AIRLIFT
Dispatch

Vol. 40, No. 13 | 437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC | Friday, April 6, 2001

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National Volunteer Week proclamation signed today

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

National Volunteer Week, April 22-28, offers Charleston AFB members a chance to celebrate and support the millions of dedicated volunteers who give their time and effort and dedicate their lives to people and communities all over the world.

Volunteers at CAFB are often overlooked or taken for granted, said Brian Churchill, of the base family support center.

"I'm not sure that the general base population provides volunteers with enough recognition on a day-to-day basis," said Churchill. "There are times when we receive services from volunteers and walk away without simply saying 'thanks.' We have a Recognizing Achievements in Volunteer Excellence Program that provides a few benefits to those who volunteer, but it's the smile, a kind word and the pat on the back from time-to-time that really make volunteering worthwhile for many."

Michele Hawes, Enlisted Support Club president, said coaches, mentors, clinic assistants, scout leaders and starters at the golf course are just a handful of the everyday volunteers at CAFB.

She also pointed out that without volunteers there would be no help with visitor passes at the gates, for the Consignment Shop, Family Services, Airman's Attic, Retiree Activities Office, aerobics classes, hobby classes, religious education classes, and outdoor recreation excursions. Youth activities would also be severely limited, and many of CAFB's charity groups would cease to exist.

"Over the past year, volunteers have contributed 51,164 hours of known community service," said Churchill. "I'm sure there's more. If you take the national average wage of $14.30 per hour, volunteers have saved CAFB and the government in excess of $731,645."

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, will be signing a CAFB proclamation today to "salute all volunteers for their invaluable and immeasurable contributions to our military and civilian community." The proclamation credits volunteers with utilizing their time and talent daily to make a real difference in the lives of children, adults and elderly. It also commends volunteers for being vital to the future of, and continuing to make, CAFB a prime Air Force community. Command support of National Volunteer Week is important, according to Hawes.

"Volunteers need to know that at the highest level of base leadership, their contributions are recognized and appreciated," said Hawes. "It also gives volunteers a sense of community and ownership into the agency at which they volunteer."

Feedback, while not always given, is rewarding for volunteers, according to Churchill. He cited some of the comments made by an airman basic and his wife while visiting the Airman's Attic.

See **Volunteer**, page 3

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

We're on top of it

Members of the 373rd Training Squadron, Field Training Detachment 5, perform a pre-flight inspection of a C-17 Globemaster III during a training session on the flightline. FTD 5, which is a detachment of the 82nd Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas, provides C-17 maintenance training in simulators and on the actual aircraft here.

Golden Knights to perform at Air Expo 2001

The blue skies of Charleston AFB will explode into gold and black as the Army Golden Knights perform an exciting show of aerial maneuvers May 19 during Air Expo 2001.

Prepared to entertain the Lowcountry with their aerial acrobatics and precision landings, the U.S. Army Parachute Team will perform aerial manuevers while falling toward earth at speeds reaching 120 mph.

There are four different teams of parachutists within the Golden Knights organization: The Black and Gold Demonstration Teams, the Formation Skydiving Team and the Style and Accuracy Team. The Gold Demonstration Team, which will be performing for CAFB in May, is made up of 13 parachutists.

"We have the best assignment in the Army," said Army Staff Sgt. Jason Davis, demonstration parachutist. "Representing the Army as a whole combined with a great challenge is very rewarding. This

See **Knights**, page 3

IN THE NEWS

Use it or lose it, buddy; schedule use-or-lose leave now

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB members, who will have more than 60 days of accrued leave prior to Sept. 30, should start scheduling now to take the excess leave before Oct. 1.

Active-duty military members earn 30 days of leave every year. Under the provisions of AFI 36-3003, 60 days of leave may be carried over from fiscal year (ending Sept. 30 of each year and beginning Oct. 1 every year) to fiscal year.

Those who attempt to carry a balance of more 60 days from one fiscal year to the next, will most likely lose the excess days, unless they fall under certain provisions.

"People who were deployed to an operational mission at a national level for a continuous period of at least 60 days can carry more than 60 days of leave over a fiscal year end," said Tech. Sgt. Alfred Gregg, 437th Operations Support Squadron command support staff chief. "Also, those who were deployed for at least 60 days, but less than 120 consecutive days to a designated hostile fire or imminent danger area can carry excess leave. It's important to check with your orderly room instead of assuming you meet the criteria. If not, you may lose it."

Gregg said as a supervisor, he requests his troops schedule their leave at least 30 days out, and fill out their leave form about two weeks before the leave start date.

Selling use-or-lose, or any leave back to the government is another option for some active-duty members, according to Staff Sgt. Troy Jarrell, 437th Mission Support Squadron promotions and reenlistments NCOIC.

"People can sell leave if they reenlist within a three-month period before their estimated time of separation, or the day following their estimated time of separation," said Jarrell. "The reason they have the day after their separation is because people are given one day after they get out to change their mind and reenlist."

Leave can also be sold back during the first extension of a member's current enlistment, according to Jarrell. He said it's important for people to keep in mind they can only sell 60 days of leave back to the government throughout their career. The 60 days are a cumulative total of all days sold back, no matter when, or what type of leave it is. Jarrell also recommends checking with the orderly room and referencing AFI 36-2606 before assuming anything about selling leave.

Those who need to use leave should also keep in mind they will need to sign up for their leave using LeaveWeb. Some Air Force base units have been designated to use the new system when signing up for leave.

"Headquarters AMC (Air Mobility Command) has directed CAFB to use the LeaveWeb," said Master Sgt. Phyllis Johnson, 437 MSS orderly room. "From an administrative standpoint, it's great. I would have spent several hours of the duty day processing leave under the old system. The LeaveWeb is definitely a lot quicker."

