



# 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

**Release No. 05-07**

**May 8, 2002**

### **TEAM CHARLESTON GET '15 MINUTES' FOR TOP TEN**

**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** – Ten Charleston AFB, S.C., members got the chance to be national celebrities May 2, 11:30 p.m., during the Late Show with David Letterman on CBS.

Letterman's Top 10 List, "Top 10 reasons I love my job," was recorded live-to-tape in front of a C-17 Globemaster III at CAFB between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. the same day.

"I think I'm more excited than nervous," said Tech. Sgt. Greg Fennessy, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, shortly before rehearsing his line. "I saw the Air Force folks from Germany doing the Top 10 List, and I thought, 'Wouldn't that be the coolest thing?'" Fennessy said he has been a big Letterman fan for years, and it's a real honor for him to be part of the show.

"I think it's neat that they notice what CAFB is doing," said Fennessy. "Airlift wings don't get all the glamour that fighter wings get. It's nice to be recognized."

Since giving his line, "Gillette's new Mach 3 Turbo works even better if you shave while going mach 3," Fennessy said he has heard from friends he hasn't talked to in years who saw him on the show.

"Right before we gave our lines, the coordinator told us about how many people were in the studio and that 4 million people will watch from their homes," said Fennessy. "That's when I got a little nervous.

"It went well though," Fennessy continued. "One guy I haven't heard from in three years saw me on TV and sent me an e-mail about it."

Along with making a national appearance on Letterman, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tabitha Stewart, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron, also made her debut on the local news as a weather reporter.

"I was talking to Mr. Walsh (Bill, Channel 5 meteorologist) about what I do and things like that," said Stewart. "I was next to him, and he told me to give it a try. We were live on the 6 o'clock news."

Stewart said she wasn't nervous at all and called the whole experience a very positive one.

--MORE--

“It was really cool,” said Stewart. “I feel I did well. I was just really amazed at how much calculated humor is put into a show like that.”

According to Jeremy Weiner, writers’ segment coordinator for the Late Show with David Letterman, CAFB was an easy choice for the show’s Top 10 List.

“We started doing Top 10 Lists from different military places in January,” said Weiner. “We’re showing our support and appreciation for all the military does every day. We try to represent all branches, and Charleston was the logical choice because of all the essential missions they have going on overseas right now.”

Once CAFB officials found out the show was coming here, 10 people and an alternate had to be selected. One or two members from each group on base, including three members of the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, were selected based on nominations from group leadership. Those who were selected had to be on the flightline by 12:30 p.m., May 2. Prior to the actual live-to-tape feed, Weiner said the rehearsals went perfectly. Although a few minor adjustments were made before actual taping, the show went off without a hitch, and judging by the laughter of the crowd, Team Charleston was a big hit.

Along with Fennesy and Stewart, the other eight participants were Maj. Mark Banknight, 300<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Molly Curland, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Michael Michaud, 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Barbara Greenwald, 315<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron; Master Sgt. Dennis Ingold, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Greg Arceneaux, 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Gaines, 315<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron; and Tech Sgt. Darin Elwood, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group.

The Top 10 List was as follows:

10. The frequent flier miles really pile up.
9. When the pilot’s not looking, we throw water balloons out of the jet.
8. Gilette’s new Mach 3 Turbo works even better if you shave while going mach 3.
7. Growing up, mom always told me not to throw food. Well, guess what mom? The U.S. Air Force is paying me to throw food.
6. The cockpit is full of shiny buttons and lights.
5. I know he’s not a refugee, but sometimes I’ll drop stuff on Letterman’s house just to mess with him.
4. The dental plan.
3. The sense of fulfillment after a day’s work...Just kidding. The planes go, like super fast.
2. Sometimes, I sneak a crate of freeze-dried beans for myself.
1. I’m at the controls of a \$200 million jet. What do you drive?

**(These stories are public domain. You may use any part of the story for your publication.)**