

Charleston Profile

2nd Lt. Maria Hatchell
437th Services Squadron

Hatchell has been combat support flight commander for the services squadron since June.

Her job involves supporting five functions of the flight: lodging, the fitness center, the dining facility and flight kitchen, readiness/training, and mortuary affairs.

Originally from Amarillo, Texas, Hatchell entered the Air Force nine years ago as an enlisted member and was selected for Officer Training School. She earned a commission in February 1999. Her decision to join the Air Force was influenced by her father, who served in the Air Force, and her grandfather, who flew in the Army Air Corps. She was also lured by the great travel opportunities provided by the Air Force.

Past assignments have included Sheppard AFB, Texas; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; and Bitburg AB, Germany. She's been in the services career field her entire career. She has two associate's degrees and holds a bachelor of science degree in business management.

Hatchell enjoys spending time with her two sons, Jonathon, 6; and Ryan, 4. She also enjoys jogging, reading, and traveling in her spare time.

Hatchell said she's planning on pursuing her private pilot's license and is considering applying for undergraduate pilot training. Hatchell enjoys living in the Charleston area.

"Everyone's friendly and it's a nice location," she commented. "I'm from Texas, so I like the Southern atmosphere and charm."



Senior Airman Michael Duhe

Jewish Holy Day period continues through Sunday

- ✧ Sukkoth-The Festival of Booths
- ✧ Shemini Atzereth-The Eighth Day of Assembly
- ✧ Simchat Torah-The Rejoicing of the Law

Sukkot, usually translated as Tabernacles, or the Festival of Booths, culminates the Fall Holy Day period. Following Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, with their somber mood of repentance and introspection, five days later this Holy Day festival arrived accompanied by rejoicing and celebration at sundown on Sept. 24.

For this festival, the Jewish people are commanded to build a Sukkah, or hut, a simple booth, and make it "home" for the week. The Sukkah represents the frail and makeshift huts in which their ancestors dwelt during their 40 years in the desert following the Exodus from Egyptian slavery. It reminds them of the frailty of life and their dependence on God.

The Holy Days of Sukkot also commemorate the Fall harvest, the final gathering of produce before the winter months. It is the precursor of the American Festival of Thanksgiving, the Biblical model to which the Pilgrims turned when offering thanks for their first harvest in the New World.

Sukkot is called "Zeman Simchataynu—the season of our rejoicing." Jewish sages teach two reasons for their joy: one, the in-

gathering of the fall harvest, guaranteeing their sustenance, and two, the inner confidence that they have successfully finished the process of repentance and achieved "at-one-moment" with God through their experience on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

In addition to living in the Sukkah-booth for the entire holiday period, Jews are instructed to wave the Lulav and Etrog, four agricultural species made up of a palm branch, citron, and myrtle and willow branches. By waving them in all directions ceremonially, they acknowledge God as the source of all the bounty provided by nature which they enjoy and for which they give thanks.

The eighth day of festivities, called Shemini Atzereth, is characterized by a memorial service. The ninth and final day is called Simchat Torah—"The Rejoicing of the Law"—and marks the joyous outpouring of fervor at completing the cycle of public readings of the Torah, and beginning the cycle of readings anew with the Book of Genesis.

The Holy Day period of Sukkot, Sh'mini Atzereth, and Simchat Torah commenced at sundown on Sept. 24 and concludes at sundown on Sunday. For information regarding worship opportunities during this period, call Airman 1st Class David Winner at 963-3509 or the Base Chapel at 963-2536.