

AIRLIFT **Dispatch**

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, September 10, 2004

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team ready to play**



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MISSION POSSIBLE!

Charleston departures	11,461
Maintenance reliability	94.0%
Cargo moved	55,426
Personnel deployed	753
Reservists activated	696

(Jan. 1, 2004 - Sept. 7, 2004)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Gonzales

Moving it

David Baxter (left) 437th Aerial Port Squadron material handler, Airman Sean Regan (middle) and Airman Ryan Grubaugh (right), both 437 APS air transportation specialists, secure equipment onto a pallet recently. The 437 APS moves approximately 220 tons and 110 pallets of cargo every day.

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



Sharp troop

I had the honor of being shadowed Tuesday and Wednesday by **Senior Airman Ursula Etterling**, 437th Medical Group. (She arrived in October 2001 to Charleston AFB, her first duty station.) Airman Etterling is the lead technician in the medical laboratory here. She oversees all testing that takes place to ensure the quality and integrity of work.

Airman Etterling is currently attending college and is only one class away from finishing her degree in clinical laboratory science through the Community College of the Air Force. She plans to further her education by obtaining her bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory science in hopes of one day becoming a laboratory officer in the Air Force. She sets a great example for her peers and it was a pleasure to spend the days with her!

Run, Team Charleston, Run

Join your friends and bring out the family for this morning's **Commander's Fun Run**, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Fitness and Sports Center. The spirit trophy is up for grabs again, and I look forward to recognizing the warrior spirit out there.

CFC kick-off

Monday at 7 a.m., is the offi-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Arredondo

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, goes over slides for the weekly stand-up briefing with Senior Airman Ursula Etterling, 437th Medical Group, the wing commander's shadow Tuesday and Wednesday.

cial kick-off breakfast for the Combined Federal Campaign. The base campaign will run from Sept. 13 to Oct. 30. We need everyone's help to make this year's campaign a huge success!

Safety emphasis item

Nearly one million Americans have some degree of eye-sight loss due to an eye injury. Luckily, 90% of all workplace eye injuries can be avoided by using proper safety glasses or shields. Regular eyeglasses do not offer adequate protection from injuries. Keeping your eyes safe is no trivial matter so always wear proper eye protection. PROTECT your eyes, they are the only ones you have!

Air Force Ball

More than 1,000 tickets have been sold for the Air Force Ball being held Saturday.

This event will be a great opportunity to gather with friends and co-workers to help celebrate the Air Force's 57th birthday.

I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Have a great week!

Workarounds and shortcuts – too risky, too deadly

By **Col. Brooks Bash**
437AWcommander

Safety, mission, family — these are the priorities of the 437 Airlift Wing.

While all three are important and interrelated, safety is my top priority. Over the past three years, Charleston AFB personnel have excelled in accomplishing challenging missions, often in a wartime environment. Team Charleston members who have been here since Sept. 11, 2001, may have noticed a warrior emphasis applied to the way we do business. Unfortunately, I have seen evidence some personnel believe a warrior mentality means not following proper procedures is acceptable. Quite the contrary, during high operations tempos and wartime, it is even more important to strictly follow technical order procedures. We cannot allow a culture to exist that accepts avoidable risk on a daily basis.

Lt. Gen. John Baker, vice commander of Air Mobility Command, recently expressed his concern

regarding the number of fatalities in AMC this year. General Baker noted, "We are on track for the second deadliest year in AMC's history."

While there are many factors involved in the mishaps and fatalities reported this year, I would like to focus on one area for improvement — the inappropriate and unacceptable use of workarounds and shortcuts in our daily operations.

Recent mishaps and surveys at Charleston AFB have identified individuals who used workarounds and shortcuts to perform their work.

Safety investigations are documenting a trend that leads me to believe using shortcuts is an all too common occurrence. One of the most common reasons people use shortcuts is they feel they are rushed. People may feel they must do whatever it takes to accomplish their mission — whatever it takes.

But your senior leaders DO NOT agree with this mentality. Gen. John Handy, U.S. Transportation and Air Mobility Command commander, stated in a

letter dated Feb. 11, 2002, "No task is so important to justify disregarding published guidance or Air Force training." And, in my current safety letter I specifically stated, "Accomplishing the mission safely requires sustained safety awareness and diligent safety practices. There are no shortcuts or quick solutions." We have tried to make it clear **shortcuts and workarounds are not acceptable**. If personnel perceive senior leaders expect people to use shortcuts in order to get the job done, even though we said not to, that perception is wrong.

In my career, I have seen hundreds of mishap reports including the tragic deaths of people who decided to accept unnecessary risk. They made this decision on their own, assuming the leadership wanted the mission accomplished at all costs.

Despite the fact we are at war and getting the mission done is important, SAFETY must never be compromised. High operations tempo and wartime operations are not an excuse to

See *SHORTCUTS*, Page 5.

Secretary, chief send 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:

"On the third anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, the world will remember those tragically lost (because of) the heinous actions of terrorists in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. These were attacks against freedom, democracy and humanity that carried a high human toll as citizens from the United States and many other countries lost their lives.

This Patriot Day, we honor the memories of those lost, and we pay tribute to those answering freedom's call to combat terrorism around the world.

Your efforts over the last three years have been phenomenal. You continue to professionally safeguard the skies of America. You have dispersed al-Qaida and toppled the Taliban government in Afghanistan. And, you were instrumental in ending a cruel regime in Iraq and ensuring a new, democratic government could take root.

