments, view military treatment facilities and provider Web pages, and access 18 million pages of health and wellness information. For more information or assistance, call 743-7607.

**Oktoberfest:** Oktoberfest is scheduled for Sept. 26, 11:30 a.m.–

6 p.m., at the base dorms. The event is designed to recognize the sacrifices and achievements of Charleston AFB airmen. Master sergeants and above pay \$5 each. Oktoberfest is an alternative duty location for E-6 and below, and features free food, beverages, entertainment and prizes. For more information, call Master Sgt. Scottie Franklin at 963-4282.

**Golf Tourney:** The 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron is having a golf tournament Sept. 19 at the Wrenwoods Golf Course. The tournament is open to anyone wishing to attend. Check in is at 8:15 a.m. with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The price is \$20 plus cart and green fees. The cost covers lunch and drinks. Prizes will be awarded to the top winners following the tournament. For more information, call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Urso at 963-2178.

**Consignment shop:** The consignment shop is looking for volunteers. For more information, call Carol Mummey at 832-9267, or Margui Cohn at 767-1131.

## FEATURE

# Air Force Ball

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bryan Rodvold, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Command Post, provides the dinner music at the Air Force Ball Saturday.



Master Sgt. Vanessa Smallsbryant, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, hands out roses to an Air Force Ball attendee. Roses were given to all of the females who attended the event.



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements*



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Washington, a Reservist with the 81<sup>st</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, sets the American flag for viewing with the Honor Guard.

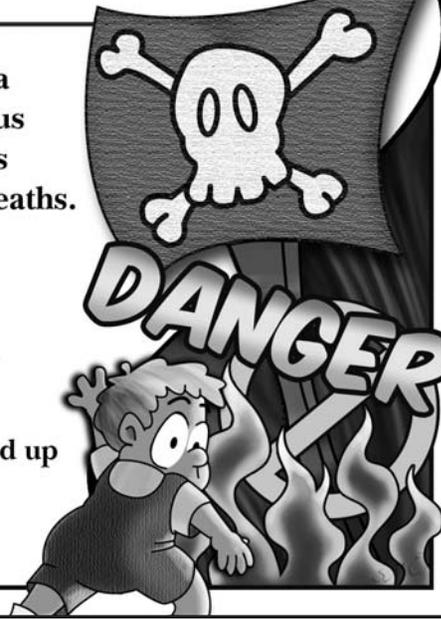
Above: Col. J.P. Hall, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander, Airman Erin Kennedy, 437<sup>th</sup> Comptroller Squadron, Col. Brooks Bash, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, and Airman Basic Justin Sommerville, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, cut the birthday cake in commemoration of 56 years of service.

**WELLNESS TIP***Injuries are the number one threat to children's health.*

More children are seriously injured or die as a result of accidents than from cancer, infectious diseases and birth defects combined. Injuries account for about 40 to 50 percent of child deaths.

**To help prevent most common injuries:**

1. To avoid burns, set your hot water heater to a maximum of 120 degrees F
2. Keep hazardous materials (i.e. poisons) locked up
3. Closely watch children near water deeper than 2 inches



Graphic by Sean Erbe

**Chapel schedule**

107 Arthur Drive  
Office: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (effective Sept. 2)  
Phone: 963-2536.

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

**Catholic Services:** *Saturday* - 4:15 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. No daily Mass on Mondays.

**Protestant Services:** *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service.

**For information on other faith groups, call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.**

**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.****"American Wedding" – Jason Biggs**

Jim and Michelle have decided to tie the knot. Jim's friends, Finch and Kevin, are on hand to help with the preparations, but the trio soon gets an unwanted fourth wheel in the eternally obnoxious Stifler. Meanwhile, the question is, how many things can go wrong before Jim and Michelle walk down the aisle? (Hint: A lot) **(R) 96 minutes**

**Saturday, 7:30 p.m.****"Pirates of the Caribbean" – Johnny Depp**

Set in the Caribbean Seas in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Jack Sparrow, a charming rogue pirate, teams up with the governor's daughter to stop the evil plan on a ship of dangerous pirates led by Captain Barbossa. Barbossa and his crew are trying to reverse an ancient curse that leaves them stuck between life and death. **(PG-13) 143 minutes**

**Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.****"Freaky Friday" – Jamie Lee Curtis**

In this Disney remake of the 1976 original, Ellen and her daughter, Annabel, wish they could exchange bodies so the other could see what it is like, and then it happens. Complications arise as Ellen worries about Annabel getting too close to her future stepfather, while Annabel must fake knowing her mom's job as a doctor. **(PG) 97 minutes**

## SPORTS & FITNESS

# Fitness and Sports Center adds more muscle

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bryan Lewis  
437 AW Public Affairs

Team Charleston warriors are not the only things changing in the Fitness and Sports Center locker rooms.

Construction started on an addition to the women's locker room this week.

The locker room at the facility currently consists of five showers, four sinks, three toilets and 148 lockers.

The new locker area will include two showers, three sinks, two toilets and 58 lockers, increasing the women's facility by 50 percent.

With more than 250,000 people signing in to the center annually and more than 40 sessions of squadron-organized physical training each week, increasing activity at the center led to a demand for more space.

"The big concern is there is not enough room for changing," said Steve Parrish, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Fitness and Sports Center director. "The addition will allow for more space to change after exercising."

The new room will be in a former classroom, adjacent to the current locker room. The separate room allows for construction with little inconvenience to those using the current facility.