The overwhelming consensus amongst the experts is for CAFB members to check with their orderly rooms to ensure they don't lose leave. If a member knows they will have use-or-lose leave, it is equally important to schedule now. This will give supervisors and commanders time to adjust for unforeseen emergencies, TDYs and mission issues caused by last minute leave.

Photo by Capt. Scott Rider

Fly away Dinky

Dinky Dolphin takes time for a photo shoot during his recent trip on a C-17. A crew from the 300th and 701st Airlift Squadrons flew five dolphins from Ketchikan, Alaska, to their new home, Coronado Island, Calif.

Tower to personnel: remember flightline rules

By Senior Airman Donald Church
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB security and operations officials would like to remind everyone of the importance of safety and security on the flightline.

Paramount to working on Charleston's flightline is learning the rules and regulations involved in getting there.

"One of the big issues for us is incidents involving the use of POVs (privately owned vehicles) out on the flightline and in the secured areas around the base," said Staff Sgt. David Bailey, 437th Security Forces Squadron resource protection monitor. "Most of the time people know the rules but just aren't paying attention. Our office here is in charge of protecting all the resources from the flightline to the controlled areas across the installation, and I want to make sure everyone knows what is authorized on the flightline and what is not."

Personnel who have not spent time working on the flightline lately may not have noticed all of the recent changes. Bailey said many reports still come in from personnel crossing onto the flightline from in front of Bldg. 700. There is no longer an entry control point at that location.

"Of course the most common scenario is someone out on the line without a restricted area badge," said Bailey. "They had it on their jacket but it got warmer during the day and they took it off. They go out to the line to escort someone else and realize they don't have it. It's an honest mistake that happens, but folks need to be aware and make sure they have their badges. Also, if you are driving a POV out on the line, make sure you have the proper authorization and pass."

Individuals with a legitimate reason to drive on to the flightline need to ensure they have the proper credentials and alert the command post, maintenance control center and security forces of their presence.

While Bailey's concerns center on the security around the aircraft, safety is the number one concern for Troy Deason, 437th Operations Support Squadron base operations duty officer.

"Driving on the flightline brings with it certain rules that differ from other areas of the base," said Deason. "Speed limits on the parking ramps when towing an aircraft or when within 50 feet of an aircraft are five mph. During periods of reduced visibility the limit is 10 mph."

Parking is another area of safety Deason stressed. When parking near aircraft, all vehicles should have keys in the ignition turned to "lock," automatic transmission set to park or standard transmission in neutral with the parking brake on, and positioned so unexpected vehicle movement would take the vehicle away from the aircraft. No vehicle should be parked closer than 10 feet, except those servicing, loading and unloading the aircraft.

"Always use a spotter when backing a vehicle," said Deason. "Vehicles are to be operated under the direction of a spotter, posted in front of the vehicle and slightly to the driver's left. During backing operations, an additional spotter must be posted to coordinate the vehicle's rear clearance with the forward spotter."

The Charleston Control Tower is responsible for the control of vehicles crossing or operating on the runways and taxiways. Permission to move anywhere inside these areas must come from the tower and personnel must not cross until told to do so.

"Carelessness and hastiness, and disregard for established standards are the primary causes of potential incidents, aircraft-vehicle mishaps and personnel injuries," Deason said.

Security questions may be directed to the installation security constable's office at 963-2159. Questions involving movement in and around the runways should be directed to base operations at 963-3024.

Lowcountry students celebrate Earth Day, learn at Charleston AFB

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Donald Church
437 AW Public Affairs

Lowcountry fifth grade students arrived at Charleston AFB March 28 to learn what they could do to help save and preserve the environment.

This is the fifth year CAFB has hosted an Earth Day event. The first Earth Day involved students from just Lambs and Hunley Park Elementary schools. Over the years the event has expanded. This year's program hosted students from Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester county schools.

"We had a large number of students participating this year," said Al Urrutia, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron environment flight, and Earth Day organizer. "We spread out the displays for better organization this year. It made it a lot easier for the students, demonstrators and chaperones."

With Earth Day becoming a larger event with each passing year, more and more planning has to go into making it all work, according to Urrutia. He said this year they started planning several weeks earlier and it paid off with everything working so well. Over 50 volunteers from around the base helped out.

"Charleston has always put on what we consider a first rate event for the students," said Urrutia. "This year we even had environmental director Lt. Col. Bobbie Griffin down from headquarters Air Mobility Command to see what we do for these kids."

The event was set up at the base picnic grounds with a semicircle of booths and displays around a central speaking area. Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, spoke briefly at the onset and picked several students at random out of the crowd. He gave each a question about the environment to answer as they explored the exhibits during the day.

Exhibitors from around Charleston and from as far away as Greenville, S.C., were on hand showing what their organizations were doing to save the planet. The Charleston bird society exhibited many exotic birds, explaining the importance of rainforests to these animals. A Charleston County Parks representative was also available to show off some of the animals found in the local area.

Students were ushered from one display to another at regular intervals by a loud bullhorn.

"This year the event got even better," said Anne Dukes, a teacher at Hunley Park elementary who brought 28 of her students to Earth Day. "The planning, volunteers and folks who were presenting did a wonderful job. I especially like how well everything worked with the bullhorn signal to change to the next booth as it gave each group plenty of time to learn."

From Charleston Recycling explaining what it does, to South Carolina Electric and Gas showing how it is saving the environment through cleaner energy production, student were able to submerge themselves in information.

"I have thank all the volunteers and exhibitors who came out and made this possible," said Urrutia. "They did a great job in showing these kids what they can do to help themselves and the environment."

Earth Day is an annual observance, held worldwide, to increase public awareness of environmental issues, according to www.worldbook.com. The event originated in the United States following a 1969 suggestion by Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson outlining a day of environmental education to be held on college campuses. In a speech given at the University of Illinois, Oct. 6, 1990, Nelson said, "For years prior to Earth Day it had been troubling to me that the critical matter of the state of the environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of our country."

