

DISPATCH

Inside

- ▶ Stolen identity / 3
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ Autism / 11
- ▶ Sports / 15

Vol. 40, No. 16

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, April 27, 2001

Crisis Look targets readiness

By 1st Lt. Beth Szucs
437 AW Public Affairs

Crisis Look 01-04, Charleston AFB's recent mobility exercise, came to a close April 19, and Team Charleston appeared one step closer to reaching its deployment processing goals, set by the 437th Airlift Wing Inspector General's Office.

"The exercise went extremely well," said Master Sgt. Dave Hunt, chief of inspections and readiness, 437 AWIG Office. "The difference between our first exercise in November and this one was huge. All units have learned a great deal about the mobility process, and our readiness to deploy anytime or anywhere is outstanding."

Beginning the morning of April 16, the Crisis Action Team went to work as the



Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Murphy

Staff Sgt. Sidney DeLeon, 14th Airlift Squadron (left), Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Threat and Master Sgt. Oscar Thompson, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, load a pallet of heaters on a C-17 Globemaster III during the recent mobility exercise.

See Exercise, page 2

CAFB work processes improved by action workouts, quality tools

By Senior Airman Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB is continuously improving the processes used in every facet of daily operations.

Recently, an action workout focused on the fitness-testing program, and a blitz team helped the 437th Aircrew Life Support flight improve its training and documentation programs, according to 2nd Lt. Catherine Barker, 437th Airlift Wing performance manager.

Action workouts and blitz teams, along with process action teams, tiger teams, working groups and developmental teams are the quality tools almost any organization can use to look at almost every process, Barker said.

An action workout is a quick-hitting, high-energy team designed to identify and eliminate waste and streamline processes to save money, said Barker.

In addition to the fitness-testing program, CAFB agencies have used action workouts to improve the C-17 home-station check, the due in from maintenance system and the aircraft debrief process, according to Barker. Those three teams won consecutive Chief of Staff Team Excellence Awards for 1998-2000.

Because of Team Charleston's success with the action workout process, Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney, the U.S. Air Force Europe director of logistics, and former 437th Logistics Group commander, requested help in spreading this quality tool to bases

in Europe, Barker said.

In October 2000, Barker traveled to Ramstein AB, Germany, and spent two days providing action workout training to 20 logistics group personnel from various USAFE bases. She then moved on to RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, and spent two weeks facilitating an action workout involving the isochronal inspection of the KC-135. Two more weeks were spent at Aviano AB, Italy, facilitating another action workout.

"Personnel who received training during the initial session at Ramstein were involved in the action workouts at the other bases," Barker said. "It made the process a lot smoother."

"The overall goal of my time spent

See Process, page 2

Enlisted, Officers' Dining-In evening postponed

Due to recent negative trends in the base population, the dining-in committees feel it is prudent to temporarily postpone these events.

Actions speak louder than words. The committees feel by postponing the Dinings-In, the overall welfare and betterment of all assigned to Charleston AFB would benefit. For more information see your dining-in committee representative.

IN THE NEWS

WWII-era B-25 to be displayed May 19 at CAFBs Air Expo 2001

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston's upcoming Air Expo May 19 will feature more than fast moving jets, it will also include an immaculately restored North American B-25 Mitchell, the same type of aircraft that was launched off an aircraft carrier for the first Tokyo raid April 18, 1942, by Gen. James H. Doolittle.

The B-25J, named Panchito after one of the "Three Caballeros" in the famous World War II-era Disney cartoon, is restored and painted to represent an aircraft of the 396th Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, 7th Air Force, stationed in the Central Pacific in 1945. The aircraft is powered by two, 1,700 horsepower, Wright R2600-35 Cyclone, 14-cylinder, air-cooled, radial engines.

The B-25, owned and piloted by Larry D. Kelley, was restored in 1986. Kelley purchased it in September 1997. His aircraft company, Rag Wings and Radials Vintage

Aircraft, owns several WWII aircraft that tour the East Coast air show circuit. His rare UC-78B will also be at the show.

The B-25 was produced in greater numbers than any other American twin-engine combat aircraft. It had a crew of six, a range of 2,700 miles and could carry 3,000 pounds of bombs or depth charges. Only 34 flyable aircraft remain in the world today.

According to Kelley and the U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Ala., this particular aircraft spent some time on the ramp at Charleston AFB in the 1950's.

The aircraft was eventually converted to a TB25N configuration and served with various Air National Guard Units. It was deployed to Charleston AFB from 1954 to 1955 with the Westchester N.Y. Air National Guard.

The B-25 was sent to the "bone yard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., in 1958 and was sold to its first civilian owner

in 1959, where it was used as a fire bomber and later orange grove sprayer in Florida. By the late 1960s it was worn out, corroded and no longer airworthy. Tom Reilly, a vintage airplane restorer in Kissimmee, Fla., obtained the remains of the airplane in 1981, disassembled it, and began a five-year restoration that involved a total rebuild of the airframe. It has been flying continuously since 1986.