"Our superior total force of active duty, Guard, Reserve Airmen and civilians continue to brilliantly answer America's call to defend peace and freedom. Our country is confident in your capabilities and proud of your service.

"Unfortunately, on this, the third Patriot Day, our mission is not complete. Those who indiscriminately killed more than 3,000 people Sept. 11 are still dedicated to terrorizing our nation and the world because we value life, believe in liberty and welcome democracy as the people's voice.

"Let's remember those who are deployed in harm's way to defend the American way of life. And, let's ensure their families are taken care of while they're away from home.

"As Airmen, our cause is just and noble. Our country depends on us to stay the course.

"Thanks for all you do for America and our Air Force. May God bless you, and may God bless America." (AFPN)

9/11/04: A time to mourn or a time to celebrate?

By **David Hudspeth**
437 AW Protocol

Saturday marks the third anniversary of one of the most tragic events in our nation. It also marks an opportunity for us to decide how we shall respond to that event.

We all remember the tragedy of the lives lost as the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were struck by hijacked aircraft. The war on terror began as we watched in disbelief while the Towers crumbled and the Pentagon burned. We also remember the heroism we witnessed as firefighters, police forces, paramedics and everyday men and women pulled together to care for the injured and search for survivors. We also remember the passengers of Flight 93, who selflessly sacrificed their own lives to save countless others. This 9/11, how will we remember the events of 9/11/01?

The 437th and 315th Airlift Wings are hosting our 4th annual Air Force Ball Saturday. The primary purpose of the Air Force Ball is to commemorate the foundation of the Air Force. Sept. 18 marks the 57th anniversary of the transfer of air activities from the Army to the Department of the Air Force.

In selecting the date of the Air Force Ball,

worth repeating

"From the first meeting of the Air Force Ball Committee ... we were sensitive to the fact we were hosting this year's Air Force ball on the anniversary of 9/11."



David Hudspeth

437th Airlift Wing Protocol, deputy chief

several factors were considered by the Air Force Ball Committee. Those factors include the actual date of the anniversary, finding the best weekend to cater to both the needs of active duty and Reserve Airmen, and the availability of the Charleston Area Convention Center (the only facility large enough to host the 1,000 plus people expected for the event).

From the first meeting of the Air Force Ball Committee, which is made up of active duty, Reserve, and civilian volunteers, we were sensitive to the fact we were hosting this year's Air Force Ball on the anniversary of 9/11. Because of that, the committee has taken special considerations to incorporate the memory of our fallen comrades into the evening's events.

Our first Air Force Ball was actually postponed until late November, due to the events of 9/11. We were hesitant to proceed, but we found by gathering together as a united community, we were able to mourn the tragedy of lives and innocence lost. We were also able to celebrate life and our nation's renewed focus on the protection of the values of democracy.

During the 2002 and 2003 Air Force Balls, the same theme was present. This year will be no different. We will continue to combine the elements of respect and honor of the past with optimism and joy for the future.

Yes, Saturday is the anniversary of a tragedy, and yes, we are gathering together that night to celebrate the Air Force; but none of us will forget what happened three years ago. If you attend, you will be pleasantly surprised to see how well the Air Force Ball Committee will focus the evening's activities on both occasions. 9/11/04 is both a time to mourn and a time to celebrate.

I am choosing to do that in the company of my comrades and coworkers at a formal event I know will honor the heroes of 9/11/01, the heroes who founded the Air Force, and the heroes who continue to fight for democracy throughout the world. I hope you will join us.

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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Service-disabled vets meet for business conference

By Airman Sam Hymas
437AW Public Affairs

The 437th Contracting Squadron recently hosted the first-ever service-disabled, veteran-owned, small business conference at the Charleston Club for those looking to contract with government agencies and start small businesses.

The conference was held in response to new legislation President Bush signed in December 2003 creating procurement set-aside for SDVOSBs.

More than 150 business owners came from as far away as Nevada to attend the conference, which was designed to educate the veteran business owners on the new program and provide them with networking opportunities with vendors and government agencies.

The conference began with speakers from different government agencies addressing how they support SDVOSBs. Retired Army Lt. Gen. Henry Doctor, spoke, during a luncheon, on taking advantage of the opportunities the business owners have been given. The conference ended with a networking session

between the business owners and government agencies.

"This conference is really good for networking. It's a great opportunity to meet the owners of other veteran companies," said Mark Gross, Oak Grove Software president and retired army soldier, whose company has contracts with Special Operations Command and the National Security Agency.

The legislation, passed in 2003 established a preference for the federal government to contract with SDVOSBs. This law was enacted as a follow-on to Public Law 106-50, which designated 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards by the federal government be awarded to SDVOSBs.

"I'm glad we have a supporting agency that will give us these opportunities and will act on the law passed," said Jeff Gilbertson, Veterans Modular Space president and retired army soldier. "The creation of my company is a result of that law."

The 437 CONS was very pleased with the outcome of the event, according to Donna Barber, 437 CONS small business specialist.

"The positive response was overwhelming and I feel we accomplished exactly what we intended - to educate and provide networking opportunities for our service-disabled veteran businesses. We provided them the catalyst to go forward and develop government and industry partnerships."

The conference was supported by the Department of Defense, the Small Business Administration and the General Services Administration.



