

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Spotlight

**Retirement ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Barry Mattison today, 10 a.m. at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Curtis Perz at 963-4860 or Tech. Sgt. Barry Mattison at 963-4864.

## Around the base

**City of Chicago College:** The City of Chicago College will hold registration for Term I until Sept. 30 at the base education office. Tuition is \$75 per semester hour. Active-duty military members will pay \$56.25 for a three semester-hour course. For more information, call 552-5959 or 963-4575.

**Gas pumps closed:** The gas pumps at the Shoppette will be closed for 30-55 days while new "pay at the pump" devices are installed. The Shoppette will remain open and hours of operation won't be affected.



**Ladies' Morning Out:** Starting Tuesday, the Protestant Women of the Chapel will be sponsoring special events every Tuesday morning on Charleston AFB. The events include craft classes, Bible study and women's issues discussions. All events are free and will start at 9:30 a.m. in Bldg. 245. For more information contact Capt. (Chaplain) Dan Morey at 963-2333 or Barbara Washington at 769-7730.

**Commissioning briefing:** The base education office will hold a commissioning briefing Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the base education center. For more information, call 963-4575.

**Hispanic Heritage Month:** A Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon will be held Sept. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Charleston Club to kick-off Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15-Oct. 15. For more information, call Master Sgt. Edison Velez or 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gregg Beeber at 963-2904 or 963-4077.

**Chiefs' Group:** The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group is holding a meeting Sept. 21, 11 a.m. at the Charleston Club. Lunch will be provided, and all chiefs, active, reserve and retired, are encouraged to attend.

**Marriage Enrichment class:** The medical clinic is offering a Marriage Enrichment class starting Sept. 26 and meeting for six consecutive Tuesdays, 6-8:30 p.m. The class is free for Charleston AFB members and spouses. For more information, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

**Piñata Party:** There will be a Piñata Party at the Youth Center, Sept. 30, noon-4 p.m., as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event is open to children of all ages. Food and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Senior Airman David Guevara at 963-2326.

**OSA Arts and Crafts Show:** An arts and crafts show, sponsored by the Charleston AFB Officer's Spouses Association, will be held Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Aero Club hangar. Admission to the show is free and open to the public. The OSA is looking for crafters who are interested in selling their items during the show. Show spaces cost \$25. For more information, call Christine Memi at 871-8604.

**Military spouse scholarship:** The Aerospace Education Foundation, through the Air Force Association, is offering \$1,000 scholarships to spouses of Air Force active, reserve and guard members. Applications are available at the base education office and the Family Support Center. Applications must be received by the AEF by Nov. 1. For more information, call 963-4575.

**Survivor Benefit Plan:** The Survivor Benefit Plan was created to protect widowed spouses and family members from financial hardships after the death of their military sponsor. Standard retirement pay stops on the day the retiree dies. With SBP, the retiree's family will continue to

receive part of the deceased member's pay. For more information, call Senior Airman Angela Hawkins at 963-4521.

**Base supply:** The base supply customer service element is now operating from the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron's main building. The new supply phone numbers are 963-4826 and 963-4831. For more information, call Master Sgt. Charles Gosner at 963-4831.

**CE customer service:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron customer service section has relocated to the main CE building. The new phone numbers for customer service are 963-2392 and 963-4951. For more information, call Master Sgt. David Harvey at 963-5018.

**Orthodontics:** Special provisions are needed for patients who are undergoing or considering orthodontic treatment. Certain written approval is required for military members and their families. Contact the Daily Dental Clinic at 963-6842 before treatment is obtained.

**Consignment Shop:** The Officers Spouses' Association Consignment Shop offers many items at reasonable prices. The shop is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month, 10



a.m.-1 p.m. The shop is also looking for volunteers. For more information, call the Consignment Shop at 963-3293.

**Flu vaccine delay:** The Public Health Flight has announced a delay in the start of the Influenza Vaccination Program. The program usually begins in October, but due to shortages of the vaccine, it will be delayed. No information on the start date is available at this time. For more information, call Capt. Tracy Middleton at 963-6962.

**Honor Guard:** The base Honor Guard is seeking a sharp senior airman for a full-time position. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Phil Johnson at 963-3398.

## Family Support Center

**Pre-Deployment Briefing,** 8-9 a.m., Monday, Sept. 18 and 25, and 4-5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21 and 28.

**TAP Three-Day Workshop,** 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.

**How to Develop a Spending Plan,** 9-11 a.m., Wednesday.

**Checkbook Management,** 1-2:30 p.m., Wednesday.

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

**Car Buying,** 9-11 a.m., Sept. 15.

**"Sip and Chat" meeting,** 6:30 p.m., Sept. 18.

**Financial Independence for Today's Women,** 6-8 p.m., Sept. 19.

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

## Charleston Profile

### Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Hammer 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Hammer is an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician for the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron. Along with his normal EOD duties, Hammer also serves as the vehicle NCO.

"I have to account for all of our vehicles, our five mobility trailers and four sets of mobility equipment," said Hammer. "That's \$3 million worth of equipment."

Hammer's day-to-day activities include maintaining and tracking equipment, training and responding to EOD calls.

"Typically, we respond to suspicious package calls," said Hammer. "I haven't actually been a part of a real Improvised Explosive Device (home-made bomb) call, but we do have the responsibility to deal with all military ordnance found in the local area."

"We don't detonate everything we come across. We have all kinds of equipment to determine if something is actually an IED or it's just a package someone left. It wouldn't be very efficient to blow a hole through the cockpit of a multi-million dollar aircraft to destroy a box of books."

Hammer is currently TDY to New York City to provide Secret Service support for

the U.N. General Assembly.

While he said he loves his job, Hammer also realizes the danger that comes with the duty.

"You can never be too safe," said Hammer. "Hope for the best, but always be prepared for the worst."



photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith