

DISPATCH

Inside

- ▶ VMPF / 2
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ Environment / 11
- ▶ Swami / 15

Vol. 39, No. 44

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, November 10, 2000

Clinton signs pay raise, TRICARE changes

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

President Clinton signed a 3.7 percent military pay raise, TRICARE changes, military modernization and lifetime medical benefits into law Oct. 30, for Fiscal Year 2001, according to an AFPN news release.

The raise, which goes in effect for all ranks Jan. 1, also includes a one-time monthly raise for E-5s through E-7s of \$32 to \$59 starting July 1.

Along with the raise, Congress has increased the basic allowance for housing to reduce expenses service members must pay if they live off base. Currently, off-base military members pay an average of 19 percent of their housing costs out-of-pocket. The raise will bring that average to 15 percent in fiscal 2001. The legislation authorizes the defense secretary to raise BAH rates to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses by fiscal 2005, according to the release.

"Any extra money is always help-

ful," said Senior Airman Jarrod Klump, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron and current assistant dorm manager, about the raise. "It seems like officials are closing the gap between us and the private sector. If I get enough, I'd like to set up a retirement account."

Klump's plan may be easily attainable because the new pay action also calls for active and reserve military personnel to be able to use the Thrift

See *Raise*, page 3



Charleston AFB invades Calif.

By Capt. Tracy Velino
437 AW Public Affairs

Members of Team Charleston and the 6th Air Refueling Wing, the 437th Airlift Wing's sister wing at MacDill AFB, Fla., traveled to the annual Airlift/Tanker Association Convention and Symposium Nov. 2 through Sunday in Anaheim, Ca.

Col. Rusty Findley, 437 AW

commander, flew the first leg of the C-17 off-station trainer which picked up MacDill AFB counterparts en route to Los Alamitos Army Air Field, Calif.

Seventy-six people from Charleston's Low Country Chapter of the A/TA were among the 2,435 convention attendees. Most 437 AW and 315th Airlift Wing representatives were on the C-17 flight, along with 29 from MacDill. Other Low Country Chapter members, to include Boeing employees, flew on

commercial airliners.

Based on prior-year statistics, a convention administrator estimated 66 percent of the convention attendees were active-duty Air Force, 14 percent were retired military, and 63 participants were active duty or retired general officers. From the 437 AW, most were selected by wing leadership as official delegates.

"Being selected as part of Team Charleston's delegation to the Airlift/Tanker Association's 32nd Annual

National Convention and Symposium is quite an honor and responsibility," Findley said.

Lt. Col. Dave Rodriguez, Low Country Chapter president and 17th Airlift Squadron director of operations, tasked delegates to "take what you learn here about air mobility and bring it home to Team Charleston, to make us better."

As chapter president, Rodriguez was project officer for the A/TA convention trip. "You'll experience more

about AMC than I think you probably ever even thought about," he said.

The A/TA is a non-profit professional organization with a mission to provide a forum for ensuring U.S. military forces continue to have the air mobility capability needed for U.S. national security strategy. Membership includes active duty, guard, reserve and retired military personnel, both officers and enlisted, as well as civilian

See *ATA*, page 3



Towing the line

Charleston AFB personnel go through the processing line Tuesday as part of Exercise Crisis-Look. Approximately 258 troops processed.

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

IN THE NEWS

HAWC ready to help; don't let another year go up in smoke!

**Commentary by
Tech. Sgt. Rick A. Lang
Health and Wellness Center**

Are you one of those smokers who want to quit? Here is your chance!

November has been identified as the month of the "Great American Smokeout." The smokeout is designed to encourage smokers to give up cigarettes for 24-hours. During the 1998 GASO, 19 percent of the estimated 48 million American smokers either quit or reduced their smoking for the day.

The Surgeon General identifies cigarette smoking as the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States. Each year more than 400,000 Americans die from cigarette smok-

ing. In fact, one in every five deaths in the United States is smoking related. Every year smoking kills more than 276,000 men and 142,000 women.

To bring this issue even closer to home, 92 percent of the 1,073 self-reported tobacco users on Charleston AFB are E-1 through E-7. What impact does this have on the CAFB community? The health risks are evident — colds, lung disease and cancer.

Consider the following: According to the American Cancer Society, the average smoker smokes 1.5 packs of cigarettes per day. Each cigarette takes approximately

seven minutes to smoke. The average smoker will smoke an average of eight cigarettes during the duty day. If we add the numbers, seven minutes times eight cigarettes equals 56 minutes per day, less two 15 minute breaks per day equals 26 minutes per day. Over a one-year period, this equals 13 work days lost per person per year to smoke breaks.

When we apply these American Cancer Society statistics to the number of active duty smokers here, there are 13,949 duty days lost per year due to tobacco use.

According to a 1995 ar-

ticle released by the DOD, direct healthcare costs attributed to smoking were estimated at approximately \$584 million. Smoking attributable disease in the total DOD population accounted for one in six deaths, about 16 percent, and 200,211 hospital bed days to include 9,239 bed days for active-duty personnel.

