



Staff Sgt. Norman Hill uses a grinder while repairing a government vehicle.

photos by Senior Airman Jerome Suson

## Vehicle maintainers keep Charleston moving

By Staff Sgt.  
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437 AW Public Affairs

The 437<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron Vehicle Maintenance Flight maintains 700 government vehicles assigned to Charleston AFB.

And thanks to the hard work and dedication of 70 personnel, most of them first-term airman, the flight proudly maintains a 93.5 percent vehicle in-commission rate, well above the Air Force goal of 90 percent.

"The flight is inundated with young airman," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Park, Vehicle Maintenance manager, "and they're performing well above their skill levels."

The flight is missing the middle ranks of career airman and staff sergeants, like the rest of the Air Force,

said Park, but what the younger airmen lack in experience they make up for in the determination and desire to do well.

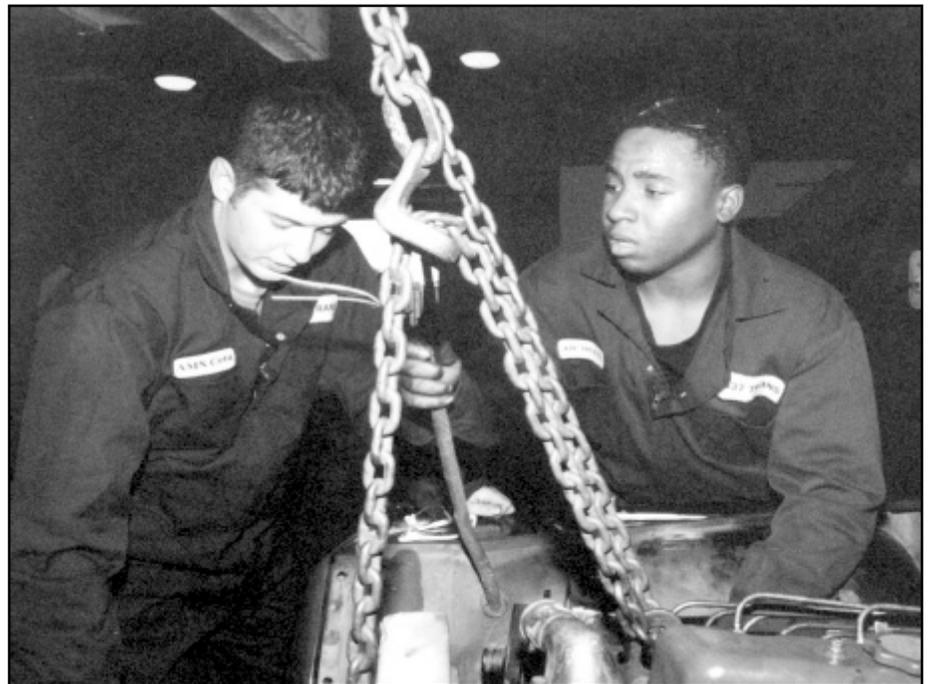
Second Lieutenant Zabrina Robinson, Vehicle Maintenance officer, is proud of the younger airmen in her flight who continue to excel despite the everyday problems the flight faces.

"The airmen continue to do their job well," she explains, "The flight is dealing with an aging vehicle fleet and less money to work with, but that hasn't slowed them down."

"Despite the obstacles the airmen face, they continue to strive and do their best," said Robinson.

The above average vehicle in-commission rate is proof of that.

(right) Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nathan Cota (left) and Kendrick Ouzts, both special-purpose vehicle maintenance apprentices with the 437<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron, tighten the fuel lines of a government vehicle.



(below) Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Daniel Diehl, a general-purpose vehicle maintenance apprentice, removes a broken starter bolt from a disabled vehicle.



Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donald Gworek, a general-purpose vehicle maintenance apprentice, removes a heater control cable.