"The plan has two phases," said Mr. Parrish. "The first is to build the new addition without

disrupting the current locker room. The second is cutting out a section in the wall, connecting the two rooms."

The goal is to continually provide locker service during the projects, said Mr. Parrish. No big changes should be expected besides the occasional water loss or noise.

The women's locker room is set for completion by the end of December. However, upgrades to the Fitness and Sports Center do not stop there.

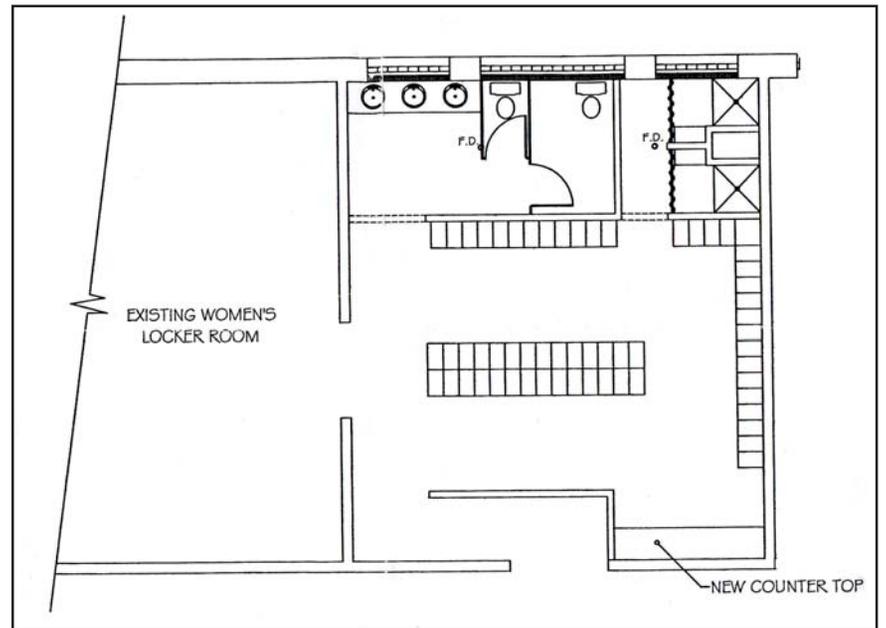
"We plan on replacing the carpet and wallpaper in both locker rooms, following the women's locker room expansion," said Mr. Parrish. "If funding allows, the same is scheduled for the hallways throughout the facility."

Further upgrades are scheduled for the racquetball courts, including floor refinishing and replacing ceiling tiles, according to Mr. Parrish. This repair will begin as soon as leaks in the roof are corrected.

All of these changes were made possible by a

combined effort, Mr. Parrish said.

"These changes came about under Col. (Brooks) Bash's (437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander) direction, and a team consisting of finance, civil engineering, services and group commanders," said Mr. Parrish. "We all came together and looked at what we could do surgically to improve the facility if we received money."



Graphic provided by the 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Fitness and Sports Center

The women's locker room addition will include three sinks, two toilets, two showers and 58 lockers. This addition will increase the size of the locker room by 50 percent.

# Swain edges Linquist to claim week 1

By the Gridiron Guru  
*'Better than ever' pigskin prognosticator*

Week 1 is in the books with Daniel Swain as the overall winner with a very impressive record of 13-3. Dave Linquist also posted a 13-3 mark but lost on the Monday night points tiebreaker.

Both players just barely squeaked by the Gridiron Guru, who went 12-4. Week one was very exciting, highlighted by Houston pulling the upset of the day over Miami. Not one single entry picked them.

Minnesota also had a very impressive showing at Green Bay, and for all the Dallas fans who talked all that smack to the Guru all I can say is, "they still stink out loud!"

A new feature this year will be my weekly hall of shame. This

week's winners are Tony McFadden, John Stinnett and Tony Holman for not submitting tiebreaker points for the Monday night game. The Guru thinks they all knew they had no chance to compete with me and figured it wouldn't matter.

Marty Parnell also makes the list for telling me I can go ahead and crown him king now, then forgetting to submit a pick for the Rams and Giants game.

And last but not least is our weekly cellar dweller Amanda King who could only manage a dismal record of 5-11.

This week's best viewing should be Buffalo's visit to Miami, the Giants at Washington and the long time rivalry continues when Oakland travels to Denver. Now on to my week 3 stone cold steel pipe locks!

## Gridiron Guru's Week 3 picks

**Sunday, Sept. 21**

Jacksonville @ **Indianapolis**  
**Minnesota** @ Detroit  
N.Y. Jets @ **New England**  
**Tampa Bay** @ Atlanta  
**N.Y. Giants** @ Washington  
Baltimore @ **San Diego**  
**Buffalo** @ Miami

**Kansas City** @ Houston  
New Orleans @ **Tennessee**  
**Pittsburg** @ Cincinnati  
Green Bay @ **Arizona**  
**St. Louis** @ Seattle  
Cleveland @ **San Francisco**  
**Monday, Sept. 22**  
Oakland @ **Denver**

Monday Night total points: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guru's Monday night points: 51

The Gridiron Guru's picks are in bold and italics.  
Send your picks to [swami@charleston.af.mil](mailto:swami@charleston.af.mil) only.  
Include your name, phone number, and any comments in the e-mail.  
Picks can no longer be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office.  
\*\*Picks must be submitted by Friday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m. \*\*