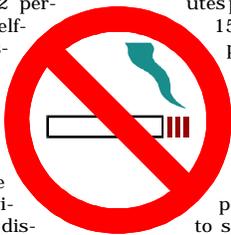
Recognizing that there is a continuing need for tobacco cessation at CAFB, the Health and Wellness Center is sponsoring an Adopt-a-Smoker campaign. During the campaign, individuals volunteer to help a person stop using tobacco throughout the course of the Great American Smokeout Thursday. It's easy; the volunteer simply agrees to be an extra sup-

portive friend during the 24-hour smokeout.

Many groups offer advice to help smokers quit for good. Non-smokers can join the fun by adopting family members, friends and co-workers who smoke, and encourage them to quit.

During November, the HAWC will be conducting various activities to include: Tobacco Cessation classes with nicotine replacement therapy and Zyban, a Turkey Trot/Walk and information packets for all who participate.

To participate in the Great American Smokeout, obtain adoption papers for a smoker or receive information about these or other prevention programs, call the HAWC at 256-4007.



Virtual MPF available at Charleston AFB, anywhere

**By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs**

Charleston AFB members now have access to the virtual Military Personnel Flight.

The Air Force Personnel Center has established the vMPF to allow its users to get personnel support and accomplish personnel transactions using the Internet instead of making a trip to Bldg. 503.

"The vMPF allows you to conduct personnel business online and at any time, day or night, from anywhere, easing the interruption to your personal schedule," said Capt. Robin McKinley, 437th Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight commander. "Right now, it allows you to retrieve information directly from the personnel database. For example, you no longer have to visit the MPF to get a Proof of Service Letter for a mortgage application. Now,

you can pull it directly from your own computer at home, or even from the real estate office."

Along with the Proof of Service Letter, CONUS Isolated Assignment Applications, Join Spouse Applications and Initial Separation or Retirement Briefings are just a few of the other things available on the system.

"The vMPF is useful when you're on leave or TDY and you need to accomplish a personnel transaction," said Master Sgt. Russell McCray, 437 MSS superintendent of outbound assignments and formal training. "It makes life easier by giving you the opportunity to conduct personnel business from anywhere without being physically located near an MPF."

The system is offered to all Air Force members, active and reserve, who sign up for it.

"Go to the vMPF website at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/km/vMPF/vMPFHelpHome.htm, and logon to the secure server," said McKinley. "You will then be asked to create a unique user ID and password."

After registering, McKinley said the vMPF is secure and available from anywhere that has Internet access.

"It's protected by the latest security technology," McKinley said. "All information you send over the Internet is encrypted and unreadable by anyone else."

"You can access the vMPF from any computer with Internet capability. This can be done in the comfort of your own home, at your deployed location, at your parent's home or even from your neighborhood cyber-cafe."

For more information, call McKinley at 963-4461.

Gen. Robertson gives Veterans Day message

**By Gen. Charles T. Robertson
Commander in Chief, U.S. Transportation Command, and Commander, Air Mobility Command**

This Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks to the brave men and women who have honorably served in the defense of our great nation. Veterans Day began as Armistice Day in 1926 by an Act of Congress to honor veterans of World War I.

In 1954, Congress officially changed the name to Veterans Day to honor all soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen who have served our nation throughout her history.

From the Revolutionary War to the host of far-flung contingency, humanitarian and peacekeeping operations underway today, our great traditions of dedication to duty and defense of our Constitution are assured by a force that honors all who have served.

The men and women of U.S. Transportation Command and her component commands — Air Mobility Command, Military Sealift Command, and Military Traffic Management Command — epitomize the core values which have made our nation's veterans great: patriotism, dedication to duty, and an absolute commitment to freedom.

I am proud to acknowledge our veterans on this day. We continue to be inspired by your example of selfless service and thankful for your tremendous dedication and sacrifice.



Graphic by Senior Airman Jason Smith

(Left, computer screen) Senior Airman Nikki Irvin and Airman 1st Class Jenny Collins, both from the 437th Mission Support Squadron, promote vMPF.

A/TA

continued from page 1

and industry supporters of the air mobility mission.

The convention was at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel and featured seminars, aerospace industry exhibits, and social functions including receptions, an awards banquet and a farewell brunch.

Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson, Commander in Chief, U.S. Transportation Command, and Air Mobility Command commander, presented a Young Leadership award to Capt. Chuck Nessemier, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron at the awards banquet Saturday evening. Each year 12 winners receive the AT/A award at the national convention.

"He competed against all specialties from the whole command," said Lt. Col. John Zazworsky, 437 AW acting staff director, chief of safety and Low Country Chapter A/TA board advisor. "That's a pretty big feather in his cap."

Keynote speakers at the convention were Gen. Ralph Eberhart, U.S. Space Command commander in chief, Gen. Eric Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff, and Robertson.

Airman 1st Class Josh Zellers, 437th Transportation Squadron vehicle operations dispatcher, said Shinseki was his favorite of the three. "I never realized how much the Army relies on us for everything, to get where they're going," said Zellers.

