

Dispatch

AIRLIFT

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Vol. 39, No. 45

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, November 17, 2000



Taking Aim

photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi, 1 CTCS

Senior Airman Rob Russell, 1st Combat Camera, aims an INMARSAT antenna at the Mississippi National Guard's Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., during the 14th Air Expeditionary Wing IGX5A. IGX5A is an Operational Readiness exercise simulating the deployment of an Air Expeditionary Force to a forward operating location, and is designed to evaluate the readiness of U.S. Air Force personnel.

LMR training helps relations between base leaders, union

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

The relationship between supervisors, base leadership, shop stewards and union leaders has improved as a result of basewide Labor Management Relations classes conducted in August and October.

The training, provided by the civilian personnel office and the union, is a half-day course designed to familiarize supervisors of civilian employees with the "ins and outs" of the memorandum of agreement between Local 1869, American Federation of Government Employees, and supervisors.

The training also provided ideas on promoting a collaborative approach to working with the union, which represents most of the base's civilian employees. All supervisors of civilian employees, base leaders and union representatives should receive this training by the end of December.

"We needed to emphasize to our workforce that before changes to a civilian employees work conditions or job could be made, our supervisors first needed to consult with the union—it's the law," said Tony Owens, an employee relations specialist in the Civilian Personnel Office and a former AFGE Local 1869 shop steward. "Although the ultimate decision in the collaborative approach rests with management, we want to involve the union in those decisions that affect civilian employees. Union and management are committed to the same goals."

Col. Dennis Kaan, 437th Support Group commander, reminded class attendees that labor management relations were quite challenging. "We want to be able to resolve disputes at the lowest level," he said. "Supervisors need to be supervisors. We need to work together as a team in the true spirit that is Team Charleston."

Kaan mentioned efforts to establish an alternate dispute resolution process to resolve problems, and he asked attendees to put past issues behind them and look ahead.

see LMR, page 3

Medal of Honor recipient John L. Levitow dies

Sgt. John L. Levitow, one of only 16 airmen awarded the Medal of Honor for exceptional heroism during war-time, died Nov. 8 at his home in Connecticut after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 55.

Levitow, the lowest ranking airman to earn the medal, received the honor as a result of an incident Feb. 24, 1969. At that time, the airman first class served as loadmaster aboard a severely damaged AC-47 gunship flying a mission over Long Binh, South Vietnam.

Suffering from more than 40 shrapnel wounds in his back and legs caused by a mortar blast, he saw a smoking magnesium flare amid a

jumble of spilled ammunition canisters. Despite loss of blood and partial loss of feeling in his right leg, the 23-year-old threw himself on the flare, hugged it close, dragged himself toward an open cargo door and hurled the flare out. Almost simultaneously, the flare ignited outside the door and away from the munitions.

President Richard M. Nixon presented the Medal of Honor to Levitow on Armed Forces Day, May 14, 1970.

After Levitow left the Air Force, he worked in the field of veteran's affairs for more than 22 years. His most recent work was developing and designing veteran programs.

AMC named a Charleston-based

C-17 "The Spirit of John L. Levitow" in his honor, Jan. 23, 1998.

During the ceremony, former AMC Commander Gen. Walter Kross said, "We can easily call Sgt. John Levitow a hero, but he has continuously requested that he doesn't want to be known as a hero, that his life amounts to much more than those 10 heroic minutes. He has given so much to thousands of American men and women in the United States Air Force uniform, and even some who don't wear the uniform. He has shaped their lives."

Levitow will be buried Saturday, with full military honors, in Arlington National Cemetery. (AFPN)



Courtesy photo

John L. Levitow examines the cockpit of the C-17 named for him, the *Spirit of John L. Levitow*, Jan. 23, 1998, in Long Beach, Calif.

IN THE NEWS

Native American Heritage Month

Celebrating a history of service

November is the time to recognize the tremendous contributions Native Americans have made in preserving our freedom by celebrating Native American Heritage Month.

It's estimated that more than 12,000 Native Americans served in the U.S. military in World War I and more than 44,000 served during the WW II era of 1945-1945. More than 40,000 Native Americans left their homes to work in ordnance depots, factories, and other war industries, during this time period. They also invested more than \$50 million in war bonds, and contributed generously to the Red Cross and the Army and Navy Relief societies.

During the Vietnam Era, more than 42,000 Native American's served with a strong sense of patriotism and courage, more than 90 percent of them volunteers. Their contributions in U.S. military combat continued in the 1980s and 1990s as they saw duty in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and the Persian Gulf.

The Cherokee Indians were major players when the space shuttle discovery was launched in October 2000, because its primary payload was built by Cherokee Nation Industries in Stilwell, Okla. During the 21st Century, Native Americans can be expected to carry on their centuries-old warrior tradition - serving with pride, courage, and distinction.

