

IN THE NEWS

Taxiway repair lets planes enter, exit runways quicker

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

C-17s and transient aircraft will return to normal taxi operations as a result of recent reconstruction to a taxiway.

The reconstructed Taxiway E "ladder" had been partially demolished in 1999 by the 823rd Red Horse Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla. The work stopped when they were deployed on short notice to Kosovo. As a result of the closure of this taxiway and an adjoining taxiway, C-17s had to take the long way around to reach Runway 21, which crosses over near the perimeter road on the northwest side of the base. The work was recently completed under a contract issued by the Navy Public Works Center, Naval Weapons Station. After some last minute cleanup, the taxiway reopened to aircraft Wednesday.

"Reopening Taxiway E will allow greater use of Runway 15," said Capt. David Morrissey, 437th Operations Group standardization and evaluation office. "It will make it more convenient and will alleviate some of the ground congestion on the taxiways from the fixed-base operators, commercial side and us."

"Not only was Taxiway Echo closed, but so was Taxiway Delta from Taxiway Echo to the approach end of Runway 15, which resulted in a longer taxi to use Runway 15," said Gloria Evans, duty officer for base operations. "It would sometimes result in a back taxi down Runway 15, which caused delays in departures from

Runway 15."

The Navy did the work under their Job Order Contract program, which is very similar to the Air Force's Simplified Acquisition Base Engineering Repair contracts. Both programs use a pre-assigned contractor for smaller, non-military construction projects. The \$1 million contract was awarded to J.A. Jones Management Services, who have a local office in North Charleston. They acted as the prime contractor for Pavkov Contracting Company, of Sumter, S.C., who performed the site and pavement work. The work consisted of tearing up old concrete, which was recycled, and replacing it with more than 6,000 square yards of new concrete that was 15 inches thick. The contractor removed and replaced 18 by 20 foot concrete slabs for about 650 feet, along with the associated lighting.

The heavy-duty repairs to the taxiway required the primary runway to be shut down for 53 days and it took 24 days to place all the concrete. The airfield manager's office made the arrangements for the various closures and notified all the key agencies.

"When we gave it to the Red Horse folks and they had to deploy, we had a taxiway that we could no longer use and we needed to get the work done quickly," said Rob Crossland, pavement engineer for the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron. "We had to obligate the money before the end of the fiscal year or we would lose it, so we turned to the Navy because they

could execute quickly and get the job done. We appreciated their quick response."

"It was challenging to pick up on someone else's work," said Brandon Works, a field construction manager for the Navy Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction office in Bldg. 247 here. Works and Charlie Creech, the ROICC inspector, also had the responsibility of doing frequent site inspections. "The site had collected a lot of water and the soil base was like Jello. We also found some soil contamination that needed to be cleaned up. We had to jump over a number of hurdles including two work stoppages."

Todd Martin from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in North Charleston, designed the extensive project. "The contractor, J.A. Jones and his subcontractor, Pavkov, did an admirable job considering the differing site conditions, work stoppages and soil contamination," Works concluded.

Crossland said the base has several taxiway projects programmed and Taxiway Echo Phase II under



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Robert Dennis, Pavkov Contracting Company and Sumter, S.C. resident, holds a compression joint seal as it is installed during the repairs to Taxiway E.

design to improve the current taxiway system. "We have a \$3-6 million project designed to repair Runway 03/21 in Fiscal 01 (pending funding). We never have enough money to do all that is needed, but the command has surveyed all the airfields, and our airfield is in better shape than some of the airfields at other Air Mobility Command bases. According to HQ AMC, we're in the middle of the pack in the command when it comes to condition of airfield pavements."

CAFB prepared for October's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Lois Idleman
437 MDG nurse educator

All women are at risk for breast cancer. The two most significant risk factors are being female and getting older. Breast cancer is the leading cancer among American women and is second only to lung cancer in cancer deaths. This year 182,800 women and 1,400 men will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.

Since it is not known what causes breast cancer, the best protection against this disease is early detection and prompt treatment. The American Cancer Society recommends the following steps:

- Women should have annual screening mammograms beginning at age 40. Women under age 40 with a family history of breast cancer or

other concerns should consult a medical professional about when to begin mammography.

- Clinical breast exams should be performed by a medical professional every three years beginning at age 20 and annually after age 40.

- Women should practice monthly breast self-examination beginning by age 20.

During the month of October, the 437th Medical Group will be emphasizing breast cancer awareness. There will be free brochures, pamphlets and other give aways with information about breast health awareness, mammograms and the proper way to do a breast self-exam. The medical group has recently increased its staff with a Women's

Health Nurse Practitioner, Maj. Carol Sheehan, and a Breast Cancer Nurse Educator, Lois Idleman. Sheehan will be performing women's health exams and Idleman will be providing breast cancer information and teaching patients how to perform breast self-exams.

To schedule an appointment with Sheehan, call 963-6880. For more information, stop by the base clinic, or call Idleman at 963-6738.

(Author's note: The Charleston Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is sponsoring the annual Race for The Cure, Oct. 28. Anyone who would like to participate may contact the race hotline at 792-9186, or register online at www.charlestonrace4cure.org)



Charleston AFB 2000 CFC

28 Days remaining...

Q: "I work for a living. I pay my own way. I'm not getting to use these services, so why should I support them?"

A: It's possible you may never need or use any CFC supported services. Some people give because they want to maintain the services in case they do need them, like disaster assistance, home health care for an elderly relative or youth development programs. A number of people even give because there are people who cannot pay their own way, people who can't help themselves as much as they would like. (Submitted by Capt. Chuck Nesemeier, 2000 CFC base coordinator.)