Denis Hayes, then a recent graduate of Stanford University, led hundreds of students in organizing the first Earth Day. About 20 million people participated in the initial observance, April 22, 1970.

According to www.sdearthtimes.com, Earth Day is typically observed on the weekends before and after April 22. Earth Day is also observed March 21, the first day of spring, or on World Environment Day, June 6. The site emphasizes that people truly committed to the health of the environment celebrate Earth Day every day.

Students from Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley County schools participate in a physical learning activity during Charleston AFB's Earth Day March 28. This event has been held at CAFB for the past five years.

Volunteer

continued from page 1

"The young couple arrived here in 2001 and they used the Airman's Attic as they began the process of setting up their house," said Churchill. "Each trip they made to the attic was a great experience for them as evident by their grateful attitudes for those things that have been made available to them.

"They recently learned that a new baby is due in November and have begun selecting clothing items and infant care products," Churchill continued. "They have taken the opportunity to express how thankful they are for the service and the friendly volunteers who assist them. He (the airman basic) said the folks who staff the area remind him of his mom back home, who would take the time to lend a helping hand to young folks and offer guidance along the way. His comment that the volunteers appear to be one big happy family reaching out to them brought out feelings of confidence that a support system is in place within the Air Force environment."

Volunteers are very special people who possess unique insights into life, according to Flora Hoss-Mason, FSC director. They reach out beyond the confines of their jobs and normal responsibilities by contributing time and effort in the belief their actions are beneficial to others.

"Volunteers in our community have touched lives that would have been ignored, and they have connected people who would have remained strangers," said Hoss-Mason. "They enrich our lives with the countless examples of their generosity and compassion while providing much needed services."

National Volunteer Week is a great opportunity for CAFB members to thank volunteers, according to Master Sgt. James Brady, FSC superintendent. While volunteers are sometimes recognized in performance appraisals and quarterly awards, they do it for more than recognition.

"CAFB volunteers selflessly give their valuable time just because it's the right thing to do, and it makes them feel good," said Brady. "We should honor our base volunteers because they donate their time and talents to help make the quality of our lives better. They don't give their services for monetary or personal recognition, instead they donate their time and efforts because they possess a caring heart."

Knights

continued from page 1

is one of the few missions where you are constantly out in front of the American public, which is always immediately rewarding."

Davis, who has more than 3,600 jumps, says he doesn't get nervous any more, but he always feels a little apprehensive. "We like to differentiate what we do from other parachutists in military jobs," said Davis. "We do precision, military, freefall parachute jumps, all for the benefit of the audience. But our day isn't over after we land. We still have to debrief every aspect of our day, from the technical aspects to the interaction with the public."

The Golden [redacted] formed more th[redacted] demonstrations [redacted] form a combine[redacted] 26,500 jumps [redacted] 12 million pe[redacted] cording to a G[redacted] release.

To become a [redacted] soldiers must b[redacted] a minimum of 1[redacted] jumps, a Class "[redacted] chuting license [redacted] airborne schoo[redacted] have a flawless military and civilian record.

"This is a special duty assignment for all of us," said Davis. "A good number of people on the team come from a career where they have already attended airborne school, but that is not necessary. Some people who apply have spent their own time jumping with private organizations outside the gates."

The program pushes the candidates physical, mental and emotional levels to the limit to find not just the best parachutist, but also the best soldiers for the Team, according to the release.

"We expect the new members to be more committed to excellence than before," said Army Lt. Col. David Stahl, Golden Knights commander. "As the 'Army's goodwill ambassadors to the world,' we constantly strive to be not only the best soldiers and parachutists, but also the best Americans.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Around the base

Trespassing: The base firing ranges, located adjacent to the Rivers Gate, is a highly dangerous area for trespassers. Trespassing, at any time, is illegal. Ranges are not authorized for personal use. Individuals having a valid need for entry must contact range personnel for authorization. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Phillip Borneman at 963-5292.

AAFES: Charleston AFB Army and Air Force Exchange Shoppette customers can now use gas pumps 3 and 4 after business hours. Customers must use the "pay-at-pump" system to purchase fuel. The pumps will be unattended, so customers should follow all posted safety rules.

Citizenship: All first-term airmen must become American citizens before they are eligible to reenlist. The process of obtaining citizenship can take 18-24 months. Airman 1st Class Turkessa Hawkins, 437th Mission Support Squadron, is the point of contact for any airman requiring assistance. For more information, call Hawkins at 963-6375. For career questions, contact the Wing Career Assistance Advisor, Master Sgt. Matt Harless, at 963-8004.

Blood drive: There will be a blood drive, Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the base education center. The drive will benefit both the Armed Forces Blood Program and the American Red Cross. There will be refreshments and movies courtesy of the Charleston AFB Spouses Group. The WAVE 96.1 will be handing out prizes. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Celeste Rodriguez at 963-5071.

Commander's call: There will be an officer and civilian commander's call Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m., at the base theater. There will also be an enlisted and civilian commander's call Wednesday, 3-4:30 p.m. All personnel are reminded to be in their seats 10 minutes prior to start time. Commander's call is a mandatory function. For more information, contact your unit orderly room.

Dining in: There will be an Enlisted Combat Dining In April 28, 6 p.m., at Nose Dock 1. The next meeting for the dining in will be Wednesday, 3 p.m., in the wing conference room. The planning committee is still in need of volunteers. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. James Moody at 963-5516 or Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Lautenslager at 963-4559.

Charleston Profile

Tech. Sgt. Bill Wright
437th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Bill Wright is the dormitory manager, Bldg. 460, for the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron. The Goose Creek, S.C., native has been the dorm manager for three years and is responsible for the $10 million dormitory and its 120 occupants.

