

DISPATCH

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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

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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

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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