A Native American serving during WW II said it best: "United States military service provides an outlet for Native Americans to fulfill a cultural purpose rooted in tradition - to fight and defend their homeland. This purpose is particularly important since it comes when young people of the tribe are normally not old enough to assume a leadership role in their traditional culture. The cultural expectation to be warrior provides a purpose in life and is an important step in gaining status in Native American culture." **(Information submitted by 437th Military Equal Opportunity Office)**

Five CAFB SNCOs make rank

The following senior master sergeants were selected for promotion to chief master sergeant:

Carl Austin Jr., 437 LSS	Jeffrey Kallas, USAF ETAC
Thomas Hare, 1 CTCS	James Moody, 14 AS
Carl Hunsinger, 437 TRNS	Terrie Powell, 437 SPTG



November promotions

Airman

Clark, Anthony Jr.
Gamboa, Rogelio III
Howze, Ronald
Reyes, Oscar

Airman First Class

Alexander, Timothy
Bruni, William Jr.
Bryan, Eric
Figueroa, Maria
Fruth, Jessica
Harper, William
Lester, Lucienda
Moore, Roger
Wicklund, Kenneth

Senior Airman

Babcock, Amanda*
Berman, Evangeline*
Cameron, Anthony
Deleo, Matthew
Erbaugh, Eric
Fuschich, John Jr.
Gerber, Christopher
Hart, Delano
Herron, John Jr.
Howard, Patsy

Jasinski, Gregory*
Jennings, Christina
Keller, Matthew
Lescoe, Hunter
Lorick, Freddie
Mcdowell, Charles
Melo, Daniel
Musselman, Renee
Ouzts, Kendrick
Paul, Steven
Ruiz, Christopher
Samples, Billie
Taylor, Allen
Trevino, Michael
Wesley, Jeremiah
White, Michael
Wright, Robert

(*Indicates below-the-zone promotion)

Staff Sergeant

Atkinson, Chad
Bostic, Corey
Burton, Elgin
Caldwell, Robert
Cassady, Christopher
Curtis, Lesedric
Fuqua, Jeffrey
Gorman, Cherri

Grace, Thomas Jr.
King, Michael
Larsen, Rutorrestt
Mayfield, Mirta
Morley, Kimberly
Morris, Tina
Nuckoles, Rodney
Simon, Keisha
Wilkins, Shannon

Technical Sergeant

Calhoun, Richard
Eibell, Kurt
Elwood, Darin
Hall, Michael
Hayes, Michael
Miles, John
Weaver, Thomas
Zimmerman, Kelly

Master Sergeant

Godwin, Steven
Mellinger, Mark
Moran, Daniel
Pippin, Charles
Rispoli, William Jr.

Chief Master Sergeant

Willis, Melvin

CAFB observes Military Family Week

Sunday through November 26 has been declared Military Family Week, and Charleston AFB has scheduled a variety of events to celebrate:

Family Support Center 963-4406

■ Covey's "The 7-Habits of Highly Effective Families" Seminar, 28-29 Nov, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (limited space)

Youth Programs 963-5684

■ School Age Program Parent Breakfast (coffee, juice, muffins), Monday, 6:30-7:15 a.m. Parents are provided the opportunity to enjoy breakfast with their enrolled School Age Program child(ren)

■ School Age Program Open House, Tuesday, 3-6 p.m. Family members are provided the opportunity to visit the SAP environments, visit with their child(ren)'s teachers, experience hands-on activities, and enjoy light refreshments

Child Development Center 963-4366

■ Parent/Child Thanksgiving Feast, Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. to noon. Parents are invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch with their enrolled CDC child(ren)

■ Parent Breakfast, Wednesday, 8-8:45 a.m. Parents of enrolled CDC children are invited to enjoy breakfast with their child(ren)

Family Child Care 767-2134

■ FCC Open House, Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon. Open to anyone interested in seeing the quality of care being offered in FCC homes. Visit one or all of the homes listed: 1717 Frick Ave., 1811B S. O'Neal Ave., 2204B Lawson Dr., 1850A Jones Cir., and 1309 Hitchcock Ave.

Starlifter Lanes 963-3315

■ Family Bowling (all day during open bowling), Sunday through Nov. 26, \$.25 a game per person, free shoes. Children must be with parents.

Outdoor Recreation 963-5271

■ Christmas Outlet Shopping Trip to Myrtle Beach, Saturday. (Must RSVP)

■ Family Climbing Day, Tuesday, 5-7 pm. \$20 for the entire family (six people maximum per family)

■ Christmas Outlet Shopping Trip to Hilton Head, Wednesday (Must RSVP)

Wrenwoods Golf Course 963-4174

■ The Golf Course will offer range tokens to junior golfers accompanied by their parents, Sunday through Nov. 26.