Of the other 33 seminars offered, 19 were AMC and Tanker Airlift Control Center briefs. Others were Air Staff, Air Education and Training Command and Air Mobility Warfare Center air mobility perspectives. There were also several seminars in which air mobility "war stories" were told.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Eagle, 437th Support Group command section information manager, said her favor-

ite seminar was about Operation Babylift. Col. Regina Aune, 437th Medical Group commander, was one of the briefers and a survivor of a C-5 crash that occurred shortly after takeoff while airlifting orphans out of Vietnam during the 1975 evacuation of Saigon. Aune was a flight nurse for the Operation Babylift mission, and she joined a pilot and loadmaster for the seminar to relate their experiences on that flight.

"Col. Aune was right there, a young lieutenant, a hero," said Eagle.

Attendees were also able to sign up for Boeing tours of the C-17 production lines. "That was the best part to me," said Capt. Elaine Washington, 437th Medical Operations Squadron flight medicine nurse manager. "I enjoyed seeing how it's set up. It's a huge plant."

Several receptions daily provided an opportunity for attendees to visit with old friends and network with others in the air mobility community.

"I got to see a lot of friends from different bases I'd lost contact with," said Eagle.

"The convention was kind of a rebluing experience," she said. "It instituted a lot of pride and esprit de corps, pride in the profession of arms."

Findley gave high praise to the convention and to the Low Country Chapter board for planning the trip. "I went to my first one of these conventions in 1996, and as long as I'm capable, I'll keep going," he said. "It's a great experience for everybody—learning, having a good time, and sharing ideas. It's great training and great comradery. Dave Rodriguez and his team did a fabulous job coordinating the trip."

The national AT/A has more than 4,000 members, according to Rodriguez. Membership costs \$25 annually, and membership benefits and programs include a quarterly magazine, annual national conventions, educational programs, college



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

Lt. Col. Dave Rodriguez (right), 17th Airlift Squadron director of operations and Low Country Chapter of the Airlift/Tanker Association president, welcomes Chief Master Sgt. Ernest Houston, 6th Maintenance Squadron chief of maintenance, MacDill AFB, Fla., aboard a C-17.

scholarships, awards and heritage programs to recognize outstanding contributors to air mobility.

The Low Country Chapter has 239 members. One hundred forty-six are active duty or DOD civilians assigned to CAFB, 43 are Boeing employees, and the rest are retirees and others from the local air mobility community. To join the chapter, cost is a \$10 one-time fee for staff sergeants and below, \$15 for all others.

The Low Country Chapter is always looking for new members, said 1st Lt. Grant Meadows, membership chairman and 437th Maintenance Squadron maintenance flight commander. "We need more support people and more enlisted. The Airlift/Tanker Association is great for retention because you get to see the big picture," he said.

The chapter meets quarterly and has social functions and fundraisers throughout the year. The next planned event is a road rally, Nov. 17, at noon. "It's kind of like a scavenger hunt in vehicles," said Mead-

ows. Everyone is invited, but there is a limit of 30 teams with a minimum of two people per team. The cost per team is \$30 plus four non-perishable food items and includes two free t-shirts and free food and drinks. Prizes will go to the top finishers.

During the cross-country flight from MacDill to Los Alamitos field, the crew aerial refueled with MacDill KC-135s. Passengers were rotated to the cockpit to view the sister wing aircraft refueling the C-17.

Rodriguez said CAFB teamed up with its active duty sister wing in part to fulfill crewmember training currency. "It was a perfect fit," he said. "We were able to help them by picking up their people, and they were able to help us with our air refueling training requirements."

Zellers said the trip was a good learning experience. "It's a chance to get out and see what other aspects of airlift are, like refueling," he said. "And it's a chance to meet high ranking Air Force leaders and other air mobility personnel."

Raise

continued from page 1

Savings Plan, according to the release. The plan, which is already used in the Federal Employees Retirement System, will allow military members to invest a percentage of their pre-tax pay toward retirement. Taxes on participants' investments and earnings are deferred while in the plan. Details remain to be worked out.

The budget also changes some aspects of the TRICARE military medical system, according to the release. TRICARE Prime Remote now covers active-duty personnel and their family members. TRICARE Prime will eliminate the co-payments for the family members. Travel reimbursements to those who must go more than 100 miles to see a TRICARE

health-care provider are now authorized.

In the release, the biggest TRICARE change was how TRICARE covers Medicare-eligible retirees. The act is supposed to restructure TRICARE to allow Medicare-eligible military retirees and their family members to continue their coverage beginning in fiscal year 2002. Medicare-eligible beneficiaries would pay no co-payments, deductibles, TRICARE enrollment fees or premiums. Any medical expense not covered by Medicare will be paid by TRICARE.

"Details still need to be worked out," said Leonard Millender, 437th Medical Group benefits advisor. "It's too early right now to talk about the exact effects of the program. TRICARE Management will be briefing us in the next couple weeks."

Operation Christmas Child at CAFB

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Murphy
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB personnel are encouraged to participate in Operation Christmas Child by dropping a shoebox filled with personal items into a squadron collection box or the base chapel by Wednesday.

