

# Charleston Profile

## Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Diamond Cookson 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Diamond Cookson, a C-17 crew chief by trade, is the training monitor for the 437 AGS Gator flight. As the training monitor, he maintains records for upgrade training, formal training and ancillary training for the 145 member flight.

Cookson is originally from Fresno, Calif. He joined the Air Force in December 1997 to take advantage of the opportunities to travel and further his education. As a crew chief, he's flown to locations such as Italy, Germany, Scotland, Spain and Turkey. He's been stationed at Charleston AFB for two years.

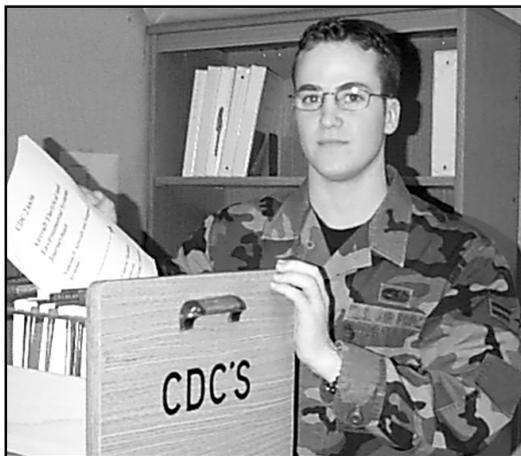
Cookson is currently working on an associate's degree in aerospace maintenance through the Community College of the Air Force and an associate in arts degree from Trident Technical College. He is 15 credit hours away from the CCAF degree.

While focusing on college at the present time, Cookson said his long-term goal is to teach history at the high school level after earning a bachelor's degree in education.

Cookson's family back home includes two brothers, Chris and Ricky; a sister, Michelle; and his father, Rick.

In his spare time, Cookson enjoys playing golf, going to the beach and going out with friends.

Although he's enjoyed the travel involved with being a crew chief, Cookson said he's happy with his current job because duty hours are more stable, which helps with attending classes and schoolwork.



Senior Airman Michael Duhe

### Spotlight

**Retirement ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron is hosting a luncheon and retirement ceremony for Tech Sgt. Carole Corchado today at 11 a.m. in the Charleston Club. All base members are invited. Lunch will be pay as you go. For information, call Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Erik Sonnenberg at 963-3269.

**Retirement ceremony:** The 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Phillips Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. in the Yonkie Auditorium (Bldg. 54). A reception will follow in the break room adjacent to the auditorium.

### Around the base

**Adopt-a-highway:** The Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 306, has adopted a section of the roadway on Cross County Road under the Adopt-a-Highway program for clean-up. AFSA will be cleaning the highway Saturday.

Volunteers should meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Brunswick Bowling Alley, at the intersection of Cross County Road and Ashley Phosphate. Everyone is encouraged to participate. For information or to volunteer, call or e-mail Master Sgt. J.T. Grogan, 437<sup>th</sup> Equipment Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, at 963-4657.

**National Prayer Breakfast:** Maj.

Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr., 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force commander, will be the guest speaker at a 2000 National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 10 at 7 a.m. in the Charleston Club.

Ticket prices are \$3 for E-4 and below and \$5 for E-5 and above and civilians. For tickets, call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mike Newton or Airman 1st Class Rachel Varelas at 963-2536.

**Briefing:** A building manager's briefing will be held Feb. 10 and 15 at 9 a.m. at the Base Education Center. Current building managers should plan to attend one of the briefings.

The 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron Operations Flight has reorganized and building managers need to be aware of the changes to get work accomplished for their facility. For more information, call 437 CE Customer Service at 963-5027/2393.

**Memorial:** A memorial fund has been set up for the family of Tech. Sgt. Dale Bannister. Bannister, who was assigned to the 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron, died Jan. 25 after multiple strokes.

### Donations may be sent to:

The Dale Bannister Fund  
C/O Heritage Trust FCU  
6943 Dorchester Rd.  
North Charleston, S.C. 29418

### Newhours:

**Pass and Registration (Bldg. 254)**