Securing the mission Staff Sgt. Sean M. Worrell, 1CTCS

Senior Airman Timothy Stawski, 437th Aerial Port Squadron Mobility Flight, secures an aircraft engine onto a K-loader that came off of a Charleston-based C-17 Globemaster III, while deployed to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

Charleston receives honorable mention for partnership award

Charleston's improving relationship with Local 1869, American Federation of Government Employees, the official bargaining unit for base civilian employees, was recognized with an honorable mention for the 2000 John N. Sturdivant National Partnership Award. Charleston was one of only four agencies to receive the special mention. Forty-one nominations were submitted for the 2000 award, which was renamed in 1998 to honor the late John N. Sturdivant, former President of AFGE and one of the driving forces behind labor-management partnerships, according to an AFGE news release.

To recognize and promote outstanding partnerships in the executive branch, the National Partnership Council established the award in 1995 to highlight successes in areas that save money, increase productivity and improve customer service.

Relations today between management and the union are characterized by trust and communication, according to Charleston's award package. "Significant increases in productivity are a byproduct of the enhanced relationship. Besides the savings in litigation costs and use of official time, it has made base personnel keenly aware of the advantages of a collaborative relationship versus one based on compliance."

"AFGE Locals continue to walk away with awards at the John N. Sturdivant Partnership Awards," said AFGE National President Bobby L. Harnage. "The awards represent hard work and sacrifice federal employees put into labor-management partnerships in the federal government."

Harnage is scheduled to be a guest speaker in the Charleston Club Nov. 29 at 11:30 a.m. Anyone interested in attending the luncheon can call 963-4501 or 963-5765.

LMR

continued from page 1

"It's not always going to be easy and I can't say we'll never have another unfair labor practice, but with our new approach, hopefully those instances should be rare and infrequent," Kaan said.

He added that relations with the base and AFGE Local 1869 have improved because communications and education between the two has increased as a result of a new strategic plan.

Relations with the union and supervisors have improved in the past year to the point where no unfair labor practices and only two grievances have been filed since March 1999. The improvement has been so dramatic that the base was awarded an "honorable mention" for the 2000 John N. Sturdivant National Partnership Award.

Richard Egal, president of AFGE Local 1869, said the training has been an outstanding initiative.

"The training gives management and supervisors a different perspective," he said. "It gives everyone a better appreciation of the rights of civilian employees and their union."

Owens said the characteristics of our civilian workforce have dramatically changed over the years. Most civilian employees are considerably older than their supervisors. Complicating matters was the loss of 270 civilian positions in the past five years.

"In five years, more than 45 percent of civilians will be eligible for retirement," Owens said. Those stres-

sors were factors in why relations with Local 1869 needed to be improved, since 680 civilians are covered by Local 1869.

Owens said management and the union are committed to the same goal of taking care of their people. "We should err on the side of providing too much information to the union, rather than less. The more the union knows in a changing situation, the more they can help. The better informed our workforce, the better our relationship."

Local 1869 decided where to place shop stewards in the various areas, mostly in those squadrons and flights where there are many civilian employees.

"Think of your union shop steward as an opinion leader," Owens said. Realize that some people will talk to their union representative instead of talking to you. Don't see that as a negative, use that to your advantage and continue improving communications."



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Mike Petersen, chief counselor for the Equal Employment Opportunity and a vehicle maintenance supervisor in the 437th Transportation Squadron, discusses implementation procedures for an alternate dispute resolution panel with Local 1869 AFGE representatives and supervisors Tuesday.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement ceremony: The 437th Logistics Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Andre Woods today at 3 p.m. in 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 Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Charleston Club. Anyone wishing to make a presentation can contact Master Sgt. JoAnne Miller at 963-4275. To RSVP, call 963-4955.

Around the base

Toys for Tots: Military families who need assistance for the holidays should contact the Family Support Center. The Toys for Tots program supplies families in need with toys for their children. For more information, or to volunteer, call the Toys for Tots hotline at 743-4947.



Drill judges: Officers and NCOs are needed to be judges at Charleston Southern University for a drill competition Saturday. 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.

Semi-annual FOD walk: As part of our continuing Foreign Object Damage Prevention program, we will conduct our semiannual FOD walk Nov. 29. All base personnel are encouraged to attend. The walk begins at 9 a.m., but participants are asked to arrive 15 minutes early.

The walk starts on the south end of Hangar 700 and sweeps the entire length of the flightline. Line badges are not required to participate and transportation will be provided to return individuals to Hangar 700. Three "golden bolts" will be hidden

and the participants who discover them will be awarded prizes for attention to detail. One winner will walk away with a free turkey. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Robert Blake at 963-4705.

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, 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 government vehicle.

Squadron vehicle NCOs are responsible for ensuring their person-

Charleston Profile

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ramirez
437th Dental Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ramirez is the NCOIC for the Red Cross Dental Assistant Training Program and Dental Radiology for the 437th Dental Squadron. She is responsible for the six-month training of students learning to be dental assistants.

"I supervise their training," said Ramirez. "We have graduated more than 60 students since we started the program. It's a good feeling when the students come back and tell you thanks."

Ramirez has been in the Air Force for over 10 years, spending the last five here at Charleston.

