

# Charleston announces 1999 Annual Award winners

The 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing named its 1999 annual award winners Feb. 4 at the Charleston Club. The award recipients were:

Photos by Senior Airman Corey Clements



## Airman of the Year

Senior Airman  
Maggie Nelson  
437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer  
Squadron



## Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Tech. Sgt. Leigh  
Bertagnolli  
437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Chapel



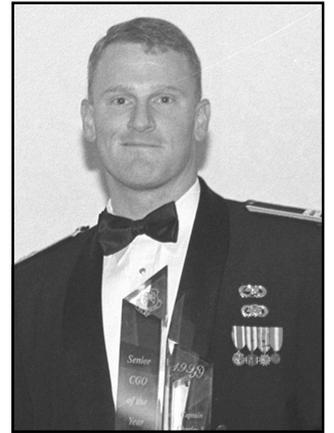
## Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Master Sgt. Rodney  
Duerenberger  
437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces  
Squadron



## Junior Company Grade Officer of the Year

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Patrick Suermann  
437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer  
Squadron



## Senior Company Grade Officer of the Year

Capt. Chuck Nesemeier  
437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation  
Squadron



## Category I Civilian of the Year

Deirdre Abernathy  
Staff Judge Advocate  
Office



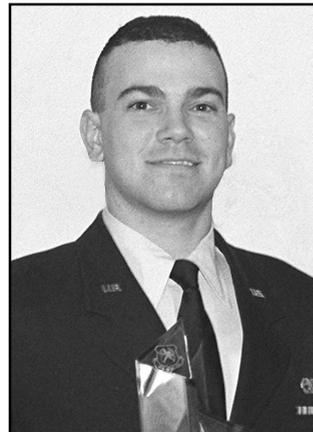
## Category II Civilian of the Year

Wendy Varhegyi  
437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron



## Category III Civilian of the Year

Glen Easterby  
437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer  
Squadron



## Honor Guard Airman of the Year

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Samuel Demaggio  
437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation  
Squadron



## First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sgt.  
Tammy Van Etta  
437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer  
Squadron

Photo not available

## Honor Guard NCO of the Year

Tech. Sgt.  
Ernie Washington  
437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation  
Squadron

## 'Commitment to Caring' through AFAF contributions

The 2000 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign begins Feb. 28 and runs through March 31. "Commitment to Caring" is the campaign's permanent theme.

Last year's contributions totaled nearly \$4 million. The Air Force goal for the 2000 AFAF Campaign is \$3.4 million.

The year 2000 goal for Charleston AFB has not yet been released, but last year's goal was \$36,101.

"Members of Team Charleston graciously gave more than \$53,600," said Capt. Paul Lambertson, the 2000 AFAF installation project officer. "That's almost 150 percent of the wing's goal."

All of this giving came back to Charleston AFB members in the form of more than \$227,500 in loans and grants, according to Lambertson. Exact figures were:

■ Loans - \$174,239.19

■ Grants - \$22,612.97  
■ Education and Youth Employment Skills (YES) - \$56,479.50

■ Community Enhancement Programs - \$24,215.09  
The annual AFAF campaign raises money for four charitable organizations benefiting active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses and their families.

### The organizations are:

■ The AF Aid Society  
■ The AF Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, Inc

■ The AF Village Indigent Widow's Fund

■ The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation  
The Charleston AFB goal will be published as it becomes available.

For information, log onto [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund). (AFPN)

## Hopper inspires crowd at prayer breakfast

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston's celebration of the National Prayer breakfast was a success as more than 330 people attended the annual observance Feb. 10 to hear Maj. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr., 21<sup>st</sup> Air Force commander speak.

Hopper joked with the audience about being selected as this year's guest speaker. "I was a little apprehensive as I have never been a speaker for a prayer breakfast before. It didn't help much when my wife, Tricia, asked me 'why did they invite you?'"

Hopper told the story of a first sergeant who had lost his wedding ring and, after two months of praying with Father Mike, found the ring. "Father Mike said prayer calmed his (the sergeant's) mind so he could find the ring. Others, like myself, said it was a miracle and I feel you (Father Mike) need to help out those of us in need of a miracle."

Hopper, who described himself as a Baptist, shared some confessions with the audience. He said that he had faked a stomachache once or twice as a kid to avoid going to church so that he could stay home and watch TV. "During these feigned illnesses, my grandmother would make

me listen to Oral Roberts on the radio. It is amazing the power of prayer as I did not get any more stomach aches."

Hopper spoke of the new challenges in the new millennium.

"I can't help but not ask the good lord for some things as we enter the next century," said. "Our boss, General Robertson, has challenged us to think in terms of readiness, modernization and people. With respect to readiness, the last person subject to the draft is now 45 years old and there will be no return to the draft. It doesn't seem out of bounds to ask for divine help in recruiting and retention."

"Being at Charleston, it would also be good to pray for more C-17s and Boeing has some on sale," he said. "Modernizing our tactics, defensive systems, new ways to overcome crew fatigue to reduce the danger of long crew duty days. Likewise, some help making BDUs and flight suits cooler in summer and warmer in winter."

"As I look back over this partial wish list, the main thing I would pray for is that we have wisdom," he said. "Finally, we have the best people. You are the reason the American people trust us more than any other institution."