The boxes will be gathered and shipped to Samaritan's Purse in Boone, N.C., where they will be sent to more than 2.3 million children in 50 countries, said Kathie Canino, Charleston AFB project spokesperson.

"We are attempting to get 500 boxes this year," said Senior Master Sgt. James Moody, 437th Operations Group superintendent. "We collected over 300 last year,

so we know we can do it."

Personnel need only pick up a brochure from a squadron representative and follow the instructions.

According to the brochure, the first thing to do is find a shoe box and decide whether it will be for a girl or a boy and the age category. Fill the box with a variety of gifts to include small toys, school supplies and hygiene items. Do not include any used, war-related or perishable items. Liquids, medicines and breakable items are also discouraged.

"You may also include a hair brush or a comb," said Canino. "Other items needed are gum, hard candy, a toothbrush and a bar of soap."

Many people wrap the box with Christmas decoration.

"If you wrap the box, please ensure you wrap the lid separate so the box can be inspected before shipping," said Canino. "The last thing you do is to place a check for five dollars, payable to Samaritan's Purse, on top of the contents, place a rubber band around the box and drop off to the pick-up point in your squadron."

The final collection point will be at the base chapel where all the squadron boxes will be brought.

"If you don't make it to the squadron drop-off box, you can always drop it off to the chapel," said Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Newton. "We also have additional forms available."

For more information, call your squadron representative or Moody at 963-6009.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Manager of the Year: The 437th Airlift Wing Outstanding USAF Personnel Manager/Education and Trainer Manager of the Year ceremony is Thursday, 2 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The event is open to everyone and dress is duty uniform. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Johnny Cunningham at 963-4548 or Master Sgt. Steven Harris at 963-4504.

Retirement Ceremony: The 437th Logistics Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Andre Woods Nov. 17, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call 963-2342.

Retirement ceremony: The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. John Solomon Nov. 21, 1 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Anyone wishing to make a presentation should contact Master Sgt. JoAnne Miller at 963-4275. To RSVP, call 963-4955.

Around the base

OSA: The Officers' Spouses' Association is holding a meeting Tuesday, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. A pasta dinner will be served, along with a demonstration about holiday dessert secrets by a pastry and bread chef. The cost is \$12 for club members and \$15 for non-members. RSVP by Sunday by calling 871-9829 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

School committee: The base school committee will meet Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the Family Support Center. Dr. Owen Bush, Charleston County District 4 superintendent will be the guest speaker. For more information, call 963-2200.

One-way Road

One-way traffic flow started Monday on a portion of South O'Neal Avenue, starting at Mitchell Drive and ending at Mitchell Circle. There is also a three-way stop at the corner of Mitchell Drive and South O'Neal Avenue.

These changes are part of the short-term solution to traffic congestion near the Lambs Elementary School Gate.

The long-term solution for this area includes constructing a road, parking lot and drop-off point between South O'Neal Avenue and West Jackson Drive.



Charleston Profile

Senior Airman Forrest Aspinwall
17th Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Forrest Aspinwall is a loadmaster in the 17th Airlift Squadron. He cross-trained from missile maintenance and arrived at Charleston AFB in July 1999.

"I cross-trained to travel," said Aspinwall. "The job at F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming wasn't rewarding enough. I wanted to see the world."

After touring a C-17 and the 17 AS with his father while on leave in 1997, Aspinwall put in his paperwork to cross-train, requesting only the loadmaster career field and CAFB. He said he was surprised it was accepted because other people in his unit were denied their requests to cross-train. "I think it was basically the hand of God," he said.

Aspinwall said what he likes most about his job, in addition to the travel, is the responsibility entrusted to loadmasters. "You're in charge of the whole back end of the plane," he said. "An airman basic has just as much responsibility as a master sergeant, when he's on the plane."

Aspinwall is a native of Jesup, Ga., near Savannah. His mother and father live in Jesup, and his sister lives in Brunswick, Ga. "Being away for 3.5 years, I didn't get a chance to go home much," said Aspinwall. "Now I get to go home more often."

"When I go home I'm like a country boy," he said. "I put on my work boots and work on the farm, just like I did growing up."



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

Aspinwall describes himself as a history buff. He said the best place he's ever traveled to was Normandy Beach, France, for the 56th anniversary of D-Day, where he spent time with World War II veterans.

Aspinwall likes Charleston because it's a historical town. "And I love the South," he said.

Aspinwall was named 437th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter Wednesday. He is working on a Community College of the Air Force degree and has 12 flying hours toward a private pilot's license.

FOD Walk: The Charleston AFB semi-annual FOD Walk is Thursday, 9 a.m., at Hangar 700. The walk should not last more than one hour. Prizes will be awarded to the hidden "Golden Bolt" finders. For more information, call 963-4705.

Chiefs' Group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will meet Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from the Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union will address the group. All chiefs are encouraged to attend.

Drill judges: Officers and NCOs are needed to be judges at Charleston Southern University for a drill competition Nov. 18. The competition is sponsored by the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 772. No experience is needed. For more information, leave a message at 853-7026.