"I love the southern hospitality," said Ramirez. "I was born in Lafayette, Louisiana and find Charleston very family oriented."

Ramirez was a dental assistant before joining the Air Force and has been able to pursue her education while enjoying her time in the military.

"I have been able to finish my associates degree," said Ramirez. "I will definitely stay in and work on my education."

Ramirez is very active in sports by playing softball, coaching the squadron volleyball team and refereeing intramural volleyball.

"Where else can you play sports and fell like part of a family," said Ramirez. "The dental clinic is really close."

When Ramirez isn't playing sports she is working toward her goal of one day becoming a first sergeant. "I like to help people and guide them in their career choices."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan Murphy

nel 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 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.

Leave request: Patricia Wright, DFAS Charleston, is experiencing a medical emergency and has been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program.

Anyone wishing to donate annual leave can do so by completing Optional Form 630-B and forwarding it to 437 MSS/DPCE.

Education

Trident Technical College: Trident Technical College is holding early enrollment for the spring semester until Nov. 28. Classes begin Jan. 8 and end April 30.

TTC has also created a new certificate program "Transportation and Logistics." The certificate program is taken from the Associate's Degree in Transportation and Logistics. For more information, call 963-4581.

Planning for the future: The Base Education Center is offering the Strong Interest Inventory and Discover to assist in identifying career objectives, educational goals and job titles that reflect your interests.

Preferences and can be completed at your own pace, and a detailed report consistent with information provided will be generated. Anyone interested can call 963-4575 or stop by Bldg. 221.

Family Support Center

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

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

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

Smooth Move: Nov. 30, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For information or to register, call 963-4406.

Red Cross Dental Assisting Program being offered

The 437th Dental Flight is accepting applications for the next Red Cross Dental Assisting Program, which begins Jan. 8. The program includes an academic phase as well as hands on dental assisting training.

Some duties include preparing a dental treatment room; taking and recording vital signs; preparing dental materials for use; and some administrative tasks. The program lasts six to seven months, with 40-hour class weeks. Benefits include certificate of training and obtaining a marketable skill.

Anyone interested in applying, should pick up an application at the dental clinic reception desk. Deadline to submit an application is Dec. 8. For information, call Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ramirez at 963-6841.



COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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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.

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SOLL II mission is coming back to Charleston

By Col Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

The Combined Federal Campaign has been extended another 10 days and will close out on Monday. We extended the campaign to ensure everyone was contacted and given the opportunity to contribute. We are very close to achieving our goal and the extra week will hopefully put us over the top. Charleston has traditionally been one of the largest contributors to this worthwhile campaign. Thank you for making a difference!

The Armed Forces Basketball championship games began Wednesday. On Friday, the Air Force team will play Navy at noon and the U.S. Marines at 8 p.m. on the Starlifter basketball court in the base Sports and Fitness Center. Please come out to the games to cheer our Air Force team to victory. All events are open to the base populace.

The closing ceremonies will be held immediately following the last game today. If you want more information, call 963-4321. I hope to see you there.

I met with a broad cross section of company grade officers attending the CGO orientation course on Monday. This training will broaden their horizons and expose them to many different areas on the base. The exposure to the many different functional areas should make them all better at what they do for this wing and our U.S. Air Force.

On Wednesday and Thursday, **Brig. Gen. Jerry Black**, 315th Airlift Wing commander, and I took 39 civic leaders to visit Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. and Patrick AFB, Fla. The trip was a great success and a superb opportunity to highlight our people and Air Force to the local community. Special thanks to our mission commander, **Maj. Steve Shope**, 14th Airlift Squadron, and **1st Lt. Beth Szucs**, 437 AW Public Affairs, for organizing the trip.

We will say farewell to **Chief Master Sgt. John Solomon**, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron chief enlisted manager, on the occasion of his retirement Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Charleston Club. We're going to miss his expertise and guidance. As the base's most senior chief, he served his country for more than 30 years with distinction. He and his spouse, Linda, will remain in the local area. We will hold a luncheon in their honor on Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Charleston Club. If you interested in attending the retirement luncheon and/or ceremony, please RSVP at 963-4955.

You may have read an article in the paper a few weeks ago about our new 437th Airlift Wing career assistance advisor, **Master Sgt. Matt Harless**. He's there to assist commanders, first sergeants and Charleston personnel with information to help our people make informed career decisions. He will play an active role in airmen retention and recruiting and is always ready to address your concerns or questions about entitlements, benefits and career issues. Call him for an appointment at 963-8004. His office is located in room 131 of the base education office.

Team Charleston rose to the occasion last week when **Admiral James O. Ellis**, Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and CINC, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, and a party of nine arrived here at 9:40 p.m. after jumping on-board one of our C-17s at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, after their aircraft had mechanical problems. We had great support from our drivers in the 437th Transportation Squadron and the 437th Aerial Port Squadron in loading their baggage. We also had outstanding assistance from the airport

police in helping us get this group on their way. We seamlessly ensured they were quickly transferred to their rental cars so they could travel to Columbia to catch an out-going flight. It took a great deal of teamwork from **Kathy Knichel**, and **1st Lt. Chris Hobbs** of our Protocol staff, and Team Charleston to make this happen so smoothly. Thanks to everyone who played a part!

