

# DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

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## Front-line security

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

**Senior Airman Sara Cameron, 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, checks an ID at the Dorchester Gate. Passes and IDs won't be needed to enter Charleston AFB during Air Expo 2000, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Dorchester and Rivers Gates will be open to the public and parking will be available on base for the annual air show.**

## Charleston shows air power in South Africa

By Tech. Sgt. Joe Bela  
USAFE News Service

Eight Charleston AFB aircrew members and 18 aircraft support personnel participated in the South African International Air Show, Sept. 8-9.

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen approved Air Force participation at the two-day event in response to a request made by the South African minister of defense.

Air Force participation in the air show marks the second time this year that American forces have visited South Africa. U.S. troops were deployed in March for Operation Atlas Response when the international community came together to provide humanitarian assistance for victims of flooding in Mozambique.

"Everyone's in awe of the aircraft," said Lt. Col. Brian Trout, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron pilot and assistant operations director. "Visitors comment on how huge it is and can't believe an aircraft this large flies."

This airshow is the first time CAFB aircrew and support personnel have been to South Africa. Trout said many of the spectators wanted to know about the C-17 weight capacity, flying speed and types of cargo carried.

"I've seen such aircraft on T.V. and in the movies, but it's wonderful to

have the opportunity to walk through one and actually see what it's like myself," said David O'Reilly, South Africa resident and air show visitor.

The air show marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the South African Air Force and featured fighters, bombers, transport planes and air refueling aircraft from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Air Combat Command, Air Mobility Command and Air Reserve Command.

Along with the C-17, the event also featured an F-16 aerial demonstration. An aerial demonstration pilot from Misawa AB, Japan, arrived at AFB Waterkloof to fly the F-16, which is assigned to Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

U.S. Air Force planes at the air show also included a B-1B Lancer from Ellsworth AFB, S.D., an F-15E Strike Eagle from RAF Lakenheath, England, a KC-135 Stratotanker from RAF Mildenhall and an Air Force Reserve KC-10 Extender from McGuire AFB, N.J.

"We've had a terrific time meeting the people, enjoying the different foods and offering air show visitors the chance to see inside the aircraft," Trout said.

The C-17 will be featured at CAFB's Air Expo 2000 Oct. 14. **(Senior Airman Jason Smith contributed to this article.)**

## Child Development Center, School Age Program raise rates

By Wendy Varhegyi  
437 SVS marketing director

Providing the best possible care for children and families is a top priority for the Military Child Development System. Touted as a "model for child care reform nationwide," by a National Women's Law Center report, the military has made significant and sustained improvements in its childcare system.

Serving more than 1.2 million youth under the age of 18, the military spent nearly \$339 million for childcare last fiscal year, according to the Law Center report. Realizing childcare is expensive, the

military subsidizes the costs for every military family and bases parent fees on a sliding scale depending on total family income. The fees cover approximately half the total cost of the childcare. As cost of living and training demands increase, so do the parent fees. As a result, fees at the Child Development Center and the School Age Program at the Youth Center will increase slightly beginning Oct. 2.

"In an effort to continue the world class level of care each family receives, it is necessary to increase fees in the Child Development Center and School Age Program

by five percent in fiscal year 2001," said Tim Garrahan, 437<sup>th</sup> Family Member Support Flight chief. This means fees will increase 4-10 cents per hour, based on a 50-hour week.

Parent fees are used to cover the wages, benefits and training for the staff, who directly care and supervise the children and youth, in addition to some consumable items and food costs that are not covered under the U.S. Department of Agriculture program. "Since FY 1997, fees have only increased 6-11 percent, depending on the income level," Garrahan said.

Although parents may feel

the fee increase is significant, co-president of the National Women's Law Center, Nancy Duffy Campbell, said military families are getting the best at a lower cost.

"As a result [of the subsidies], the average weekly fee paid by military families is some 25 percent lower than the average weekly fee paid by civilian families for comparable center-based care," said Campbell.

Campbell also said, "More than 95 percent of the military child development centers are accredited by outside experts, compared to only eight percent of civilian childcare centers." Addition-

ally, staff members receive substantial training, initially and throughout their careers.

"Care and development of the children is our number one priority," said Debbie Ross, director of the Charleston Child Development Center. "We've worked very hard to become accredited and to provide the best possible training and atmosphere for staff, children and parents."

Unfortunately, being the best comes at a price, and parents are asked to help with increased fees and prices.

"One of the biggest sellers for me is the training and

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