Recruiters: The "Recruit the Recruiter" Team will visit Charleston AFB Dec. 5, 10 a.m., at the base theater. They will give a one-hour briefing followed by application processing. Staff sergeants through master sergeants with less than 16 years total service are eligible to apply. Senior airmen with three to six years total service are also eligible to apply. For more information, visit www.rs.af.mil/RTR.htm.

Public notice: The Joint Commission on Accreditation of

Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of the 437th Medical Group Dec. 6-7 to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. Anyone who wishes to discuss quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided may send a letter no later than Nov. 29 to: Ambulatory Care Service Team, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, 1 Renaissance Blvd., Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. 60181.

GOV license: Effective Jan. 1, all personnel assigned to Charleston AFB must have an AF Form 2293, Government Driver's License, to operate a GOV. Squadron vehicle NCOs are responsible for ensuring their personnel acquire the licenses. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jason Hodges at 963-4076.

Christmas Trees: The Charleston Square and Compass Club will not be selling Christmas trees on Charleston AFB this year due to manpower shortages. The club has been selling the trees here since 1968 and has donated trees and some proceeds to base organizations as well as off-base charities. For more information, or to assist the club for tree sales in 2001, call I.V. Butler at 552-1856.

Medical records: The 437th Medical Group has decentralized the

outpatient records section. The Primary Care Manager sections now keep records for their patients. The records section will be conducting annual inventory in January. The records of military family members and retirees who have not been seen since December 1998 will be forwarded to the National Personnel Records Center. Records of retirees using TRICARE Prime and active duty members and dependents using TRICARE standard will not be forwarded.

Family Support Center

Hearts Apart: Hearts Apart is an on-going program for spouses of deployed service members. The program offers such services as e-mail, morale calls, videophone calls and free oil changes. For information, contact Tech. Sgt. Ken Gilmore at 963-5630.

Pre-Deployment Briefing: Thursday and Nov. 30, 4 p.m., and Monday and Nov. 27, 8 a.m.

Car Buying: Tuesday, 9-11 a.m.

TAP Three-Day Workshop: Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Building Self Esteem in Children: Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

Mini Job Fair: Thursday, 3-5 p.m.

Resume II: Nov. 20, 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Troops-to-Teachers: Nov. 27, 10-11 a.m.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

Published by Diggle Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 437th Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service.

Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, Air Force, or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All photos are Air Force photos unless identified otherwise.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

Advertising

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Charleston, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or e-mailed to sales@islandpapers.com. Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active duty military members and their spouses, retirees and Reservists.

Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604.

Mail to: 437 AW PAI
102 East Hill Blvd.
Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154
or send to:
dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander
Col. Vern M. "Rusty"
Findley II

Chief, Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

Editor
Senior Airman Jason Smith

Staff Writer
Capt. Tracy Velino

Photo Support
Base Visual Information Center

CFC campaign about to end, but there is still time to give

By Col. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

It was my honor once again to recognize our Diamond Sharp award recipients for October on Tuesday. Among those selected by their respective first sergeants for going above the call of duty are Staff Sgt. Jerry Molina, 437th Supply Squadron; Staff Sgt. Corey Clements, 437th Communications Squadron; Senior Airman Melanie Streeter, 437th Logistics Support Squadron; and Senior Airman Daniel Rose, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron.

The Airlift/Tanker Association convention got rave reviews from all of our participants. We were acknowledged by Gen. Speedy Martin, commander of the United States Air Forces Europe, and all others that we won the informal "spirit" award for the loudest cheering in support of our young A/TA leader, Capt. Chuck Nesemeier, who was awarded the 1999 Airlift/Tanker Association Outstanding Young Leadership Award. We are very proud of him for being one of only 12 to be honored.

Overall, the convention was everything it was advertised to be and more. There was a record crowd again.

A special thanks to Lt. Col. Dave Rodriguez, president of our Low Country A/TA chapter, for his hard work in organizing the trip, and all those folks who helped him out, to include A/TA members Capt. Jeff Ward, 1st Lt. Grant Meadows, Senior Master Sgt. Moody Blue, Master Sgt. Tracy Brewster and Rose Alexander. The MacDill AFB, Fla. folks who went on the trip with us were very complimentary of our support. I talked to so many folks, especially our young airmen, who learned even more about what this command does, where we stand and where we are headed. It was an excellent conference. See the related article on page 1 of the *Airlift Dispatch* for more information. You can mark your calendar for the next convention in Dallas, Texas, Oct 18-21. See you

there!

The Combined Federal Campaign golf tournament was held Wednesday. Special thanks to Master Sgt. Stephen Dent, 437 LSS, and the men and women of the 437 LSS who helped organize the tournament. We had about 120 folks participate, and as usual, everyone had a great time.

We continue to raise funds for the campaign and hope to have it all wrapped up soon. If you haven't contributed, please contact one of your CFC coordinators...it is not too late to make a difference!

We had a chance to recognize our "best-of-the-best" at the quarterly awards breakfast Wednesday. Receiving awards were: Captain Stan Davis, 15th Airlift Squadron, Senior Company Grade Officer of the Quarter; 2nd Lt. Richard Bentley, 437 CS, Junior CGO of the Quarter; Master Sgt. Tracy Brewster, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter; Tech. Sgt. Donald Eagle, 17th Airlift Squadron, NCO of the Quarter; Senior Airman Forrest Aspinwall, 17 AS; Airman of the Quarter; Senior Airman Jessica Sweet, 437th Supply Squadron, Honor Guard Airman of the Quarter; Rosetta Alexander, 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, Civilian of the Quarter, Category I; and Betty Smith, 437th Contracting Squadron, Civilian of the Quarter, Category I.

We held a final tribute to many folks at our Air Expo 2000 recognition party Wednesday in the Charleston Club. This was our final tribute to those individuals who worked so hard to put on such a great air show for the public. We had a great turnout for the show and it was evident that the many months of planning and preparation were key in the show's success. Thanks again for all your hard work!

On Monday and Tuesday, we had the opportunity to process about 258 people and their equipment for an exercise deployment to Saudi Arabia. The exercise proved to be a valuable learning experi-



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, talks with Capt. Lenny Richoux, 437 AW executive officer, aboard a C-17 while on the ground at MacDill AFB, Fla., on the way to the Airlift/Tanker Association convention. Findley just finished as the pilot for the first leg of the trip.

ence for everyone. It has been a while since we've deployed a large number of people. I personally learned a lot. With the constant changeover of people in the wing and our high operations tempo, it was helpful to practice a mass deployment exercise. We've got some things to work on, but I'm confident we're up to the task. I appreciate everyone's hard work, attention to detail and safety throughout the exercise. This was good practice for our upcoming mobility exercise in January.

I would like to thank our project officers for the many visits from last week. I saw Gen. John W. Handy, Vice Chief of Staff of Headquarters U.S. Air Force, at the A/TA convention. He was still praising us about his recent visit with Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Bagnall, Commander in Chief, Strike Command, Royal Air Force (United Kingdom). Thanks to project officers Maj. Alex Bays and 1st Lt. Dan Dobbels of the 17 AS and our great protocol staff for their hard work on this visit.

A special kudo also to Capt. John Glassell, 437th Maintenance Squadron, for his hard work in arranging base tours for about 100 people attending the DOD Maintenance Symposium in Charleston. Capt. Jake Verhoef, 437th Logistics Group Quality Assurance, also did a superb job in taking care of Mr. Peter

Steffes, a staff member on the Subcommittee on Military Readiness, House Armed Services Committee, during his recent visit to the base.

Brig. Gen. Jerry Black, 315th Airlift Wing commander, and I are pretty excited about our upcoming civic leader tour Wednesday and Thursday. We plan to take approximately 40 local civic leaders to Keesler AFB, Miss., and Patrick AFB, Fla. They will get a chance to see and experience the C-17 first-hand and learn more about the great men and women who make up the premier airlift wings on the face of the planet. We're doing our part to get the word out and show these folks what we do. Our hope is that we'll make some firm progress toward turning Charleston into an "Air Force" town by influencing these "movers and shakers" in the local community.

As we near the holidays, we need to look out for one another. As the number of social engagements increase and the stresses of the holidays approach, we should apply the concepts of operational risk management in all our off-duty activities. Try to "pre-flight" all your activities to minimize injuries or costly mistakes. You are the wing's greatest resource and I want everyone to be safe, healthy and happy! It's great to be a member of this outstanding team!

FEATURE

Environmental Engineer Flight watches over base wetlands

By Capt. Tracy Velino
437 AW Public Affairs

The next time you hunt for your golf ball in the woods on the Wrenwoods Golf Course here, tread carefully. Your ball may have rolled onto protected wetlands.

Charleston AFB is home to 333 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, 30 or 40 of which are in the woods on golf course property. Jurisdictional wetlands are wetlands regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

"The Army Corps of Engineers requires us to conduct studies periodically to determine the jurisdictional boundaries of the wetlands," said Al Urrutia, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Management Flight project manager. "Jurisdictional wetlands are wetlands delineated in that study. The Corps concurs on the results of the study, and then those wetlands are regulated by the Corps."

The last wetland survey at Charleston AFB was done in 1997.

"We contracted that study out," said Urrutia. "The contractor came in and spent about six months in the field with a global positioning satellite backpack on, determined where the line of wetlands was, and prepared a report for here, Hunley Park and North Field.

Certain types of soils, plants, and groundwater are required to

have a jurisdictional wetland, according to Urrutia.

In addition to the 333 acres of wetlands on the 3,733-acre main base, 21 of 271 acres on Hunley Park are wetlands. At North Auxiliary Field, 431 of its 2,392 acres are wetlands.

Members of the environmental flight are CAFB's stewards of the wetlands. "We coordinate with the ACOE and make sure the wetlands are not disturbed," said Harold Deese, environmental flight project manager.

The Clean Water Act requires federal agencies to preserve and maintain wetlands. "Anything you do to those wetlands, like a construction project, has to be coordinated through the ACOE," said Urrutia.

"Wetlands are sort of a filter for rainwater," said Deese. "As the rainwater goes through the wetlands, it filters out all the contaminants and goes back into the groundwater for recirculation. That's why wetlands are protected. It's a vital part of the recycling program for water."