His duties include making sure facilities and grounds are properly maintained, requesting routine maintenance and performing room inspections. Wright is instrumental in conducting tours of the dorm for groups visiting Charleston AFB; and in the past year, over 3,500 people have toured what he refers to as the "best dorm in the Air Force."

Wright is also a key player in boosting morale within the squadron. For the past three years, Wright has arranged a trip to Carowinds Amusement Park, N.C., for his squadron. He also publishes a quarterly dormitory newsletter for the residents. He is currently starting a program called "Adopt a Grandparent," which reaches out to elderly members of the community who need help maintaining their homes. "I am really excited about this program," said Wright. "It will be good for the airmen here to help someone and be able to feel the pride and joy in volunteering for this worthwhile effort.

"The thing I like about my job is the people here and the folks I meet along the way," continued Wright. "I like to make sure that the airmen here are having fun. If everybody would treat everyone the way they would like to be treated, like with a smile, it would help in making this a nicer world." When not on the job, Wright enjoys spending time with his wife Sheila and his 6-year-old son, Cory. "They are the loves of my life," said Wright.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Recycling: Curbside recycling pick up for military housing will be Thursday and April 26.

Commissary: The Commissary will be closed April 15 in observance of Easter.

Chiefs' group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold their monthly meeting April 19, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from GEICO will address the group, and lunch will be provided. All chiefs are encouraged to attend.

Sponsors: The 17th Airlift Squadron is looking for people interested in sponsoring U.S. Air Force Academy cadets who will be visiting Charleston AFB from May 3, 5 p.m. until May 6, noon. Activities for the cadets will be provided, but they will need transportation to and from base. If interested, email 1st Lt. Scott Anderson at scott.anderson@charleston.af.mil, or call 963-5874.

Officer's dining in: There will be an Officer's Combat Dining In April 28, 6 p.m., at the washrack. The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. John Vines, 82nd Airborne Division commander. If interested in volunteering, call 1st Lt. Charles Rock at 963-5520. For tickets, contact your squadron representative or group executive officer.

AEF scholarship: The Aerospace Education Foundation is taking applications for the annual Jodi Callahan Memorial Graduate Scholarship. Applications must be postmarked before July 1. Applicants must be enrolled in the current or upcoming semester with a minimum of 3 credit hours, 3.0 GPA and verification of Air Force Association membership. The scholarship is for those working toward a master's degree. For more information, send an email to AEFstaff@aef.org, or visit their Web site at www.aef.org/scholars/callahan.html.

Daedalians scholarships: The local chapter of the Order of Daedalians is sponsoring a flight scholarship in the amount of $750 with potential matching funds from their national headquarters for a total of $1,500. The scholarship is available to high school seniors and college students who demonstrate the desire and potential to become commissioned military pilots. The application deadline is May 15. For more information, call Capt. Brian Newberry at 856-4014.

Camp Happy Days: More than 170 men and women volunteers are needed to work for one week at Camp Happy Days for children with cancer July 1-7. Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. For information, visit www.camphappydays.com, or write to Camp Happy Days 2001, 1622 Ashley Hall Rd., Charleston, S.C., 29407.

Family Support Center

Air: The Family Support Center now has a membership with Air Inc., for the convenience of those personnel deciding between separation and an Air Force career. Some of the resources available include the Airline Pilot Career Decisions Guide, Airline Application Handbook, Airline Fleet and Sim Directory and Pilot Resource Guide. Free Web access and counseling are available. To access these resources, visit the FSC's Discovery Center in Bldg. 104. The center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, call 963-5187.

Hearts Apart: Hearts Apart is an ongoing program for spouses of deployed service members. The program offers such services as e-mail, morale calls, videophone calls and free oil changes. For information, contact Tech. Sgt. Ken Gilmore at 963-5630.

Pre-Deployment Briefings: Monday, April 16 and 23, 8 a.m., and Thursday, April 19 and 26, 4 p.m.

Education Opportunity Assistance: Tuesday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Couples Communication: Thursday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: April 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Mini Job Fair: April 19, 2-4 p.m.

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

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceeding the desired publication date. The ***Airlift Dispatch*** reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

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Monthly promotion ceremony highlights achievement, family

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

The enlisted promotion ceremony March 30 was a huge success. We had 36 people sew on new stripes. We were especially pleased by the strong showing of family members participating in this month's pin-on ceremony.

Supporting these types of events is important for the morale of our people. A promotion is a major milestone in someone's career and it is important to show our appreciation and support. Established traditions, such as promotion ceremonies, play a key role in shaping the attitudes of our younger airmen and can help with retention. We must let people know how much they mean to us. I appreciate everyone's support. Special thanks to the 437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron for making the arrangements!

Farewell

We bid farewell, after almost 4 years, to Col. Terrance J. Van Parys , commander of the 315th Logistics Group, and his family, Saturday. Col. Van Parys is headed to the Air Force Reserve Command headquarters as chief of the Aircraft Maintenance Management and Procedures Division at Robins AFB, Ga. The Van Parys family has been here almost four years.

We have a model relationship with the 315th Airlift Wing, and the teamwork between both wings has allowed us to accomplish so much in the past year. We wish Col. Van Parys and Amy our best in their new assignment.

Graduation

Airman Leadership School Class 2001-C graduated 23 airmen March 29. Congratulations to our graduates on their achievement. See the story on page 18 for a complete listing of the graduates and award winners. Continue to build upon the skills you learned in this five-week course.

Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Robinson, superintendent of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron, was the guest speaker. Chief Robinson talked about pride, passion and professionalism, and the importance of NCOs in guiding our airmen in their development. We appreciate his dedication to our airmen. Sadly, that same evening, the chief's wife passed away. Our heart goes out to the Robinson family. We're there for him and he's a valued member of Team Charleston. The loss of his wife saddens us all.