Photo by Airman Sam Hymas

Jeff Gilbertson, president of Veteran Modular Space, speaks with Donna Murphy, head of the large contract division for Space and Naval Warfare System Center, during the SDVOSB here.

13 schools to attend fair

By Airman Sam Hymas
437AW Public Affairs

All of Team Charleston is invited to the education center's Fall Festival of Schools, featuring 13 local colleges and universities, Wednesday in Bldg. 221 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Not only will prospective students be able to talk to people from the various schools, but they also just might win a prize.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our military members and spouses to explore educational programs that will benefit them in future endeavors," said Bill Kaseman, education center guidance counselor.

The fair gives students the chance to research different degree and admission requirements for associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees at the various local schools.

"The Fall Festival of Schools is an annual event that gives students the opportunity to speak directly with college and university representatives," said Michael Keith, education center supervisor.

"That close personal contact allows students to get the answers they need. School representatives provide students with vital information that may not be found online

or in discussions with another student."

A grand prize drawing will be held at 11:30 a.m. by Col. Chris Doran, 437th Mission Support Group commander, for those who attend the fair.

The following schools will have representatives at the fair: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Southern Illinois University, City Colleges of Chicago, Park University, Webster University, The Citadel, Charleston Southern University, College of Charleston, Limestone College, Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, Springfield College of Charleston and Trident Technical College.

"The vision and desire to meet the educational needs of our personnel by Diana Roebuck, Education and Training Flight chief, and Michael Keith, our new education and training specialist supervisor, has been very instrumental in establishing customer service goals, which provide the means to identify and match personnel with schools and degree programs that will enhance both professional and personal goals," Mr. Kaseman said. "What's a better way to do this than by having an educational fair on base?"

For more information, contact Mr. Keith at 963-4576 or Mr. Kaseman at 963-4578.

Continued from Page 2.

deviate from accepted practices and procedures. Indeed, the consequences of an accident or incident during surge wartime operations have an even greater effect on mission accomplishment.

We can not afford to lose lives or equipment when we depend on them the most. I expect you to follow your technical orders, follow your regulation, and apply operational risk management in the same manner regardless of where you are. I hold personnel accountable for choosing, on their own, to accept a higher risk. There may be instances where accepting higher risk is necessary, but that is not your decision as an individual. Your chain of command is in place to make that decision or request a waiver to the applicable directive or regulation. Unless a deviation has been authorized, you do not have the authority to take shortcuts or work-arounds. Not only because it is against the rules, but because you may get injured or killed. We cannot accomplish our mission without you.

The 437AW is committed to safe mission accomplishment. Mission accomplishment is expected, but NOT at the expense of safety. Let's ensure our culture is one of pride and professionalism to get the job done the right way, every time. If you feel pressured to use work-

arounds or shortcuts, don't. If you feel there are hazards in your workplace, give your leadership a chance to solve the problem. If there is an unsafe area or process you think is a hazard and need help to get it resolved, fill out an Air Force Form 457, USAF Hazard Report, and fax it to 437AW Safety office at x4030.

Safety is not reacting to an incident, it is a mindset. It requires discipline in our daily lives, at work and off-duty. A safety mindset is putting good ORM principles in place before we start a job or project. It is making safety a prerequisite, not an afterthought.

Shortcuts and work-arounds are a common link in a mishap chain of events.

Removing the shortcut link will stop the mishap chain of events. Don't forget we are approaching the second deadliest year in AMC history. It doesn't have to be that way.

I appreciate you striving for "safe mission accomplishment." But remember, when I use that term, I put as much emphasis on the safe part of that thought as I do on the mission accomplishment part.

I believe if we all do, it will greatly help us keep accidents from happening, our personnel will be safe, and we will have the right mindset for combat and peacetime operations; **Safe mission accomplishment!**

I.G. hotline: way to report misconduct

Lt. Col. Gary Brown
437 AW Inspector General

Senior Airman Ian Tegrity sat in his dorm room contemplating what he should do about the situation at work. He knew Master Sgt. Freddie D. Freeloader's use of an Air Force vehicle for personal gain was against the rules. He knew he could go to the squadron commander, but he'd never spoken with a lieutenant colonel before and didn't want to start now. "I can report it to the base Inspector General, that's what the IG's there for" he smiled. But then the smile faded as he realized someone from his unit could see him going into the IG's office.

He didn't want anyone to know he was going to report Sergeant Freeloader. Airman Tegrity's smile quickly turned to a frown as he considered just giving up and not

reporting the wrongdoing.

Suddenly, he remembered the document on the office bulletin board about fraud, waste and abuse and the Defense Hotline. Again he smiled and let go a sigh of relief as he picked up the telephone and began to dial.

Airman Tegrity's dilemma is much more common than you might think. In the past, fear of reprisal has often led those who otherwise would have reported incidents of fraud, waste and abuse, or other problems to simply ignore the wrongdoing. This was partly why the Defense Hotline program was developed.

In accordance with Department of Defense Directive 7050.1, *Defense Hotline Program*, the Hotline is available worldwide to DoD personnel and to the public for reports of all forms of fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement within the department's programs and operations. Inspectors

general at all levels are tasked not only to oversee their organization's fraud, waste and abuse program, but also to investigate issues identified through the Defense Hotline or local hotline systems.

What does this all mean to you?

We all have a duty to report any type of wrongdoing. This is vital not only to maintain good order and discipline but also to ensure resources, which are becoming scarcer, are not misused. Your commander, the Judge Advocate General, the Office of Special Investigation or the IG are all available to you.

