

Dispatch

AIRLIFT

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Fiscal year closeout increases ops tempo

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

As the end of the fiscal year approaches Saturday, a cadre of resource advisors, contracting, supply and base comptroller personnel will wage war as they work feverishly to award contracts and spend money, leaving only pennies when the fiscal year ends at midnight.

The 437th Contracting, Supply and Comptroller Squadrons carefully plan the annual ritual, "fiscal year-end closeout." Everything is preloaded into the appropriate computers ahead of time so if surplus money from contracts or the headquarters become available, often at the last minute, it can be quickly spent.

"This fiscal year-end closeout will be unique because we will be relying on the 'paperless' Standard Procurement System for the first time as well as the Automated Base Services System," said Lt. Col. Paul Braunbeck, 437 CONS commander. "If for some reason the computers do crash, we are ready to go back to the 'paper' request system to ensure another successful closeout."

The 437 CONS will ensure 43 construction and 52 service contract actions are closed out and another 28 "wish list" purchase requests are completed, should funds become available. The construction contracts can include items such as a modification to an existing contract. About \$12 million will be spent this month alone. Funds become available since contracts come in under cost at the

base or some excess is found at the headquarters. Last year, the base received about \$100,000 from the headquarters for upgraded security fencing for the base.

"It's a challenge, but we are ready and have been working on the weekends since Sept. 9 to preload everything into the Standard Procurement System computers, and we even practiced how to do purchase requests should we have a computer outage," said Donna Barber, director of business operations for 437 CONS.

"We've got it so that all we have to do is to push a button to spend the funds when they become available," said Barber. "Something always comes up at the last minute, and we will be prepared."

In preparation for the closeout, the comptroller squadron has worked with over 400 IMPAC card holders to balance and bring their accounts to closure without an overspending violation. As of Sept. 1, financial management consolidated all the dollars left on base on behalf of the wing commander. "This increases Team Charleston's buying power, making large purchases such as air conditioning refurbishing possible," said Maj. Patrice Solorzano, 437 CPTS commander.

"During the last two weeks, we go through open documents and look for double obligations (billing) and other problems areas," said Joy Delk, deputy chief of Financial Analysis. "We try to make sure all the paper-

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In memory of a vet

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Senior Airman John Chapman, 315th Airlift Wing, presents his grandmother, Cora Chapman, with the flag following a recent Airman Leadership School student retreat ceremony. Chapman's grandfather, James Chapman, was a technical sergeant in the Army Air Corps, during World War II. Although he died in 1984, a flag was never presented to his widow. "I can't express what this means to me," a tearful Cora Chapman said following the retreat ceremony. "I'm so excited and thrilled. I appreciate it and I'll keep it forever."

16 AS donates printers, camera to Youth Center

By Staff Sgt.
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437 AW Public Affairs

Although officially deactivated, the 16th Airlift Squadron won't be forgotten any time soon at the Charleston AFB Youth Center. Leftover money from the squadron's enlisted and officer funds was recently used to purchase

four printers and a digital camera for the Youth Center.

The funds had been accumulated through a number of squadron activities and events, such as car washes, according to Master Sgt. Darl Tremain, former 16 AS first sergeant and current 437th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant. Other sources were donated items, such as

household items, a pool table and a drink machine, that were sold to raise funds. Sales from a bar set up in the 16 AS also raised money for unit events.

With \$1,500 in the fund, \$500 was put aside for retirements of squadron members, Tremain said. That left plenty to play with.

"We didn't want to just go

and have a big party - we didn't think that was right," Tremain said. "What we wanted to do was leave it on base so that everybody could use it."

Tremain soon contacted Ed Jones and Don MacArthur of the Youth Center, who provided him with a "wish list" of items needed there. At the top of the list were four print-

ers to go along with the four computers in the Learning Center and a digital camera for the photo hobby shop.

With \$963, the 16 AS purchased four printers and a digital camera at a discount rate from the BX. The printers and camera were officially presented to the Youth Cen-

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