Outstanding people

Col. Rusty Findley traveled to the Air Mobility Command annual awards banquet last week and vigorously rooted for **Staff Sgt. Jackie Dent**, 437th Contracting Squadron, nominated for airman of the year honors. Although she did not win, we were told she was extremely competitive and just a "whisker away" from winning. Congratulations again on her nomination.

We recognized our March Diamond Sharp award winners Tuesday. Staff sergeants and below who go above and beyond the call of duty are nominated by their first sergeants to receive this honor. Diamond Sharp recipients are: **Airman 1st Class Joe B. Hays III**, 437th Security Forces Squadron; **Airman 1st Class Simon Vasiliades**, 437 APS; **Senior Airman Joe Canteen Jr.**, 437th Supply Squadron; and **Airman 1st Class Kinshishi E. Tellis**, 437th Operational Support Squadron. Way to go!

Continuing our efforts to recognize our best, we recently nominated a number of Team Charleston members for the South Carolina Air Force Association Awards.

Several units and individuals were nominated: Outstanding Unit Award, 14th Airlift Squadron; Outstanding Air Force Logistics Unit Award, 437th Logistics Group; Outstanding Air Force Person of the Year, **1st Lt. Grant Meadows**, 437th Maintenance Squadron (officer category); **Staff Sgt. Dent** (NCO category) and **Betty Smith** (civilian category), 437 CONS. We wish our nominees good luck in the statewide competition.

Capt. David E. McDonald, 14th Airlift Squadron, and **Tech. Sgt. Christopher K. Schick**, 17th Airlift Squadron have been nominated for the 21st Air Force's 2000 General Robert "Dutch" Huyser Award. In addition, we've nominated **Maj. Ronald J. Whittle**, 17 AS, for the 2000 General P. K. Carlton Award.

Distinguished visitors

We hosted members attending the Future Force Projection Symposium Wednesday. Several hundred people toured a static display of 2 C-17s, received a 437 SFS briefing and observed a 437 APS loader demonstration. This two-day symposium brought together government and industry leaders to discuss issues and concerns relevant to the constant changes and future trends in Force Projection.

The theme of the symposium was "Interfacing with Strategic Lift." Symposium attendees examined, "how best can we make our existing strategic assets more efficient and effective?"

The Symposium attendees stayed at the Embassy Suites near the North Charleston Convention complex. We appreciate everyone's support with this important visit.

Have a great weekend, but please be safe!

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.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Magic carpet reenlistment

Senior Airman Johnny Hall (left), 437th Maintenance Squadron, is reenlisted by Maj. Herbert Phillips, 437 MXS commander, atop the "magic carpet" near the tail flash of a C-17.

Letter from prison; convicted airman tells his story

By Airman Basic Jonathan Roper

We've all heard the phrase "say no to drugs" before, right? It sounds easy, but how would a 21-year-old airman first class, who had stayed away from drugs, been an athlete his whole life and came from an upper-class family ever get so deep into drugs that they ruined his life? I'll tell you!

I was assigned to Langley AFB, Va., in November 1999 with very high expectations of a career in the Air Force. All I wanted to do was make my parents proud and make my life a success. Ever since I was a little kid, my mother has preached to me and warned me to stay away from drugs and alcohol. Well, despite all of the warnings, and even my perception that people who screwed with drugs were dirt bags, I became one also.

I started using ecstasy as a weekend drug that I could do when going out in New York. I also had broken up with my fiancé at the time, and knowing how much she was against ecstasy and other drugs, I did them to make her angry to gain attention. Pretty stupid! Anyway, I was also very homesick.

I started out using ecstasy leisurely. I wouldn't let it expand to anything else. Yeah, okay! Then, I smoked pot a couple of times. I started to see myself losing weight, which usually bothered me because I was a gym freak. I'd worked out every day for the past two years trying to put weight on my tall, slim frame, but suddenly I was losing it. So, I said to myself, "I'll just work out harder." Sure! One weekend while I was home in New York City, I was in a club and was turned on to Special K. I guess I forgot that I promised myself just ecstasy.

For some reason, Special K made me feel like a sedated Schwarzenegger. Finally, after using it a couple of times, I found myself losing serious weight.

For me it was perfect because I had new friends, my girlfriend was getting really mad and concerned, I was getting a lot of attention from her and I was having fun not thinking about life's problems. I did what any stupid drug user would do; keep doing what I was doing. Now, I could simply gain weight and muscle just by using steroids. So that's what I did. I gained about 30 pounds in muscle. Did I mention that the only drug I would be using would be ecstasy?

You might ask where I got all of these drugs. I met someone at a club (while on drugs) who was a dealer and became my so-called "friend." I met a lot of so-called "friends" and a lot of girls, which really heated my fiancé even though we weren't together at the time. You know how relationships work.

All of these factors ultimately gave me a big ego and the feeling of importance. I would talk about my drug use to anybody, especially females.

I had also started to hang out with other drug users and dealers at Langley AFB. We would all hang out, bs'ing about drugs. We were having a great time meeting all kinds of new "friends." It just so happened that one of the "friends" I met introduced me to one of her "friends."

The "friend" was an undercover Air Force Office of Special Investigation agent. I got real friendly with her, and told her all about the stuff I was doing. She asked me if I was able to get pills of ecstasy for her and her friends. Ironically, in the same week, my dealer "friend" asked me to get rid of (sell) about 40-50 pills (ecstasy) for him. So next thing I knew, I was a dealer, peddling this guy's drugs for him. I never thought it was a big deal or that I would get caught. Man, was I wrong! I guess at one point, I did think about what would happen if I got caught. I had myself convinced that since I was never in any kind of trouble in my life and it was only a small amount of pills, the worst I could get was probation (according to my friend who gave me the pills). Man, was I wrong!