Lt. Col. John Zazworsky will assume command of the 15th Airlift Squadron on Tuesday from **Lt. Col. Bill Erikson**. Bill and Melissa Erikson have done a great job leading the 15th and I'm looking forward to them moving up to become our new director of wing staff. I know John and Monica will do a similar outstanding job following in the footsteps of Bill and Melissa.

We are making good progress towards bringing the Special Operations Low Level II mission back to Charleston Air Force Base. The SOLL II mission returns to Charleston, having left in April 1999 when our specially configured C-141s were transferred to McGuire AFB, N.J.

The C-17 SOLL II mission responds to direct taskings from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to bring in Special Forces and their equipment on a moment's notice, anywhere around the world. Our aircraft will begin assuming some limited alerts beginning in January. This is a big responsibility for the wing to assume and one that requires everyone's support.

With a newer airframe, we expect greatly increased capabilities from our C-17s and people. **Col. Karl Young**, 437 AW vice commander, will observe our folks practicing this mission in a multi-lateral exercise this weekend in Savannah, Ga. We're in good shape to assume this critical mission.

We hosted a school board meeting Tuesday with guest speaker Dr. Owen Bush, Charleston County District 4 Superintendent. The base school board meets the second Tuesday of every month. We've appointed representatives from the local schools that our children attend, both private and public. The purpose of these meetings is to address issues affecting our children, from transition assistance for new students to changes in the curriculum.

The meeting went well and a special thanks to **Lt. Col. Connie Davis** and **Senior Master Sgt. Terrie Powell** from the 437th Support Group for their efforts in arranging these meetings. For more information, call 963-2200.

I am proud to announce that we will represent 21st Air Force in the competition within Air Mobility Command for the 2001 Commander-in-Chief Installation Excellence Award. This is the second year in a row that Team Charleston has won 21st Air Force honors. This recognition proves once again that we are the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet!

Let me end this column with one of my greatest pleasures i.e. announcing our folks who were recently selected for promotion to chief master sergeant on Wednesday. Promotion to chief is really tough to make, but Team Charleston received more than our fair share on the latest round.

Each selectee can be justifiably proud of their accomplishment. Selected for chief master sergeant were: **Senior Master Sergeants Carl Hunsinger**, 437th Transportation Squadron; **James "Moody Blue" Moody**, 14th Airlift Squadron; **Terrie Powell**; **Carl Austin**, 437th Logistics Support Squadron; **Thomas Hare**, 1st Combat Camera Squadron; and **Jeffrey Kallas**, Air Force Combat Climatology Center.

I am really proud to be associated with such professionals. Congratulations on your achievements!

Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.



Core Values is more than just a catch phrase to ALS graduates

Integrity. For all of us in the Air Force, there is one value that has taken us to where we are today.

Honesty, honor, perfection and stability. All these words are used to describe integrity. Most people think of **Integrity** as "Doing what is right, even when no one is looking." We believe it is more than that.

Integrity is taking responsibility for things that go wrong as well as things that go right. It is saying "Yes, I did it." Even when you know there might be consequences.

We all need **Integrity** on and off duty, in our home, community and especially in our workcenter. Whether you have been in the Air Force for one year or 20, this value does not change. It's needed to continually improve the great Air Force we have today. Without it, we have no leadership.

Integrity goes hand in hand with all other core values including **Service Before Self**.

Service Before Self is the act of putting aside personal wants, needs and beliefs and stepping up to the challenge laid before us.

Giving your life for your country

is the ultimate act of **Service Before Self**. It can be summed up in the words honor and commitment. We realize what an honor it is to live in the greatest country in the world and be part of the greatest fighting force.

Then by applying that sense of honor to the commitment that we make when we took the oath of enlistment, we display the essence of **Service Before Self**.

We gave away some of our individual rights so citizens of the United States could retain theirs. Many tend to lose sight of the reason our military exists; people view **Service Before Self**

as putting family and loved ones last, but in serving, we truly put them first by protecting their

rights and freedoms provided to them in the Constitution.

The only way **Integrity** and **Service Before Self** can thrive is by applying **Excellence In All We Do**.

Excellence In All We Do is to give 100 percent in everything we do.

There are many different types of people, with very different jobs in our Air Force and in Class 2000E. We vary from flying crew chiefs, to computer

technicians, to Office of Special Investigations personnel,

but our commitment to excellence toward the mission is the same.

As tomorrow's leaders, it is our responsibility to provide the living example of

Excellence In All We Do. With our new understanding of what is expected of us as noncommissioned officers, leaders, mentors for our present and future Air Force, we accept the challenge of excellence set forth by the Air Force.