If you still feel unable to report the misconduct through these channels, the Defense Hotline may be the ticket for you.

The DoD Hotline can be reached at the following numbers: (toll-free) 1-800-424-9098, (commercial) 703-604-8569, or DSN 664-8569 (Mondays

through Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time). Mailed correspondence should be addressed to the Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1900, or e-mailed to hotline@dodig.osd.mil. The hotline can also be accessed at the DoD, IG Web site at www.dodig.osd.mil. The Charleston AFB Hotline can be reached at commercial 963-5550 (DSN 673-5550).

There are controls available through the hotline system to protect a person's identity if one wishes to remain anonymous. Also keep in mind the hotline system may be used to report any offense and is not limited to just incidents of fraud, waste and abuse.

Once reports are received, inspectors general at appropriate command levels will actively investigate the report so corrective actions may be taken.

Blotter

Wrong-way driver, speeding drivers ticketed by cops

The following are some of the responses by the 437th Security Forces Squadron from Aug. 30 to Sunday and are printed to raise awareness of resource protection and safety.

Anyone with information regarding these or any other incident, please call security forces at 963-3600.

Vehicle accidents

■ An Airman in base housing backed into another Airman's vehicle parked across the street and damaged the other car. The driver was cited for inattentive backing.

■ A civilian driving westbound in the wrong direction on Hill Boulevard pulled into the wing headquarters' parking lot, struck a flag pole while backing, and caused the flag-pole to fall. The driver was cited for inattentive driving.

■ An Airman passed a civilian driver illegally crossing the double solid center line on Scott Street adjacent to the wash rack, which caused an accident. The Airman was cited for improper passing over double lines.

Traffic stats

■ Security forces cited 56 drivers for speeding, 18 for failure to stop at a posted stop sign or traffic light, one for no proof of insurance, one for expired registration and one for loud noise.

■ Security forces stopped a civilian for speeding at the Arthur Drive Extension and Midland Park Road, and a check showed the driver's license was suspended.

Charleston County Sheriff's Office responded and issued a \$648 fine for driving under suspension, a \$232 fine for failure to render a suspended license, and a \$440 fine for failure to pay auto registration fees.

CCSO scheduled a court date, and the driver's base driving privileges were suspended.

■ Security forces stopped a civilian at the Rivers Avenue gate and a license check showed the driver was wanted by the North Charleston Police Department for contempt of court. NCPD responded and issued a suspension of driving privileges letter for driving without a license. NCPD arrested the driver and transported him to the Charleston County Detention Center. There were no fines or court case scheduled.

■ Security forces found an unattended family member toddler in her car seat at the base shoppette parking lot. CCSO responded and issued her father a \$232 for leaving the vehicle unattended and a \$440 fine for parking in a handicapped space. CCSO scheduled a court date.

Crime watch

■ An Airman reported his vehicle was damaged at his residence in base housing. Damage to the vehicle consisted on a dent associated with a shoe print on the passenger side front corner panel.

■ An unknown subject got \$39 worth of gas at the base shopette and drove off without paying.

■ North Charleston Police Department arrested an Airman for breaking and entering and malicious damage to real property for more than \$1,000. NCPD transported the Airman to the Charleston County Detention Center, where he was detained for a bond hearing.

DUI/DWI Statistics

Last incident: 31 days

2004 total: 15

2003 total: 18

Members receiving a Driving Under the Influence must report to the wing commander the following duty day in full service dress accompanied by their supervisor, first sergeant and squadron commander.

AADD
AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

963-0437

**Charleston AFB's Airman
Against Drunk Driving offers
free, confidential rides home.**

**53
saves this
week**

Airman on assignment:

'Missed' adventures of a one-striper

By Airman Sam Hymas
437AWPublicAffairs



Exactly six months and 29 days after reporting for basic training at Lackland AFB, I got on a C-17 bound for Rhein-Main, Germany, and eventually Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan. My mission: find and write stories of Charleston AFB's people for the Airlift Dispatch.

Having learned I would be going on this trip a month after I arrived here and three weeks before I was to leave left me with little time to get ready. There's a lot of training and preparation one needs for mobility and a week-long jaunt to such pleasurable destinations. High risk of capture, law of armed conflict, chemical warfare, gas mask fit test, anti-terrorism and M-9 training needed to be accomplished, plus all the forms and papers my supervisor thrust in front of me to fill out, initial and sign.

After frantically finishing up last minute preparations, the hour had arrived. Everything was set; I was to meet Maj. T.J. O'Connell, a 16th Airlift Squadron pilot and commander of the crew I was flying with, somewhere at 9 a.m. Aug. 13. However, being a new airman, I had no idea exactly where I was supposed to meet him and so I was dropped off at the passenger terminal here. However, as I learned later, because I was writing stories for Public Affairs, I was considered mission essential ground personnel. Yes, essential to the mission, that's me. So I was just supposed to go get on the plane with the crew because I was clearly essential to the mission.

After receiving a phone call on my cell phone from Major O'Connell informing me of where I was supposed to be, he and Capt. William Freeman, a 16 AS pilot picked me up from the PAX terminal and took me to the plane. We were ready to roll.