I'm sure you can figure out what eventually happened. I got caught a few weeks later, was immediately put in the brig on July 17, 2000, and am still confined. Let me tell you, something like jail definitely humbles you. I'm not going to lie. I was scared out of my mind! I turned into a 21-year-old, 6-foot, 3-inch, 225-pound crybaby. When I say baby, I mean tears and all. It's pretty ironic, considering about two weeks prior, I had finally gotten back together with my girlfriend of three years and we were engaged. Of course, my fiancee, her family and my family were absolutely crushed by what I did. They came to visit me the first weekend, and I immediately broke into tears in front of 30 prisoners and friends. Yeah, pretty humiliating.

Since this nightmare has happened, I have lost my whole life savings, been stripped of my freedom and have become a big disappointment to my family. I have been away from my 8-year-old sister, who is everything to me, missed many holidays and birthdays, been kicked out of the military, and most importantly, missed the last six months of my father's life.

That's another thing, I was too ashamed to tell my father what had happened, so I hadn't spoken to or seen him in the first six months I was confined, even though he called my squadron and found out what had happened to me. Unfortunately, my biggest fear had come to reality while I was confined in the Norfolk Brig. The day before my court-martial, my father was found dead at the age of 46 due to alcoholism. To make matters worse, I was denied emergency leave because of my situation, so I was unable to attend his funeral. I was his only child, and because I was stupid enough to get involved with drugs, not only did I miss his memorial and fail to reach any kind of closure with him, I also missed the last few months of his life. My father and I were very close, and it is still the hardest thing I have ever had to deal with. I do, however, appreciate life more because my life was spared. My father died due to alcoholism. I was busy messing around with dangerous drugs that could have killed me at any given moment. One drink isn't good for you, but one pill, bump or injection can kill you instantly! I was lucky. Someone else won't be.

I can honestly say I would never wish my experience on anyone. I can't even begin to tell you how hard it was to go in front of a courtroom full of people with my family sitting right behind me and explain how I injected steroids, snorted Special K, used marijuana, and took pills of ecstasy. I also had to say how I gave drugs to other people, just to be cool. My family believed, up until eight months ago, I never went near drugs. Try to imagine how hurt and disappointed they were, and still are. Nothing that happened was worth any of the pain and suffering I have caused myself, and more importantly, other people. The regret and guilt I deal with every day is something I will have to live with for the rest of my life.

I have let down my country, my family and the Air Force. To them, and anyone else reading this, I apologize. Most people who are into drugs will blow this off or think it can't happen to them. But believe me, it can happen to anyone as it did to me! If you are involved with drugs, you will either get caught, or get killed. I'm sure a lot of you are thinking that I am just another screwed-up youth trying to get sympathy. Wrong! I am a young man who made a serious mistake that has cost me a five-year prison sentence. I write all of this as I am sitting in prison far away from my family and loved ones. Am I trying to scare people away from drugs? You're damn right I am. I never want another human being to go through what I am going through. This is my reality, and if my reality is enough to keep people off drugs and save a life or career, so be it.

I spent six months in jail before I even went to trial. It really doesn't hit you until you are sitting in jail, not having any idea how long you are going to be there.

After my trial, I was sentenced to six years. Because I plead guilty to the drug charges and agreed to cooperate with the authorities, I was given a five-year deal. Five years of my life are totally shot because of drugs!

I have been incarcerated for eight months now, and I have been doing everything I can in helping others, and myself, deal with drug problems. I have gone from being a good airman, to being a casual drug user, to distributing drugs and now being convicted of serious Federal offenses, getting a dishonorable discharge and being put in prison. There is not much more I can tell you.

If you are messing with this stuff - STOP! If anyone reading this has any problems, issues, questions or concerns involving drugs, please feel free to write me at:

Jonathan P. Roper
1050 Remount Road
Bldg #3107
Charleston, SC 29406-3515

Moreover, please feel free to remain anonymous if you so desire. I have no one to blame but myself for my situation.

When a picture says more than a thousand words

By Capt. Krista Carlos
1 CTCS Logistics Flight commander

The seeds of the 1st Combat Camera Squadron were planted 50 years ago this month. Few people realize the long, rich history of this organization.

The Air Pictorial Service was established April 1, 1951 in Washington, D.C., under the direct control of the Air Force Chief of Staff. The Air Pictorial Service became known as the Aerospace Audiovisual Service, Jan. 1, 1966, and later downsized to become the 1st Combat Camera Squadron here. Today, the squadron is the only active duty Combat Camera unit in the Air Force, and it is manned with 150 aerial and ground photographers, videographers, maintainers and officers.

The unit's roots can be traced back to Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold, commander of the Army Air Corps. Arnold realized the tremendous need for training, orientation and inspirational films to keep pace with the unbelievable growth of the military. He anticipated the Army Air Corps becoming a completely separate service branch, no longer under the Army. Although this was not a reality until several years later, he saw an immediate necessity in activating his own film unit to support the new Army Air Corps. In 1942, Arnold invited Jack Warner of Warner Studios to come to Washington.

Warner accepted this challenge and was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Force. His primary assignment was to organize the first motion picture unit of the AAF. In addition, Warner was tasked to produce a short subject film to bolster enlistments in the AAF cadet program. Arnold needed 100,000 volunteers within a three-month period. To achieve this, Arnold had Warner turn all of the facilities of the Warner Brothers studio toward this effort. The short subject film was written, photographed, edited, dubbed and scored in just 14 days. Lt. Jimmy Stewart played the leading role. The effect was immediate and intense, and over 150,000 enlistments were traced to the film "Winning Your Wings."

This unit that stood up in California was the only unit to allow direct enlistments. Most of the first motion picture unit's members came from studios throughout Southern California. As the unit grew, the AAF leased the fully equipped Hal Roach Studio. Within two months of activation, there were 150 films on the schedule. During the life of the first motion picture unit, more than 400 films were made.