Other wetland areas on the main base include: A nature trail near Bldg. 246, both ends of the runway and areas on the jogging trail.

In Hunley Park, the wetlands are along the banks of the Ashley River. "It's a beautiful view," said Keith Thompson, environmental flight.

The North Field wetlands are

listed as a habitat for federally designated species of concern.

"The wetlands at North Field are even more interesting than the ones here," said Deese. The wetlands there are suitable habitats for two species of concern, the Carolina Birds in a Nest plant and the gopher frog.

Federally designated species of concern are protected by the state of South Carolina even though they are not in that highest threatened and endangered species list, said Urrutia. "In other words they are not in that highest category, but we are required to treat them as if they were.

"The Carolina Birds in a Nest plant has been spotted at North Field," said Urrutia. "It's the only known plant species of that type in Orangeburg County."

Members of the environmental flight are not aware of any sightings of the gopher frog. "The gopher frog is very rare," said Deese. "There are very few places in South Carolina that have that kind of frog. We don't know if we have any up there, but it's a suitable habitat for them."

The endangered species act requires protection not just of the species but of suitable habitats for the species, said Urrutia.

Recently, CAFB completed a wetlands protection erosion control project on Wrenwoods Golf Course. Earthen storm water drainage ditches running through the golf course were eroding, causing sediments to accumulate where the ditches first entered wetland areas.

"When it rains, the heavy rains, all that water from the flightline comes racing through the concrete-lined portion of the ditch, slamming into the unlined portion and eroding it," Urrutia said.

The first step for the environmental flight was to consult with



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

A Green Anole suns itself in the Hunley Park wetlands.

the ACOE. "They said go ahead and do it, because really we were enhancing the wetlands and the work was being done on the ditches outside the wetlands, leading into the wetlands," Urrutia said.

Contractors re-graded the ditch walls in front of tee boxes one and eight, covered the walls with rock and moved some irrigation lines.

"Basically the project was to keep those walls that were eroding quickly from eroding any further," Urrutia said. "It was for the portions of the ditches that run through the golf course that were easy to access.

"It really has two effects from the environmental standpoint, the preservation and maintenance of the wetlands, and the storm water ditch itself," Urrutia said.

The project took about \$30,000 and two weeks to complete in September.

"It was a very simple, very important project," Urrutia said.

The CAFB wetlands are not marked or fenced in, but people don't normally go there because they're heavily wooded, Urrutia said. "It doesn't matter if people do go there as long as they don't litter."

So it's OK to continue to search for your ball in the woods at the Wrenwoods Golf Course. Just don't leave behind any plastic tees.



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

Airman 1st Class Jamie Kennedy, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, hits his ball toward the green after clearing the completed wetlands protection project with his previous shot.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

An overview of the 21 acres of Hunley Park wetlands.



MAGNOLIA PLACE DINING FACILITY

On the Menu



Today

Lunch - herbed chicken breast, yakisoba, rice pilaf, potatoes, club spinach, glazed carrots, green beans

Dinner - pork chops with mushroom gravy, lasagna, potato wedges, rice, tomatoes, squash, asparagus

Saturday

Lunch - barbecue spareribs, fried shrimp, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, corn-on-the-cob, broccoli

Dinner - yankee pot roast, sweet sausage, potato au gratin, rice, cabbage, cauliflower, black-eyed peas

Sunday

Lunch - manicotti, chicken, baked potatoes, rice, beans, mixed vegetables, southern-style green beans

Dinner - salisbury steak, baked chicken, rice, mashed potatoes, succotash, fried okra, bean combo

Monday

Lunch - stuffed pork chops, tamale pie, fried fish, jefferson noodles, buttered potatoes, corn o'brien, brussels sprouts, simmered pinto beans

Dinner - roast veal, grilled bratwurst, rice pilaf, oven-glow potatoes, spin-

ach, cauliflower, green beans

Tuesday

Lunch - baked ham, pepper steak, caribbean jerk chicken, rice, quick-baked potato halves, chinese-fried cabbage, carrots, peas

Dinner - roast loin of pork, hungarian goulash, rice pilaf, lyonnaise potatoes, okra and tomato gumbo, corn, bean combo

Wednesday

Lunch - honey-glazed cornish hens, southern-fried catfish, spaghetti and meat sauce, rice, oven-browned potatoes, cauliflower combo, squash, southern-style greens

Dinner - swedish meatballs, chicken, crispy potato wedges, rice, brussels sprouts, stewed tomatoes with croutons, mixed vegetables

Thursday

Lunch - sukiyaki, chicken parmesan, fried fish, rice, mashed potatoes, broccoli, peas with mushrooms, corn

Dinner - roast beef, veal steaks, rice, macaroni and cheese, succotash, carrots and celery armadine, french-style green beans

(Menu subject to change without notice.)



National Anthem

Staff Sgt. Janita Brown, 437th Services Squadron, prepares to sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" before Saturday's South Carolina Stingray's game. Saturday was military appreciation night at the Coliseum.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan Murphy

Fitness & Sports

Refs forced to invoke 'mercy rule' First Six rolls over CGOC

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The First Six handed the Company Grade Officers' Council a 28-8 loss in a flag-football game known as the "Brag Bowl" Nov. 3.