Excellence In All We Do can be summed up in a quote someone once said; "I'd rather make my days count than simply count my days."

These Core Values are the key to today's Air Force. They are the history and benchmark for future generations. The Air Force Core Values must never be diluted. They are the foundation on which to build a stronger Air Force, ready to conquer any challenge set before us.

We as Senior Airmen, the leaders of the 21st Century, will do our utmost to support these core values and instill these values in our peers and all those we may be entrusted to supervise. We will be true to the Air Force and live by the core values: **Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do.**

(Submitted by Charleston ALS Class 2000E)



Graphic by Senior Airman Tim LaVoie, 437 APS

FEATURE



Courtesy photo

The Guin children pose for a photo while camping in Haines, Alaska, in June. They are (from left to right) Ramon, Mary, Diana, Caleb, Hannah, Max and Megan. Not pictured is Josiah.

Parents give thanks for eight blessings

Story by Capt. Tracy Velino
437 AW Public Affairs

It'll take more than a small turkey to feed one Charleston AFB family as they give thanks for their many blessings Thanksgiving Day. But large meals aren't out of the ordinary for Chaplain (Capt.) Phil Guin and his wife, Sandy, who estimate the monthly grocery bill for their family of ten is \$1,200.

Their eight children, all of whom are adopted, range from ages nine to 17. Five are special needs children, and all except Megan, 12, were adopted from foreign countries. Megan is from New Jersey.

The Guins adopted Max, now 16, from Korea in 1984. "Due to some issues with fertility, we had the choice between adoption and spending a lot of money on what was a new technology with no guarantees," said the 437th Airlift Wing senior protestant chaplain.

Max's adoption process began while Chaplain Guin was a seminary student in Atlanta, Ga. The Guins turned to a private adoption agency after a discouraging call to the State. "There weren't many children available, and waiting times were incredibly long," he said. Max joined the family nine months later in Cullman, Ala., where Chaplain Guin was a Methodist minister.

By 1985 the Guins had adopted then five-year-old Jessica, a Korean child who was quadriplegic and thought to have cerebral palsy. "My wife and I had never really considered adopting children with special needs," Chaplain Guin said. "Sandy was thumbing through a catalog that listed literally hundreds of waiting children, when she came across this wonderful child.

"I think she expected me to see the picture and say 'no way, we can't do it,'" Chaplain Guin said. "But I felt as compelled as Sandy toward this child. My heart just literally melted."

It turned out Jessica didn't have cerebral palsy—she had a progressive neurological disease, and she died in 1995.

"I don't have any regrets with Jessica," the chaplain said. "She was destined to live her entire life in an orphanage. We gave her a family to love her."

Less than two years after adopting Jessica, the Guins adopted Caleb, now 17, from Korea.

They said there were plenty of times they thought their family was complete. "But when approached by the agency

about a child, we thought, 'oh, a little kid won't take up a whole lot of room,'" Sandy said.

In 1988, Megan, an infant with a leg-length discrepancy as part of a genetic orthopedic syndrome, was adopted. Next came Josiah, 12, adopted from Brazil in 1991, a year after Chaplain Guin came into the Air Force.

"When Josiah came to us, he had no language skills and couldn't walk," said Chaplain Guin. "We were able to provide medically for him to help him walk, and he speaks now. He has a wonderful vocabulary."

They adopted Hannah, 9, from Korea in 1992, with a medical condition similar to Megan's. One physician recommended amputating a leg, but the Guins opted for surgeries instead. "We expect someday it will be similar in length to the other," he said. "But for now, she walks!"

The last of the adoptees were three siblings from the Philippines. Ramon, now 15, Diana, 12, and Mary, 9, were adopted in 1993. Ramon and Diana attend the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. The school offers immersion programs in sign language for Ramon and brail for Diana.

Chaplain Guin said when Ramon was adopted, he had no language of any kind. "We taught him some basic sign language we had learned to prepare for his arrival," he said. Diana, who was completely blind, now has some vision as a result of surgery.

"Our goal as parents," said the chaplain, "is to try to make them as independent as possible, despite their limitations.

"Our expectations and the meaning of excellence for us have changed over time," said Chaplain Guin.

"I know I have at least 1 or 2 children that will never be Harvard graduates. But helping them realize their own potential is as rewarding.

"Each has their own unique gifts and contributions in my life," he said. "The joy my kids bring to me on a daily basis outweighs anything I've given."

However, Chaplain Guin every day brings a new challenge.

Their grocery bill is the next largest bill after the mortgage. "Thank God I'm about to pin on major," he joked. Now that the children are aging, they consume more. "This is the train wreck I knew was coming, that they'd all be wanting to eat more and more," he said.

The family lives in a five-bedroom, 2.5-bath home in Summerville. Chaplain Guin said one of their biggest challenges is getting to church on Sunday mornings. "2.5 bathrooms are just not enough," he said. "But we get by; we do it in shifts." They ride together to the chapel in their 15-passenger van.