Before our C-17 took off, I took part in a mission briefing on board the airplane and met the rest of the crew. Col. Sam Cox, the 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, was flying with us. He and I would be flying home within a week and the rest of the crew would complete a two-week expeditionary airlift squadron input. Capt. Allen Specht, a 16th AS pilot, was the third pilot aboard and Airmen 1st Class Justin Thompson and Matt "Nemo" Nemeth were the loadmasters, both from the 16 AS.

There were many people getting on and off the plane preparing it for takeoff. It was mostly confusing to me, but the crew did their checks and everything was good-to-go.

Master Sgt. Ron Sharman, a loadmaster who was deploying to the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron gave me a pre-flight safety briefing showing me the emergency equipment and how to use it.

After a quick hop to Pope AFB, N.C., the plane was

loaded with various pallets of cargo and then came the long trip across "the pond." I slept most of the way. Shortly after being revived from my slumber, we landed.

I was on the European continent for the first time. We exited the plane, unloaded all our baggage and put it and ourselves on a big bus. We drove to the operations center where I learned that, due to circumstances beyond my control, I wouldn't be able to accompany the crew to Iraq, Afghanistan or Qatar. I would be spending my TDY in Germany while the rest of the crew flew on to other places Charleston has Airmen in Southwest Asia. Evidently, I wasn't as essential to the mission as I previously thought.

During the first hour or so in Germany, I was looking all around hoping to see something clearly designating this place as foreign and exotic. What I saw looked exactly like an Air Force base. I did continue to keep my eyes open and was eventually rewarded with the sight of funny little European cars.

After doing operations center stuff, the entire C-17 crew and I went to the Steigenberger Airport Hotel and slept. Nearly 15 hours later the crew was off to exciting forward-deployed locations and I spent my time in Germany searching high and low for stories, being asked not to take photos of classified cargo and looking for funny little European cars.

I had interviews with 1st Lt. Jody Crampo and 1st Lt. Carl Beckey about their experience at the airshow they attended north of Berlin, and I spoke with Master Sgt. Mark Staples and Lt. Col. Manson Morris about 817 EAS operations. Colonel Morris also helped me set up an interview with our maintainers who are deployed to Rhein-Main. Unfortunately it was not to be. Capt. Larry Gabe, an 817 EAS scheduler, tracked me down just before my interview. He told me I needed to get on a bus in less than 45 minutes going to Ramstein AB because that was where I would be meeting Colonel Cox to fly back to Charleston.

So, I was off to Ramstein AB in a very large German bus driven by a very adventurous man who didn't seem to see that there were other cars on the road.

After arriving at Ramstein, I waited a short time until my original crew showed up. It was good to see some familiar faces.

Everyone except Colonel Cox and I got into a van going back to Rhein-Main for another mission. The colonel and I were set up at the Ramstein Air Force Inn ready to fly out the next day.

Our flight was scheduled for 11:45 a.m. Aug. 19 but the plane "slipped." I think this is a term aircrews use which means "your plane will never arrive," but I may be wrong.

They told us it would probably be a few hours late. I had my bags packed, my uniform freshly ironed and I was ready to go when Colonel Cox called my room



Courtesy photo
Cargo aircraft sit on the flightline at Rhein-Main AB, Germany

and said we'd actually be leaving the next day "around 8 a.m." Later that evening he called again to say the plane kept "slipping" and it would be more like 1 or 2 p.m. The next morning I received a call from Maj. Ravi Chaudhary at base ops saying our flight would be leaving "probably in another 24 hours." Well, that was OK with me. I was beginning to like Ramstein and decided I was going to see if I could look up a few friends from tech. school who I knew were stationed there.

But then, at 1:37 p.m. I got another call from Colonel Cox saying we were going back to Rhein-Main to catch a flight from there and to get ready.

We took our bags down to the vehicle they let us use while at Ramstein and Colonel Cox went down to the front desk to check us out, while I finished up some things and drove the car over in front of the entrance and hopped out. Leaving the car running, I ran inside to sign a form and then we'd be on our way.

While I was signing the receipt for the hotel, Colonel Cox came back in and whispered in my ear that I had locked the keys in the car while it was running with all our luggage inside it. Sorry sir.

I scampered out to assess the damage and realized not only was the car still running with all the doors locked but it wasn't even parked well — it was nearly 10 feet from the curb. And to add insult to injury the window wipers were still on. Sorry sir.

Luckily for me, Colonel Cox is a very forgiving man and the Ramstein motor pool is on the ball. They brought over a spare key and shook their heads in disgust.

"It wasn't me," said Colonel Cox with a shrug.

"It was me," I said with a sigh.

After that rather unfortunate incident, we were quickly bussed to Rhein-Main and got on a flight home. Well, not home exactly. We got on a plane bound for McGuire AFB, N.J., where it was offloaded and then took off for Andrews AFB and then finally to, home sweet home, Charleston.

During my first TDY I was able to learn a lot about the Air Force I never would have learned sitting behind my computer, nor would I have been able to show off my skills with motor vehicles for Colonel Cox. I learned you need to be ready at a moments notice to pick up and go somewhere else. That's why they call it an expeditionary Air Force I suppose. I also learned the best-laid plans don't always happen; you need back-up plans and be able to adapt to what life and the Air Force will throw your way.

Overall it was a great experience. Hopefully next time I can get myself closer to my destination and get more stories like this one.

Web page emphasizes worth of 'Airmen Votes'

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas—With less than 60 days to the presidential election, the Air Force has added another tool to its voting effort to ensure all Airmen can participate.