The First Six took a quick eight-point lead on their first possession and never looked back.

"It was a fun time for all, but the First Six prevailed convincingly," said Michael Hall, First Six president. "We stormed, normed and out-performed the CGOCs. The refs instituted the 'mercy rule' and stopped the game. The Wing Top 3 is next!"

Losing football games continues to be a problem for the CGOC football squad. They currently have an 0-2 record, but will continue to search for an opponent they can win against.

"Although we didn't win, the CGOC squad played well as a team," said Zabrina Robinson, CGOC. "And really, that's what Friday was all about. Unfortunately, I have to go back to our council with an 0-2 record, but you haven't seen the last of the CGOC yet!"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

H.P. Bordeaux, First Six, prepares to pass under pressure from Zabrina Robinson, CGOC.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Gary Wettengel, Company Grade Officers' Council, brings down Christopher Boule, First Six.

AF B-ball shocks local teams

By 2nd Lt. Celeste Rodriguez
437 CS

The curtains opened for this year's NCAA Division I basketball season in exhibition play, and three local teams have already received wake-up calls, Air Force style. After only two weeks of training and playing together, the Air Force Men's Basketball Team has made its name known on the court defeating tough opponents Voorhess College, Charleston Southern University and South Carolina State University.

The intense match ups have been nail biters, but the team prevailed with a 94-89 win in overtime over CSU Saturday and a close 63-61 finish over South Carolina State, a contender in last year's "Big Dance," Tuesday. The coaching staff has used the exhibition games to gradually fine-tune the team's roster from the training camp's original 27 candidates to 15, with only 12 comprising the final team. Head Coach Don Fellers couldn't be happier about the team's progress and preparation for the upcoming Armed Forces Tournament, Nov. 15-17. "The contribution from everyone was phenomenal," Fellers said.

While the Air Force team has maintained an impressive 5-0 record, including two big wins over semi-pro Charleston Flyers, Saturday's match up against the College of Charleston will be one of the final tests before next week's tournament. The Cougars are returning a roster of veterans from a 24-6 season last year.

"It's a great opportunity," Fellers said. "That's why Charleston AFB is so special, because they line us up to play these kinds of programs. We really want the base community to come out and support our team."

Limited free tickets for Saturday's game are available at the Fitness Center. The game is at 7 p.m. in the College of Charleston's Johnson Center downtown. In addition, there will be a "Meet the Team" gathering today at 6 p.m. in Charleston Club. For more information, contact Eddie Goad at 963-4321.

Week Twelve

Name/Phone #: _____

Comments: _____

Sunday, Nov. 19

Arizona @ **Philadelphia**

Buffalo @ **Kansas City**

Carolina @ **Minnesota**

Cincinnati @ **New England**

Cleveland @ **Tennessee**

Detroit @ **New York Giants**

Indianapolis @ **Green Bay**

Oakland @ New Orleans

Tampa Bay @ Chicago

New York Jets @ Miami

San Diego @ **Denver**

Atlanta @ **San Francisco**

Dallas @ **Baltimore**

Jacksonville @ **Pittsburgh**

Monday, Nov. 20

Washington @ **St. Louis**

Monday night total points: _____

Swami's Monday night points: 50

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.

The Swami's e-mail address is Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks can also be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600.

Picks must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 17, 4 p.m.



Look out for the Roadrunner

By The Swami
Pigskin Prognosticator

"Beep, Beep!" The "Roadrunner" has taken first place for week 10.

The Roadrunner (real name unknown) cruised past Gary Wettengel and Brian Welch with an 11-4 record. In fact, all three had the same record, but the Roadrunner had the best tiebreaker score. Of course, The Swami was next with a 10-5 record. The Swami is having a very good year thus far and things are only getting better. The Swami has to mention the worst record for week 10. With an ugly 4-11 record, Don Krahn is making his "comeback."

Krahn sent in his picks with these words: "This is my comeback week." Congratulations Don, that is the worst record this year. Keep it up!

Week 11 looks like a tough week for picking. There are some tough games on tap and a real thriller between the "Cowgirls" and Bengals. One of the girly teams will win—get it? Cow "girls" and Ben "gals." Cute, huh?

As promised, here are the top ten pigskin pickers after 10 weeks. These people have played at least seven weeks. Remember that you must play at least 14 weeks to be eligible for the Swami Grand Slam prize. There are seven weeks left so if you think you have a chance of getting by the Swami, you better put whatever brain matter you have left to good use. The Swami is definitely not worried by the names on this list. Read 'em and weep!

1. Col. Kaan	.700
2. Tom Smith	.671
3. Beth Marvin	.667
4. George Thompson	.657
5. Roadrunner	.656
6. Dennis Ingold	.650
7. Swami	.650
8. Chris Gregorio	.650
9. Lawrence Strother	.649
10. Anthony Palangi	.643

In addition, the person with the worst overall record is John Carter. I will not embarrass him by printing his pitiful record. The Swami will just say it's not pretty. Way to go John!