Kelley performs at about 27 airshows a year. He flies out of love for the aircraft and what it accomplished during WWII. "It is an honor to be a temporary custodian of a piece of our aviation history," said Kelley.

"Airshow revenues provide just a drop in the bucket toward the total costs to keep this aircraft flyable, but it is worth it to me. It is getting harder and more expensive to get the parts though. I have already collected a barn and two hangars full of spare parts, including seven spare engines. Fortunately, a few

old timers bought up trainloads of spare parts after WWII and are still in the old airplane parts business. Some parts, such as tires and brakes now must be custom manufactured. As a result of this, a tire for a B-25 now costs the same as a tire for the space shuttle."

When out on the airshow circuit, Kelley and his flight crew wear WWII-era Air Corps uniforms to give the public a better sense of what it was like then. Cherie McClung, the scheduler and logistics officer for their company, also joins in and wears uniforms worn by women in the military from that period.

"Cheri always wears a uniform with rank higher than me just to remind me of the value of what she does. The uniforms always get a reaction from the crowds and we enjoy meeting and speaking with many of the veterans who fought and preserved our freedoms during WWII.

"Too few people today give the veterans of WWII the re-

spect they are due," Kelley added.

Kelley says there are not many differences between the "J" and famed "B" model used by the Doolittle raiders on Tokyo. The "J" model had improved armaments and could use most of its guns offensively, but essentially the airframes were the same.

The B-25 was selected for this first strike back at the Japanese mainland, four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, because it could take off in less than 500 feet, Doolittle said in a video in 1980, describing the bombing raid by 16 B-25Bs launched from the carrier deck of the USS Hornet.

Although the attack was inconsequential in terms of damage on the Japanese, Doolittle said it was the first good news that the U.S. had in World War II. "It caused the Japanese to question their warlords.

Kelley says the B-25 is an easy plane to fly and was advanced for its time.

Exercise

continued from page 1

warning order, and eventually the deployment order, was filed through the IG's office. Cargo processing began April 18, and personnel began processing through the mobility line April 19.

More than 223 active duty members processed to deploy starting at 6 a.m. and finishing by 4 p.m.

"The processing line, both in facility management and staff, was outstanding," said Hunt. "This recent series of exercises has allowed us to refine our processing capability to the point that during this exercise we had very few discrepancies. Our installation deployment officer, the deployment control center staff, personnel in support of contingency operations teams and all the other staff functions represented on the line have done a tremendous job in

improving our capabilities."

Hunt wasn't the only one on base who saw improvement. "I am very happy with the results of the just-completed exercise," said Col. Rusty Findley, 437 AW commander. "I'm extremely proud of where we've come since this past fall with our mobility processes.

"As you know, when we had our first wing-wide exercise in over two years, back in November, much to our surprise we had let many of our critical 'go-to-war' skills and processes atrophy," continued Findley. "In the time since then, a lot of folks have spent a lot of time working very hard to regain and refine those critical skills. This past exercise proved that when it comes to deploying a large package of folks and cargo, we've come back to where we need to be.

"My thanks to our Plans and Programs and IG shops and to our unit deployment managers who have worked so hard over the past six months to get us back on track. I look forward to continuing to work toward ensuring that all of us are ready to do our assigned duties when our nation calls," Findley added.

Process

continued from page 1

overseas was to facilitate so that others could learn the process and carry on with action workouts and other quality tools," she continued.

The most difficult part of the action workout process, and also the most pivotal, is the process owner buying into the improvements, according to Barker.

"A lot of times we don't deal with change well," said Barker. "That's human nature. The best thing about action workouts is the people who own the process decide what changes to implement. It helps them to buy into it, because if the process user doesn't buy into the improvement, it will never work."

The 437 LG has its own resident expert on action workouts. Retired Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hutchinson, chief of process improvement and Phoenix Star, is the logistics group's key facilitator for action workouts. He is currently involved with a team chartered by the Air Force and Boeing to improve C-17 availability.

The biggest benefit of action workouts, according to Hutchinson, is continuous improvement. "They keep the train moving."

"The logistics group uses action workouts to look at the worst things first," Hutchinson said. "The return on investment is 400-fold if it's done the proper way."

The proper way to perform an action workout is to keep the entire

process in an eight-day window, said Hutchinson. Three days are spent on training, one on establishing a baseline, three for the process itself and one day on the outbrief. However, the process has been stretched by some into a three-week ordeal.

Supervisors don't want to give people up for three weeks, and understandably so, Hutchinson said. "Eight days, though, isn't such a big deal."

Process action teams look for the fastest way to do a repeatable process, Hutchinson said. "If you can't standardize it, you can't use this technique. A repeatable process that can be standardized is key to the success of these kinds of teams."

