

IN THE NEWS

Charleston maintainers officially inducted as flying crew chiefs

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe
437AW Public Affairs

In a first for the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, 12 maintainers were officially inducted into the Flying Crew Chief Program during a ceremony last week.

The members, all senior airmen, are: Chris Neldner, Adam Sereika, Andrew Marchak, Mark Montrose, Daniel Hettenbach, Justin Wallace, Eugene Guse, Michael Brown, Christopher Watts, Jamey Elms, James Buchanan and Corwin Bartley.

Each flying crew chief will be assigned to an aircraft. They will be responsible for its maintenance both on station and while flying missions.

During the ceremony, the new flying crew chiefs were each given a certificate, a flying crew chief patch and a flying crew chief coin. The patch was put on each crew chief's uniform by Col. Donald Gallion, 437th Logistics Group commander.

"Congratulations, you've made that hurdle," the colonel said during the ceremony. "Represent the 437th Logistics Group with pride. You also represent the 437th Airlift Wing and the United States of America. Carry the torch of the logistics group and the United States of America in a manner that's honorable."

Maj. Ricky Cornelio, 437th AGS

commander, said, "It's time we show recognition for the job we do out in the system and to highlight the responsibilities that go with being a flying crew chief."

The induction ceremony brings the number of flying crew chiefs in the squadron to 35. The goal is to bring that number up to 50 by the end of the year, according to Cornelio.

"I think we'll get there with your help," he told the inductees. "We only want the best."

Waivers were approved for the senior airmen becoming flying crew chiefs, a position normally held by non-commissioned officers.

Some of the recent inductees expressed their gratitude for the ceremony that officially welcomed them into the FCC program.

"It gives us a sense that supervision cares more about the program now than in the past," Elms said. "Some of the older guys said they once felt they were given a toolbox, a flightsuit and sent out the door. We felt we were formally brought into the program. It was a more proper introduction to the program."

"They've got higher standards to fulfill by being a flying crew chief," said Staff Sgt. Mike Murphy, a flying crew chief. "(The program) enables us to keep our mission reliability

rate for the C-17 up. It also helps keep the aircraft out of harm's way when we fly to austere locations. If there's a maintenance problem, usually the flying crew chief is capable of fixing it, provided they have the parts they need."

Another benefit of the Flying Crew Chief Program is a decrease in the TDY rate for the maintainers, depending on ops tempo, Murphy said.

"Before, we had so few guys, we were flying back-to-back missions," he said. "More people in the program means less flying each individual will have to do. It's a quality of life issue."

Other benefits of being a flying crew chief are special duty pay, direct involvement in worldwide operations and the chance to take part in high-profile missions, such as presidential support missions, Murphy said.

New flying crew chiefs will be inducted quarterly. In addition to recognizing new flying crew chiefs, the ceremony also helps encourage more maintainers to apply for the program, Murphy commented.

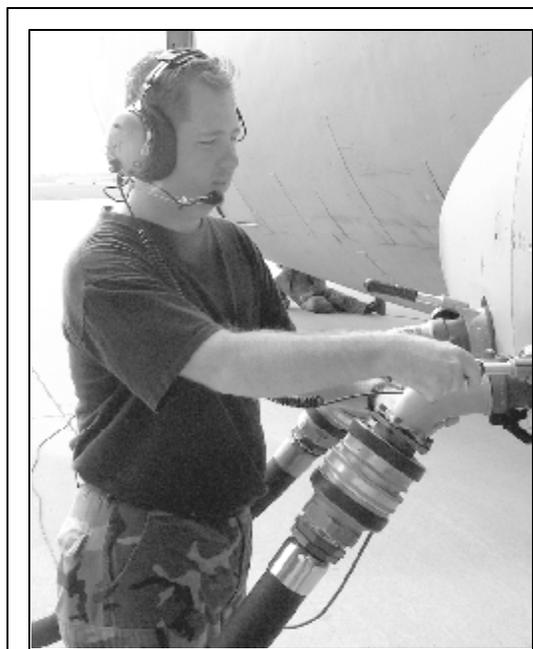
"I think we have the best flying crew chiefs in Air Mobility Command," said Master Sgt. Kevin Phifer, manager of the program. "The FCC program is definitely good for their careers."

The Flying Crew Chief's Creed

Upon my honor I affirm that I shall hold in sacred trust the rights and privileges conferred upon me as a Flying Crew Chief. Knowing full well that the safety and lives of others are dependent upon my skill and judgment, I shall never knowingly subject others to risk which I would not be willing to assume for myself, or for those dear to me.

In discharging this trust, I pledge I am a maintainer first. I pledge myself never to undertake work or approve work which I feel to be beyond the limits of my knowledge, nor shall I allow any superior to persuade me to approve aircraft or equipment as airworthy against my better judgment, nor shall I pass as airworthy aircraft or equipment about which I am in doubt either as a result of direct inspection or uncertainty regarding the ability of others who have worked on it to accomplish their work satisfactory.

I realize the great responsibility which is mine as a Flying Crew Chief to exercise my judgment on the airworthiness of aircraft and equipment. I, therefore, pledge unyielding adherence to these principles for the advancement of aviation and for the dignity of my career field.



The hookup

Staff Sgt. Terry Owen, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, hooks a single-point refueler hose to a C-141 as the aircraft is prepared for its last local flight.

Senior Airman Jason Smith

Lieutenant Colonel

Goe, David
Lassiter, Richard

Major

Rupp, Ricky

Captain

Carlos, Krista

Master Sergeant

Arceneaux, Gregory
Blakley, James
Bythrow, Patrick
McKinney, Roy
Wilbanks, Darrin

Technical Sergeant

Aruello, Lesvik
Borneman, Phillip
Cameron, Timothy
Clayton, Janet
Flori, Thomas
Mitchell, Michael
Muse, David
Rose, Herman
Thompson, Robert
Thompson, Ann
Vanschoor, Richard
Wetzel, Vicky

Staff Sergeant

Dempsey, Henry
Dube, Timothy

July promotees

Ellis, Mark
Ferguson, Andrew
Fietzer, Christopher
Geisler, Christopher
Hadley, Steven
Kretser, Michael
Murphy, Michael
Nelson, Maggie
Refenes, William
Roach, Christopher
Sorrells, Marcus
Waller, Michael
Willis, Barbara
Yonkovich, Craig

Senior Airman

Aladi, Azuka
Barham, Tamatha
Binaco, Joseph
Blount, Jonathan
Cutlip, Jennifer
Dean, Emiko
Damaggio, Samuel
Diehl, Daniel
Gilmore, Sean
Gosselin, Michael
Gutierrez, Jaime
Hawkins, Angela
Langevin, Scott
Lehberg, Alfred

Lewis, Darrel
Lowry, Ryan
Manee, Christopher
McBath, James III
Morris, Timothy
Murray, Carrie
Murray, Chad
Sessions, Corie
Stewart, Timothy
Stuch, Nathan
Walch, David
Walton, Demetria
Webster, David

Airman First Class

Bradley, Terra
Brown, Robert
Charest, Robert
Cheippa, Dustin
Collins, Jenny
Darnell, Marcus
Drill, Tracy
Feliciano, Perez
Lewis, Michelle
McCann, Shannon
Moore, Jami
Owen, Scott
Patterson, Anjelle
Saldana, Heidie
Sharpe, Chad
Smith, Loraly

Airman

Fike, Jessica
Huber, Leslie
Kissoon, Althea