



# News Release

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
102 East Hill Blvd., Rm. 223, Charleston AFB, S.C. 29404-5154  
Phone: (843) 963-5608, 5588 or 5589 Fax (843) 963-5604

**PAO email:** edmund.memi@charleston.af.mil  
After duty hours, call the base operator or  
command post (963-2531) & ask for a PA rep

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### **CAFB AIRMAN SAVES C-17 MONEY, AF REWARDS HIM WITH \$10,000**

**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** – Senior Airman Michael Morris, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster, submitted an AF Form 1000 to the IDEA Program to eliminate the logistic rail bridge assembly on the C-17 Globemaster III and was rewarded for the input.

Morris was presented a check for \$10,000 from Col. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, Aug. 13.

The logistic rail bridge assembly was developed to help pallets remain aligned while loading onto the C-17.

“They were two big pieces of metal no one ever used,” said Morris. “They were mounted on the cargo door, weighed about 15 pounds and are shaped like a hockey stick.”

The intent was to prevent the pallet from turning sideways and damaging the rails in the plane, said Morris.

The idea was accepted and production costs will be saved on remaining aircraft still to be produced. The cost per assembly of \$1,360.97 for 50 aircraft would save the Air Force an estimated \$68,048.50, or more, based on further buys of the C-17, according to the package submitted by Morris.

Morris acknowledged he did most of the research himself but turned to somebody in the family for guidance.

“My dad is a former C-17 loadmaster who retired from the Air Force,” said Morris. “I also had some help from Staff Sgt. Rene Delarosa in Stan-Eval (17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron Standardization and Evaluations). He helped me out a little bit in writing it.”

Morris submitted the idea in January and had to wait for the package to make its way through the correct levels to be adopted.

“It took a while with many e-mails back and forth,” said Morris. “I submitted an AF Form 1000 through the IDEA website. It was all done on the web.”

The hardest part was to find the right person to send it to for approval.

“It’s pretty tough,” said Morris. “You have to find who the approving officials are. I started right at the top at the headquarters with AMC/DOV (Air Mobility Command Director of Operations Standardization and Evaluations) and Chief Master Sgt. Steven Hondel. I found out he was the final approving official. So he approved it and sent it on its way.”

The Air Force pays out 15 percent up to \$10,000 for any idea adopted.

“They tax it at 28 percent and you end up with \$7,200,” said Morris. “That’s the maximum you can get.”

Morris plans to use the money he will receive responsibly.

“I’m going to use the money to hopefully get debt-free,” said Morris. “That’s my plan. If I get the next one, it will be my pleasure money.”

**(For more information, contact Master Sgt. Daniel Murphy at 963-5582 or Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith at 963-5589)**