

FEATURE**Always on the go****437 TRANS works into the night**

**Photos and story by
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As a majority of Charleston troops are lying down to sleep each night, a select few of their counterparts are just arriving at work.

The misconception by some is that there is little work to be done at night, but mid-shift workers at the 437th Transportation Squadron prove otherwise.

"We do pick up and delivery just like the day shift," said Senior Airman Kevin Carter, mid-shift dispatch operator. Though the night shift workers don't necessarily do as many runs as the day shift, they are also working with less people.

"We average between 15 to 20 runs a night, with five drivers on shift as compared to 14 drivers on days to make 60 runs," said Carter. A run can be one of two things, either delivering aircraft parts to maintainers on the flightline or transporting aircrew members to or from their aircraft.

Senior Airman Shelby Pearson is a 437th Supply Squadron airman assigned to the transportation squadron. "I'm working with the transportation troops to train them on the processes involved with pickup and delivery of supply parts to the flightline," Pearson said.

He's been working nights for three months and said it's his personal preference. "I love the night shift," he said. "People are here to do a job and they can do it without the excess hassle that sometimes occurs during the day shift."

Pearson said the supply deliveries at night are the same as during the day shift. "We move anything from O-ring gaskets to parts that need to be moved by forklift to the planes."

The busiest time for the mid shift workers is between 4 and 7 a.m., when the aircrews start preparing for daily missions, Pearson said. "When the planes start moving, so does supply and transportation. They go hand in hand."

Aside from the flightline, transportation squadron troops are responsible for a variety of other things that are only done at night.

"We make sure staff cars are clean and have been signed off for the day," Carter said. "We also monitor their fuel gages and ensure they're not running on empty."

Senior Master Sgt. Carl Hunsinger, vehicle operations manager said the night shift may also handle direct and indirect support for distinguished visitors to include the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Secretary of the Air Force and senators.

Staff Sgt. Terisa Martin, mid-shift non-commissioned officer in charge, said she loves working nights and see the benefits

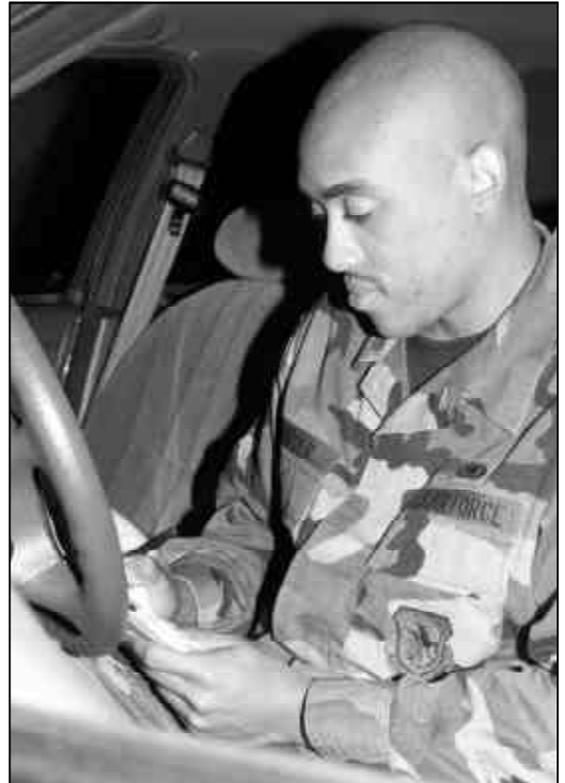
of it. She said the night shift is a good time to do training because there aren't a lot of the distractions that seem to go on during a day shift operation.

"Things just seem to go smoother and easier," she said. "There's a job to be done at night and we get it done."

Hunsinger said "I'm proud of the quality of work my troops do for Charleston AFB and the community. I know my flights, both the day and night shifts, work with a "can do" attitude."



Staff Sgt. Terisa Martin monitors the dispatch operations system to keep track of incoming and outgoing aircrews who may need transportation to or from their aircraft.



Senior Airman Kevin Carter signs off on the AF Form 1800 in one of the staff cars he inspects, ensuring the vehicle is up to standards.



Senior Airman Shelby Pearson (right) picks up a part from Airman 1st Class Daniel Rapien at the 437th Supply Squadron. Pearson is a supply troop assigned to the 437th Transportation Squadron.