Airmen Votes is the name of a new Web page designed to give Airmen, their family members and Air Force civilians all the information they need to register to vote, file an absentee ballot request and mail in an absentee ballot.

The Air Force Personnel Center hosts the Web page at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AirmenVotes. It can also be reached through Air Force Link and the Air Force Portal.

The Department of Defense has teamed up with the U.S. Postal Service to treat balloting materials as priority mail going to and from the voter. A significant change for voters overseas is ballots will receive postal cancellation at the APO or FPO to give a more accurate measure of the date and time a ballot is received into the postal system.

For more information, Airmen should contact their unit voting assistance officer. **(AFPN)**

Airmen to receive AEF ID cards

LANGLEY AFB, Va.—The Air Force chief of staff directed all major command officials to issue air and space expeditionary force identification cards before the beginning of Cycle 5 in September.

Card usage ended during the height of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom because six to eight AEFs were deployed at the same time, said Col. Vincent Wisniewski, AEF Center vice commander.

Reissuing the cards will link every Airman to assigned deployment windows within Cycle 5.

The information on the cards provide predictability and stability by allowing Airmen to plan around deployments to schedule leave, professional military education and temporary duties, said Chief Master Sgt. David Mimms, superintendent for AEF matters at Air Force headquarters and deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

The front of the card tells Airmen

their assigned AEF pair, and the back shows the new 20-month cycle chart, which begins in September.

The AEF ID card template and implementation guidance are posted on the center's secure Web site at <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil>. The Web site can only be accessed from a dot-mil computer. **(AFPN)**

Tricare officials offer tips for contract transition

WASHINGTON—Some beneficiaries of the military's Tricare health-care system may experience long wait times when calling their new regional contractors.

But the transition to new contracts "will make a strong program better and ultimately result in higher patient satisfaction," Tricare officials said.

Officials suggest conducting busi-

ness online whenever possible, calling during non-peak hours and visiting Tricare service centers for face-to-face assistance as ways to beat phone congestion during the transition.

To update personal information in DEERS, beneficiaries can visit their local military personnel flight or contact the defense manpower data center support office at (800) 538-9552. **(AFPN)**

CAP helps assess hurricane damage

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.—Civil Air Patrol members are at work in Florida, helping assess damage from Hurricane Frances.

More CAP aircraft and people are on standby to move into affected areas as soon as weather permits.

Seven CAP ground teams are work-

ing with the Florida National Guard and Florida Department of Transportation in the Palm Beach area assessing damage to identify the areas most critically affected by the storm. With widespread loss of electricity, the teams are communicating with operations centers by radio and satellite phones.

As Frances moved through Florida, CAP officials moved the digital imagery system aircraft to a standby position in Columbia, S.C.

CAP, the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is working Frances-related missions under the direction of the Air Force National Security Emergency Preparedness Office, U.S. Northern Command and 1st Air Force. The CAP National Operations Center here is coordinating missions and strategy to best use CAP assets in states surrounding the affected sites. **(AFPN)**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Eric Donner

Training in flames

Senior Airman Jason Tucker (left) and Airman 1st Class Jayson Conroy (right), both from the 469th Civil Engineer Flight, practice extinguishing a fuel spill fire Aug. 24 at the Frankfurt International Airport fire training area, Frankfurt Germany.

Around the base

Hat Ladies' luncheon: The Hat Ladies host a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Charleston Club. Bring your favorite hat! For more information, contact Archie Burkel at 762-6679 or e-mail hatladies@aol.com.

Air Force Ball bus: There will be one bus making one trip to the ball and one trip back to base. There will be three stops: At the base chapel parking lot (across the street from the chapel) at 5 p.m., at the base exchange at 5:15 p.m., and at the Hunley Park soccer field at 5:30 p.m. The bus will return to the base at 11 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month: There will be a Hispanic Heritage prayer breakfast from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the base chapel. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Elliot Reed at 963-3919.

AFSA: Chapter 306 of the Air Force Sergeants Association will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. John Danko at 963-5324 or visit <http://afsa306.org>.

Committee meeting: There will be a school liaison committee meeting at noon Tuesday at the Charleston Club. For more information, contact Kevin Triplett at 963-7231.

Toastmasters: The Allaboard Toastmasters is starting its meetings at the Charleston Club at 6 p.m. Sept. 23. If you are interested in attending, call Sharon Arnold at 746-6563 or 797-0301 or just show up.

Tobacco cessation class: The Health and Wellness Center hosts a tobacco cessation class at noon Thursday. The class meets one hour a week for five weeks in the Health and Wellness Center classroom. Call 963-4007 to sign up.

Armed Forces Inaugural Committee: The Air Force is seeking high-caliber individuals to support the 55th Presidential Inauguration from Jan. 15 to 24.

Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by 1st Lt. Shaloma McGovern

Senior Airman Ursula Etterling 437th Medical Group

Senior Airman Ursula Etterling is a laboratory technician for the 437th Medical Group. Her primary duties include testing cholesterol, urinalysis, growing bacteria, shipping medical supplies and quality control. As the lead technician, she oversees quality control for each of the respective divisions to ensure Team Charleston stays healthy.

"I enjoy knowing I contribute to keeping Airmen healthy," Airman Etterling said. "When I see Airmen and their families who are sick and we conduct tests so they can receive the proper medication, it is a great feeling knowing we had a part in their recovery."

The Roanoke, Va., native joined the Air Force more than four years ago to further her education while serving her country. She has been stationed at Charleston for three years.