This unit was also responsible for combat camera training. Combat camera crews were trained at the Page Military Academy a half-mile from the studio. Each unit was composed of seven officers and 20 to 30 enlisted personnel. The program consisted of intense training in motion and still photography, maintenance, aerial work under flight conditions and rigid physical training for ground operations. Former President Ronald Reagan, then a captain, served as a personnel officer. Several other well-known people served in Combat Camera: Sgt. Alan Ladd, Sgt. George Montgomery, Capt. Robert Sterling, Capt. William Holden, Sgt. Lee Cobb, and Sgt. Arthur Kennedy, to name just a few.

Since activation, members of combat camera have seen action around the world, in almost every conflict, contingency or humanitarian effort. They have served in almost every theater documenting our nation's history. From World War II to Kosovo, combat cameramen have made a mark in history.

The impact combat camera products have on the outcome of a conflict is sometimes questioned. Col. Thomas Diamond, former Air Combat Camera Service commander, responded to this during an interview with an NBC Sunday news team.

"No photograph ever won a battle, but a photograph can win or lose a war," Diamond said. Diamond's statement was challenged and he was asked to name one time a photograph changed the outcome of a conflict. He named six in the last 50 years.

"If you think back, in virtually every conflict a single photograph or a collection of photographs so altered or crystallized the public's view of a conflict that nothing could change that perception," Diamond explained. "Images so powerful, so compelling, that they became the rightness or wrongness of an action.

"The unforgettable photograph of U.S. Marines hoisting the flag over Iwo Jima rallied the nation," continued Diamond. "With that 'shutter click' Japan lost the war because the American people would not be defeated. The haunting photograph of the raggedy, freezing GI with the thousand-yard stare in Korea signaled the end of the Korean War, because the American people saw in his eyes the hopelessness of the war and the price of victory too high. The cold-blooded execution of a Viet cong on a Saigon street by an ally mired America in the moral low ground. The war was lost at that point no matter how many battles we won. We had lost the moral high ground. The American medical student kissing U.S. soil following air evacuation from Grenada made the cause of righteous in the eyes of the American people and generated a fierce anti-media response which had leaned opposite to the public's view. The capture of General Noriega signaled final resolution to the crisis in Panama. The uplifting and patriotic photo of proud, resolute, invincible U.S. soldiers trucking for Kuwait evoked such overwhelming public support, the war was won in the eyes of the American people before it started."

The effects of combat camera's images continue to set the perception of the rightness or wrongness of our nation's participation in conflicts and efforts. With United States involvement in so many places around the world, combat camera's imagery becomes even more significant to senior leaders and decision makers today.

The 1st Combat Camera Squadron prides itself on its rich heritage and strives to continue to make a mark in history. With the ever-changing world of technology, combat camera personnel are constantly training and purchasing the most up-to-date camera equipment to keep pace with ongoing taskings, ensuring their future will be as prosperous as their past.

Relief act helps military members

By Barbara Lang
Family Support Center

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, passed by Congress in 1940, was created to help individuals whose military service hindered their ability to manage their daily finances.

More specifically, it normally applies if, and when, a military member is reassigned to an overseas or geographic location that indirectly or directly affects income, and if the income dropped significantly due to military service.

These provisions apply to Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and members of the Public Health Service who are detailed. Reservists and members of the National Guard are protected only when they are on active duty.

The act's primary purpose is to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations to enable service members to devote full attention to duty. The protections generally begin on the date of entering federal active duty and terminate within 30 to 90 days after the date of discharge from active duty. Since the act provides a wide range of protections, it's important to know and understand what is and is not protected. The following are some of the limits of what is covered:

■ The act does not protect you from criminal proceedings; therefore, if you are arrested and tried, you cannot postpone the criminal case because you are in the military

■ The act only postpones civil obligations; it does not permanently remove them; for example, if you default on a loan payment, you may be protected under the act if your military service interfered with your ability to pay; however, once you are out of the service, or you get a raise, the act may not protect you anymore

■ The act only covers written agreements; oral agreements will not be protected under the act; in addition, the written agreement had to be incurred before you entered military service; any debts incurred during or after military service are not covered

■ The most common provision is the lowering of interest rates on installment loans; you have the right under the act to have your interest rate reduced on any contract you entered before you entered military service to six percent, unless your service did not materially affect your ability to pay the original interest rate.

It's important to note however, the act's protections should not be used to lower interest rates, avoid suit or stop paying debts if military obligation does not materially impair the ability to do these things. If it appears that a service person is abusing the act, the courts may enforce civil liabilities without regard to the protective provisions of the act.

For more information, visit www.dca.org, or call the Family Support Center at 963-5448.

Services during the Lenten Season

The following are specially-scheduled Lenten Services. Regular Sunday Services will be held as posted on page 15.

Protestant

Sunday, 12:15 p.m., Easter Cantata
Thursday, 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday Service
April 13, noon, Good Friday Sevice
April 15, 6 a.m., Easter Sunrise Worship Service

Catholic

Monday, 5:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass
April 13, 5:30 p.m., Good Friday Service
April 14, 8:30 p.m., Easter Vigil

Chapel schedule

107 Arthur Drive

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Phone: 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services

Saturday -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

Weekdays -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

Protestant Services

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

Thursday -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Airman 1st Class David Winner at 963-2102.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission prices:
Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted .

Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Today, 7:30 p.m.
"Monkeybone" – Branden Fraser

Life couldn't be better for Stu. He's happy, in love and on the verge of big success, as his comic strip is about to become a national television show. But on the night Stu is to propose, he is struck down in a freak accident. Now, he must outwit death before the doctors pull the plug. But Monkeybone has hatched his own plot that could thwart Stu's plans. **(PG-13) 93 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.
"Recess: School's Out" – Animated

There's only one thing better than recess; summer vacation. T.J.'s plans get changed, however, when he finds out all his pals are going away to summer camp without him. It doesn't take long for boredom to set in. **(G) 83 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
"3,000 Miles to Graceland" – Kurt Russell

A group of ex-cons plan a heist of a Las Vegas casino during an Elvis-impersonator convention that will serve as a cover and a distraction. **(R) 125 minutes**

April 13, 7:30 p.m.
"Get Over It" – Ben Foster

Fitness & Sports

Sports line

Wrestling: The Fort Dorchester High School Wrestling Open will be Saturday. Registration and weigh-ins are from 8-9:30 a.m. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Kevin Peters at 963-4684.