The DOD recognizes adopted children the same as children born to an active-duty parent. Additionally, the DOD has an adoption reimbursement program for active duty members. "That program helped us greatly," Chaplain Guin said.

"But if you want to adopt children, money shouldn't be the biggest issue," he said. "I was a poor Methodist preacher, and yet we were able to do it," he said. They said military families need to begin the adoption process early in a tour to prevent the cost of repeating a home study due to PCS.

Initially, the Guins, like many couples interested in adopting, wanted an infant. "You go through different stages in your life," Sandy said. "For the first child, we just wanted a baby. Then after that...people have different motivations when they go to adopt, some to have a child, some to help a child."

Will they adopt any more children? "Never say never," said Chaplain Guin. "But as far as I can tell right now, we've reached the limits of what we can afford. Plus, if we adopted infants now, we'd be rearing teens in our sixties. I don't think I'll have that kind of energy then."

Chaplain Guin and Sandy said they would do it all over again. "My sense of self is stronger," the chaplain said. "I'm spiritually healthier."

(Editor's note: See related article about National Adoption Month (November) in next week's Airlift Dispatch)



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

Chaplain Guin and his wife, Sandy, help Max (left) and Hannah with their homework, as part of the family's regular routine.



MAGNOLIA PLACE DINING FACILITY

On the Menu



Today

Lunch - shrimp scampi, onion-smothered steak, BBQ chicken, rice pilaf, home-fried potatoes, asparagus, cauliflower, peas w/ onions

Dinner - swedish meatballs, baked tuna & noodles, mashed potatoes, rice, herbed broccoli, calico corn, boston-baked beans

Saturday

Lunch - veal parmesan, BBQ spareribs, chicken tetrazzini, rice pilaf, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots, brussels sprouts

Dinner - grilled hamburger steak, herbed-baked chicken, rice, paprika-battered potatoes, bean combo, corn, vegetable stir fry

Sunday

Lunch - grilled pork chop, italian beef spiral pasta, chicken parmesan, mashed potatoes, rice, stewed tomatoes, black-eyed peas, savory summer squash

Dinner - beef ball stroganoff, veal paprika steaks, noodles, franconia potatoes, green beans w/ mushrooms, broccoli, succotash

Monday

Lunch - chinese beef skillet, spicy

baked fish, chicken breast w/ orange glaze, rice pilaf, parsley-battered potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas w/ celery, southern-style greens,

Dinner - sweet & sour spareribs, cajun meatloaf, mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, spinach, cabbage, cream of corn

Tuesday

Lunch - herbed-baked fish, hungarian goulash, lasagna, noodles, rice, fried cauliflower, lima beans, glazed carrots

Dinner - chicken enchiladas, chili mac, spanish rice, oven-glow potatoes, refried beans w/ cheese, mexican corn, pinto beans

Wednesday

Lunch - country-style steak, roast loin of pork, chicken adobo, rice, crispy potato wedges, mixed vegetables, cauliflower, broccoli parmesan

Dinner - roast beef, spaghetti w/ tomato sauce, rice, oven-browned potatoes, corn on the cob, asparagus, green bean creole

Thursday

Thanksgiving Day meal



The C-141 returns

Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

Staff Sgt. Chris Fabel, a configuration specialist with the 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron, installs an oxygen manifold on a C-141B while preparing it for display. The aircraft, located in the air park near the Rivers Gate, was reconfigured to show all aspects of its capabilities and will eventually be available for tours.

Fitness & Sports

All-Air Force team meets challenges on and off court

By 2nd Lt. Celeste Rodriguez
437th Communications Squadron

The All-Air Force Basketball Team roster was sharpened to the final 12 players last week when the coaching staff made final cuts from the Air Force training camp's original 27 candidates.

According to Ed Simpson, co-captain and a three-year team veteran from Keesler AFB, Miss., even an invitation to the strenuous, three-week training camp is an honor limited to those who perform well both on and off the court, and preparation for the three-week challenge is not an overnight affair.

Vernon Turnbull, assigned to the 93 MXS at Robins AFB, Ga., spent six years honing his skills before attending last year's camp. Originally from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Turnbull made the team without any previous college court time and credited his friends from the Robins "lunch time crew" who tested him with daily drills and practice.

"I've been waiting for this for a while and am excited about it [the Armed Forces Tournament], " Turnbull said. "I would like to thank my supervisor and commander for the opportunity to come out here. Though some people think it's a vacation, it's not all fun."

Far from any holiday, the team weathered three solid weeks of practice and scrimmage sessions in addition to playing 10 exhibition games against local collegiate and semi-pro teams.

Even with such a demanding



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

All Air Force team: (front row, left to right) Ty Wilson, Otis Jones, Mark Watley, Ramon Moss, Vernon Turnbull, Eddie Dawkins. (Second row, left to right) Head Coach Don Fellers, Jarmica Reese, Troy Myles, William Griffith, Miguel Garcia, Edward Simpson, Gregory Streeter, Trainer Tony Milunas, Asst. Coach Bonnie Daye.

schedule, the limited spare time the team was allowed was spent as Air Force spokesmen, as they visited several places throughout the local community.