She recently deployed to Sigonella, Italy for 120 days in the blood transmit tent center where they shipped blood to theater locations.

"Being deployed put things in perspective for me and made me very grateful to be an American," said Airman Etterling.

Master Sgt. Charles Luetzgen, laboratory services NCOIC, said he had witnessed tremendous growth in Airman Etterling, both professionally and technically.

"As an Airman, she has demonstrated characteristics senior NCO's would expect to see in their NCO's and," Sergeant Luetzgen said.

Selectees will perform unit-funded temporary duty in Washington, D.C. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve volunteers must secure their own funding and mandays. To see a complete listing of job openings, contact your commander support staff.

NCO retraining: Air Force officials have announced the start of the 2005 noncommissioned officer retraining program. The NCORP will target approximately 1,098 NCOs to retrain from career fields with NCO shortages.

The voluntary phase of the program runs through Sept. 30. If necessary, an involuntary phase will begin shortly afterward. Some restrictions apply, depending on grade and Air Force specialty. Contact the military personnel flight at 963-4567 or 963-4506 for com-

plete details and a list of available careers to retrain into.

The Olmsted Scholar Program: The Olmsted Scholar Program provides the opportunity to study abroad, obtain a master's degree in a foreign language, and gain an in-depth understanding of a foreign country for junior line officers. For more information, go to www.olmstedfoundation.org.

RAO position: The Retiree Activities Office is looking for a new director. Anyone interested in the position can call Lt. Col. David Peaire at 963-5626.

Idea Program: Do you have an idea? Think something can be improved?

You have the opportunity to challenge and possibly change how something is being done. Your

approved ideas could be implemented locally or Air Force wide, and at the same time, you could profit monetarily.

Submit your ideas at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>. Get involved today on making our Air Force a better, more productive place. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Holt at 963-3073.

Palace chase: There are current openings in the Georgia Air National Guard, Brunswick area. They are looking for electronics, mechanics, communication systems, tactical air command and control specialists and air liaison officers. They are offering a GI bill kicker & tuition assistance. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Kelly Smith at 1-800-743-9231 or DSN:358-5604 or email kelly.smith@gasava.af.mil.

Command Performance

First sergeant speaks of integrity first

By Master Sgt. Randal Kinser

437 Operations Support Squadron first sergeant

Webster defines integrity as a firm adherence to a code or standard of values or the state of being unimpaired or the quality or condition of being undivided.

The Air Force has a little bit easier definition to remember — Do the right thing even when nobody is watching.

In our work environments there are manuals and technical orders that have to be followed. Imagine a life support tech maintaining one of our flier's survival gear has a bad day and, instead of following the T.O., just pencil whips the checklist. What if something actually happens and the flier needs his life support gear — this would be catastrophic for that flier.

This is a lack of integrity and just shouldn't happen. However there is a much smaller but none-the-less important integrity issue we deal with each day.

Probably the biggest violation I see as a first sergeant is some of the creative excuses the troops come up with when they are late for work. Basically what I am talking about is lying.

Not being at your place of duty on time is a violation, but lying about why you were late makes it an even greater issue. Everyone at sometime in their career has been late, however, some of us are more apt to tell

the truth than others. Whether you agree or not, lying is a major breach of integrity.

When I was a civil-engineer flight chief one of the first things I would tell my new troops was I would rather know they are lazy than have them lie to me. I can fix a lazy troop, however, I have a big problem with a troop I can't trust.

Imagine how it would feel to be in a hostile work environment while in the back of your mind you know the person who has your back cannot be trusted — that is mission impacting.

Those who choose to think they are smarter than their chain of command by creating some wild story, should think about this before choosing to lie.

Most commanders, chiefs and first sergeants have been around the block a few times and we may not have seen everything, but all of us are pretty good at figuring out a fabricated story when it is presented to us. A lieutenant colonel once told me if you tell the truth all the time, you never have to remember what you said the last time. The way we confront the issue could have bearing on the rest of our careers.

I am not saying telling the truth will get you completely out of trouble. What I am saying is showing some integrity will definitely factor in on how things are dealt with.

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 - 4:15 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. Daily Mass starts at 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Protestant Services: Sunday - 8 a.m. Inspirational Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Children's Church.

Wednesday- Noon Bible Study

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 the start of the 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.

"Harold and Kumar go to White Castle" — John Cho, Hal Penn

Both underdogs, Harold and Kumar decide to spend what would have been an otherwise uneventful Friday night satisfying an oddly intense urge for White Castle hamburgers. However, finding a suitable White Castle proves a highly difficult task, and the two friends wind up on an epic road trip. (R) 88 minutes

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"I, Robot" — Will Smith, Bridgit Moynahan

In the year 2035, robots are an everyday household item, but each one is preprogrammed to always obey humans and to never harm a human. Everyone trusts them, except Del Spooner. Del is a slightly paranoid detective investigating what he alone believes is a crime perpetrated by a robot. The case leads him to discover a far more frightening threat to the human race. (PG-13) 115 minutes

Sept. 17

"The Village"

Sept. 18

"The Manchurian Candidate"



SAFETY SENSE

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 some of the most common injuries:



To avoid burns, set your hot water heater to a maximum of 120° F



Keep hazardous materials (i.e., poisons) locked up



Closely watch children near water deeper than 2 inches

SVS comes back to beat 1 CTCS in volleyball action

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber
437 AW Public Affairs

Using better communication in the second and third games, the 437th Services Squadron rallied past the 1st First Combat Camera Squadron 20-25, 25-16 and 15-10 in base intramural volleyball action Sept. 2.