Mouth guards: The 437th Medical Group Deily Dental Clinic provides fitted athletic mouth guards for use during all contact sports. Mouth guards can prevent traumatic injuries such as: fractured teeth, cut lips, gums or tongue, objects wedged between the teeth and dislodged or lost teeth. Contact the Deily Dental Clinic at 963-6839/6842 to receive your mouth guard.

HAWC News: Do you know your numbers? You can still sign up at the HAWC Monday-Thursday for a cholesterol screening on Friday. For more information, call the HAWC at 963-4007.

Commander's coin brings NASCAR driver good luck, first win

NASCAR Winston Cup Series driver Elliott Sadler won the Food City 500 auto race at the Bristol Motor Speedway March 25 and said his good luck symbol will now be a four-star general's special bronze coin.

The coin Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force Materiel Command commander, gave him during a visit to the pit area just before the race started proved to be the good luck he needed to take his first victory in 75 starts, Sadler said.

"I am going to have this coin with me for every race," Sadler said.

The Air Force announced Oct. 4 that it would advertise its symbol on Sadler's No. 21 Motorcraft Ford Taurus, owned by Wood Brother's Racing, in an effort to recruit 18 to 25 year old NASCAR fans with a mechanical background.

Taking the checkered flag at Bristol, Sadler notched his first-ever NASCAR Winston Cup Series win in record fashion. He won the race from the furthest back in the field, eclipsing the record set by Dale Earnhardt in 1999. Sadler started the race in 38th position out of the 43-car field.

Throughout the race Sadler eased up through the field and stayed out of trouble, just waiting for his break.

"I knew we had a good car because we were running strong all day," Sadler said. "We were just so far back we kept getting caught up in traffic."

But when the yellow caution flag came out on lap 373 of the 500-lap event, Sadler and his crew decided to gamble and stay on the track while most of the rest of the field made pit stops. This decision moved the #21 car from 15th to second.

Sadler then received another break when race leader Kevin Harvick had to make an unscheduled pit stop due to a flat tire, giving Sadler the lead with 69 laps to go.

From there he never looked back and never gave up the lead taking the checkered flag for his first NASCAR win.

"This is such an incredible feeling," Sadler said after the race. "I am so proud for the Wood Brothers and for this Motorcraft Ford team, and I am proud to be representing the U.S. Air Force."

Lyles was at Bristol not only to watch the Food City 500, but also to give the oath of enlistment to 20 new recruits who are entering the Air Force on the delayed enlistment plan. He also addressed the more than 150,000 spectators from the stage in front of the grandstand.

The general talked about the commitment between the Air Force and the Wood Brother's Racing Team and Elliott Sadler.

"I am very proud to be here today as a NASCAR fan and representing the men and women of the Air Force," Lyles said. "It is also an honor to be associated with such a great organization like NASCAR, Wood Brothers Racing and Elliott Sadler.

"The Air Force and NASCAR have a lot in common," Lyles added. "The Air Force, just like NASCAR, offers young people a tremendous chance to excel, and the Air Force's new motto also works well for NASCAR, 'No One Comes Close.'"

(Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)

Airlift wing staff airman claims Levitow, academic awards at ALS

Senior Airman Melanie Streeter, 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, earned the Sgt. John L. Levitow Award and the Academic Achievement Award during Airman Leadership School Class 01-C, and was presented with these honors at the graduation dinner Thursday at the Charleston Club.

Senior Airman Jeffrey Wolfe, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, received the Distinguished Graduate Award.

Senior Airman Temika Keys, 437th Maintenance Squadron, earned the Leadership Award.

Graduates from the five-week course also include the following senior airmen:

15th Airlift Squadron: Richard Bennett; 17th Airlift Squadron: James Lucas; 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron: Craig Carpenter, Annie Goode, Daniel Morris, Joshua Sokolowski, Raymond Rightmier, Justin Wallace; 437th Aerial Port Squadron: Keith Miley; 437th Civil Engineer Squadron: Edward Bunce, Mayco Gil; 437th Communications Squadron: Joshua Berman, Naaron Rainey; 437th Medical Operations Squadron Mark DeRemer; 437 MXS: Cassandra Rainey; 437th Security Forces Squadron: Christopher Bill, Patrick Smith; 437th Supply Squadron: Elizabeth Harris, Michael Krawzak; 315th Airlift Wing: Mary Hinson.

The guest speaker was Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Robinson, 437 APS superintendent.

Seven airmen named BTZ selectees

The following airmen first class were named selectees for Senior Airman Below the Zone promotion for the first quarter of 2001:

Michael Shifflett, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Joseph Gohring, 437th Maintenance Squadron; Kelly Diaz, 437th Supply Squadron; John Pride Jr., 437 SUPS; Victoria Bruemmer, 17th Airlift Squadron; Dawn Potter, 437th Transportation Squadron; Jeremy Roberts, 15th Airlift Squadron.

Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino

They want to see blood

Staff Sgt. Elida Yanez, 437th Transportation Squadron, gives orange juice to Senior Airman Esther Oliver, 437 TRNS, while Oliver relaxes after donating blood. Yanez and Oliver were among 21 Team Charleston volunteers to donate their time or blood during the WCBD TV Channel 2-sponsored Red Cross event March 29. The annual blood drive was held at the Omar Shrine Temple, Mount Pleasant.