In addition to speaking with Fort Dorchester High School JROTC cadets about military careers, the team signed autographs for more than 50 children during a team visit to the CAFB Youth Center.

For Ramon Moss, a second-year team member from Kelly AFB, Texas, the pride of representing the service has not faded.

"It's a wonderful feeling to be an ambassador for the Air Force," he said. "This is a great learning experience and you not only use it on the court, but on the job as well. It's a privilege to be here."

Saturday's game against the

College of Charleston held special significance as the team celebrated Veteran's Day with a visit to the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center before the game. Sharing stories and fellowship with the veterans proved to be one of the training camp's greatest highlights for Tyrone Wilson, a first-time team member stationed at Tinker AFB, Okla.

"It didn't dawn on me until we went to the VA hospital that for us to represent the entire Air Force is a big accomplishment," Wilson said. "We talked to the ones who paved the way for us."

With an entire season's worth of training packed into the past three weeks, Head Coach Don Fellers and Assistant Coach Bonnie Daye, both from Pope AFB, N.C., feel confident the team

is ready for this week's final test in the Armed Forces Tournament.

The team remained strong amidst their busy line-up of exhibition play, but will be challenged by six games during three days of fast-paced tournament competition.

According to Daye, CAFB will give Air Force a definite home-field advantage after playing so many exhibition games on the road.

"If you go into someone's backyard, it's hard to win," Daye said. "I'd like to see those guys come here and get some home cooking. Our team feels there's warmth here. You play harder at home and for Mom."

Fellers, the son of an Air Force retired chief master sergeant, dedicates the team's overall effort to Airman 1st Class Tony Whitley, a training camp candidate from Hulburt Field, FL. Whitley turned down his invitation to the camp upon that news that his daughter, Briana, would require heart surgery.

"People need to see the human element of what we do," Fellers said. "These are real people with issues on their plates day in and day out. Our guys are good people first, good ball players second."

The team will conclude Armed Forces Tournament play today as they face the U.S. Navy at noon and the U.S. Marines Corps at 8 p.m. For more information, call 963-3347. **(Final tournament standings were not available at press time. They will be printed next week)**

Ingold becomes golden in week 11

By The Swami
Pigskin Prognosticator

Dennis "Aldo the Greek" Ingold has finally won!! Ingold has been a warrior all year, having played all eleven weeks, and now he gets to taste victory. Ingold had a record of 11-4, edging out "Packfan," who also was 11-4. Ingold beat him by four points in the tiebreaker score.

The Swami told you it was a tough week. There were seven people who had 10-5 records. Who would have thought the Colts could beat the Jets?

Ingold can thank "Deuce" Smith for the win. Smith forgot to pick an easy game (Rams and Giants), and of course The Swami gave him a loss for it. I bet Smith is from Florida. I hear they have trouble picking down there. Do you want me to "re-think" my decision? Forget it, loser!

With eleven weeks in the books,

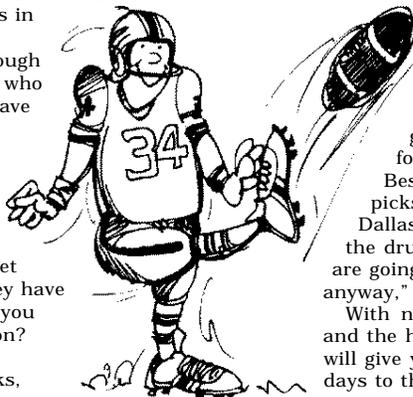
there have been eleven different winners. The Swami has been "holding back" a little, not wanting to win every week. "I like to spread the wealth, but I can easily turn into the Grinch around the holidays and start snatching the prizes," said The Swami.

As you can see in The Swami's week 13 picks, he did not include the two games on Thanksgiving.

"I'm feeling generous and will give everyone a win for those games.

Besides, they are easy picks. I know all you Dallas fans are dreading the drubbing the Vikings are going to give the "Girls" anyway," said The Swami.

With newspaper deadlines and the holiday, The Swami will give you some extra days to think your picks.



Week Thirteen

Name/Phone #: _____
Comments: _____

Sunday, Nov. 26

Buffalo @ Tampa Bay
Chicago @ NY Jets
Cleveland @ Baltimore
Miami @ Indianapolis
New Orleans @ St. Louis
Philadelphia @ Washington
Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati
Atlanta @ Oakland
Tennessee @ Jacksonville
Denver @ Seattle
Kansas City @ San Diego
NY Giants @ Arizona

Monday, Nov. 27

Green Bay @ Carolina
Monday night total points: _____
Swami's Monday night points: **41**

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined. Send picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil. Picks can also be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600. ****Picks must be submitted by Sunday, Nov. 26, 10 a.m.****