

Charleston Profile

Staff Sgt. A.J. Smiley

437th Operations Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. A.J. Smiley is an instructor loadmaster and a tactics loadmaster attached to the 14th Airlift Squadron.

As a C-17 loadmaster, he flies on worldwide missions delivering cargo and troops in support of the AMC global mobility mission. As a tactics loadmaster, he inspects airdrop cargo before and after it's loaded onto the aircraft.

Smiley is originally from Flint, Michigan. After completing some college, he joined the Air Force in 1986 to travel around the world.

"I love the job - the travel involved and meeting people from all around the world is very rewarding. Helping people by flying humanitarian missions is my favorite," he said. "I like being an aircrew member. My favorite place to travel is on missions to Africa and Asia."

Smiley said he also enjoys taking part in the tactical missions of the C-17, such as airdrops and low-level flying.

Smiley plans on making a career in the Air Force. In addition to earning a business degree, his future goals are to go into the computer network administration field after retiring from the military.

Smiley and his wife, LaTanya, have one son and two daughters - Perry, 14; Paris, 12; and Ashley, 11.

Smiley has a passion for sports and is the head coach for the intramural basketball team known as the Flyers, now 10-0. Other hobbies include spending time with his family and reading. He's also an avid University of Michigan football fan.

Smiley said he loves the C-17 but will be sorry to see the C-141 go away this year. "I was a C-141 loadmaster at McGuire before I came here. The C-141 is a good aircraft. I grew up on it."



Senior Airman Michael Duhe

Spotlight

Award winners: Communications and Information Management Professional of the Year Award winners for 1999 were: Civilian category - Diane Gilbert, 437th Aircraft Generation; Airman category - Senior Airman Jemelle Wooten, 437th Communications Squadron; Noncommissioned officer category - Staff Sgt. Gregory Hackworth, 437th Supply Squadron; Senior NCO category - Master Sgt. Larry Wallace, 437 CS.

Retirement ceremony: The 437th Communications Squadron is hosting a luncheon and retirement ceremony for Tech Sgt. Carole Corchado Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. at the Charleston Club. All base members are invited. Lunch will be pay as you go.

Retirement ceremony: The 17th 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 Air Force

Internet elite: AAFES has earned the No. 4 ranking among InformationWeek's E-Business 100 list. The list includes such notables as Dell Computers, E-Trade Group, The Home Depot, Intel and PC Connection.

Recognizing the distribution advantages the internet offered its retail and financial services, AAFES made its all-services catalog available to customers for the first time in 1996.

The catalog operation is similar to Sears. By printing its Web site address (www.aafes.com) on sales receipts, shopping bags and in the catalog, AAFES was able to sway its customers toward using the internet, making the Web site an online PX/BX.

Recall: The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, in conjunction with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Reckitt & Colman of Montvale, N.J., is voluntarily recalling the 16-ounce original scent "Easy-Off Heavy Duty Oven Cleaner" - in the yellow can.

The item may have an improperly attached valve assembly that has the potential to separate from the can, causing the contents to escape. Direct contact with the contents causes burns to the skin and eyes, therefore, customers shouldn't remove the cap.

The production lot effected by the recall is B9305-NJ2, sold after Nov. 4, 1999 only. Customers with the product should call Reckitt & Colman at 1-888-993-3389. (Courtesy of AAFES PA)

Around the base

Recruit the Recruiter: A recruit-