"We gave them too many opportunities in the first game with bad serves and unforced errors," said Services Coach Ivan Colon. "But then we started to back each other, played better defense and reduced our unforced errors."

SVS improved its record to 3-1 while 1 CTCS dropped to 1-3. With four SVS starters deployed for the volleyball season, Coach Colon said how well his stronger and weaker players blend together will impact the success of their season.

With ball control and a taller front line, 1 CTCS took an early 10-2 lead in the first game, but SVS outscored them 19-10 to cut their lead to 21-20. However, 1 CTCS scored the next four points to win 25-20. Mark Kenyon had three kills and two assists, Chris Galindo had three kills and Jessie Bell had two assists to lead the defending base champions in the first game.

In the second game, SVS took a 10-6 lead, but a 5-0 run gave 1 CTCS a 11-10 lead. The game featured its fourth tie at 15-15. Then, setter Brandi Jensen of SVS, served nine points in a row with Colon adding two kills to give SVS a 24-15 cushion. SVS went on to win the second game 25-16.

Going into the third and decisive game, Coach Colon told his team to keep up their momentum from the second game. "We had them on the



Photo by Airman 1st Class Darnell Cannady
Chris Galindo (24) of 1 CTCS battles Ivan Colon of 437 SVS for a ball at the net during intramural volleyball action Sept. 2.

ropes," Coach Colon said. However, 1 CTCS didn't play like a team on the ropes and jumped out to a 4-0 lead. Then SVS rallied again behind Jensen's serving including two aces to tie the game 4-4.

"Brandi (Jensen) served well in game two, and I decided to start her serving in game three," said

Coach Colon.

SVS tied the game for the third time at 9-9 on Colon's kill assisted by Jensen. SVS's Emily Curren served five points in a row as SVS captured game three 15-10, and the match 2-1.

In other intramural volleyball action, the 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron defeated the 437th Mission Support Squadron 28-26 and 25-11 Sept. 2.

Down 25-24, LRS outscored MSS 4-1 to win the first seesaw game, which was tied 13 times. With the victory, LRS upped its record to 3-1 while MSS dropped to 0-4.

"The turning point of the match was the end of the first game," LRS Coach David Follmuth said. "We had two new players who weren't used to playing with the rest of the team. They both caught on quick and helped us to win the game."

When MSS took a 21-15 lead in the first game, things looked bleak for LRS, who called a timeout.

"We can come back and win this one. Just settle down and play your game," Coach Follmuth told his team. LRS responded with a 13-5 run to take the first game.

That momentum carried over into the second game, when, with LRS leading 13-10, they had an 11-0 run to coast to a 25-11 victory. During the run, Butch Reinhart served nine straight points with two aces. Keith Judkins had three kills and Monica Williams added three assists.

Pacing MSS during the match were Chris Hageman with three kills and four service aces, and Julie Boit with her serving and passing.

"We showed a lot of energy in the first game, but we lost our focus in the second game," said MSS Coach Cindy Perry.

The Guru is in the groove, and ready to rumble

The greatest football mind of all time spent last week sharpening his skills in preparation for the upcoming kickoff of the NFL season.

To show how awesome I am as the Guru, just look at my accomplishments for this past week. I correctly predicted all 117 Division 1A college football games, I predicted the New York Yankees would lose a game by 22 runs, I predicted the return of Deion Sanders to the Baltimore Ravens, I correctly predicted Hurricane Frances would make landfall in Florida, and last but not least I correctly predicted the "Big Tuna" Bill Parcels would set a new world record while defeating the world hot dog eating champion Takeru Kobayashi by eating 57 hot dogs in 12 minutes!

Yes, the Guru is in midseason form which can only spell doom for those with enough courage to enter the Swami Cup knowing exactly what the extent of their embarrassment will be each week!

I would also like to add I am extremely disappointed by the lack of smack being written on the weekly Swami Cup submissions. Have you all accepted defeat so soon? My five star viewing games for Week 2 are the Colts visiting the Titans, the Ravens hosting the Steelers, the Panthers traveling to Kansas City, and the Eagles entertaining the Vikings. Tune in next week to see who will hoist the Swami Cup from Week 1 action.

Now onto my Week 2, stone-cold-lead-pipe lock predictions!

Gridiron Guru's Week 2 picks

Sunday, Sept. 19

Carolina @ **Kansas City**
Chicago @ **Green Bay**
Denver @ Jacksonville
Houston @ **Detroit**
Indianapolis at Tennessee
Pittsburgh @ **Baltimore**
San Francisco @ **New Orleans**
St. Louis at Atlanta

Washington @ N.Y. Giants
Seattle @ Tampa Bay
Buffalo @ **Oakland**
Cleveland @ **Dallas**
New England @ Arizona
N.Y. Jets @ San Diego
Miami @ **Cincinnati**

Monday, Sept. 20

Minnesota @ **Philadelphia**

Monday Night total points:
Guru's Monday night points: **45**

The Gridiron Guru's picks are in bold and italics.

Swami is not affiliated with the 437th Airlift Public Affairs .

Send your picks to swami@charleston.af.mil only.

Include your name, phone number and any comments in the e-mail. **Picks must be submitted by Friday, Sept. 17, 4 p.m.