All of the wings in Air Mobility Command perform action workouts, said Hutchinson. "We have done a lot at Charleston. Does this mean we're the best? Not necessarily, but we have looked at real processes needing improvement and fixed them. We don't just do it for the numbers."

Another tool used at CAFB is an "out-of-the-box thinker," Hutchinson said. "Sometimes the users are so involved in the process, so used to it, that they can't see the forest for the trees. An out-of-the-box thinker is invaluable in identifying problems that otherwise would have gone unnoticed.

"The biggest thing I see at Charleston is, from the wing commander down, everyone is involved," Hutchinson continued. "Everybody sees the benefit of teams."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

Charleston AFB members sit through a processing briefing during the recent exercise, Crisis Look 01-04.

'Grandma, did you charge 100 Smashing Pumpkins concert tickets?'

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

"We never locked our door in those days. We didn't even have locks. Theft wasn't a problem," said someone's grandmother.

Today, theft is a problem, especially identity theft.

According to a Federal Trade Commission report, more than 100,000 identity theft complaints were filed in the United States in 2000. Of those who filed complaints, 25,845 were found to be actual victims of the crime.

Identity theft occurs when an identity thief co-opts some piece of personal information and appropriates it, without the victim's knowledge, to commit fraud or theft. The most common example is the opening of a credit card account in someone else's name, according to the FTC.

There are thousands of ways to steal someone's personal information. The method used can be as basic as stealing a piece of mail, or as complex as hacking through security measures to gain information from a company's computer database.

While there's no sure way to stop identity theft, Capt. Terri Saunders, 437th Airlift Wing Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, recommends safeguard-

ing all documents containing personal information, as well as destroying documents that are no longer needed.

"I recommend shredding old bills, receipts or anything that contains personal information," said Saunders. "Old documents can contain credit card numbers and other information people could use to commit identity theft. We haven't seen a case of identity theft here (Charleston AFB) recently, but it's always a threat."

South Carolina has a low number of identity theft complaints each year, according to FTC statistics. The state ranks near the bottom of the list with 0-300 complaints in 2000. With the TDYs, PCSing and recreational travel that come with being a military member, personnel should be aware California, New York, Florida and Texas are hot spots for identity theft. California ranks first with 4,675 victims in 2000.

The FTC recommends some of the following steps to help prevent identity theft:

- Before revealing personal information, find out how it will be used
- Pay close attention to billing cycles, and make sure bills arrive on time; if not, call the creditor to ensure a bill has not been stolen
- Deposit outgoing mail in post

office collection boxes, and promptly remove incoming mail from the mailbox

- Minimize the number of ID cards carried to what is actually needed
- Keep items with personal information in a safe place
- Be cautious about where personal information is kept throughout work areas
- Order a copy of credit reports from each of the three major credit reporting agencies every year; make sure it is accurate and only reflects authorized activities (The CAFB Family Support Center can provide information on how to send for these reports.)

Even a careful, security-minded person can fall victim to identity theft, according to the FTC. If someone suspects identity theft, such as fraudulent credit card charges, changes in personal information on government documents or unaccounted changes in utility bills, the first step should be to contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus.

Second, contact the creditor of the suspect account that may have been tampered with.

Finally, file a report with the local police department, or the police department where the identity theft took place.

"It's important to contact security forces, or the agency with jurisdiction where the theft took place," said Saunders. "Identity theft is a crime, and the police need to be notified about it, just like any other crime. I would also recommend contacting the legal office. We can try to help resolve issues with the creditors and give legal advice about the situation."

The legal office has walk-in legal assistance every Wednesday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 963-5502 during duty hours, for more information.

The 437th Security Forces Investigations section is trained and prepared to investigate certain types of identity theft, according to Tech. Sgt. Rich Reeder, investigator.

"There are times personnel report stolen IDs or wallets, when in fact they are actually misplaced and they

get turned in to the security forces control center," said Reeder. "Not all cases of missing or stolen IDs require the same extensive investigation as a case where theft actually occurred and someone is using someone else's ID or credit cards for personal gain."

"If an ID or credit card was stolen and unlawfully used, we may coordinate our investigation with OSI (Air Force Office of Special Investigation) and civilian agencies to locate the stolen items and identify the individuals using them. If someone is charged with theft or misuse of private or government property, they may be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or by civil law."

The Air Force OSI Detachment 310, is also ready to assist military victims of identity theft. Special Agent Kristen Welch, AFOSI, said personnel can call 963-3248 to report identity theft, or any crime for that matter.

"We work closely with security forces to keep each other aware of current problems, like identity theft," said Welch. "Depending on the circumstances, we may also coordinate investigations with outside agencies and local police departments. A lot of what we do depends on the type of crime and dollar value involved."

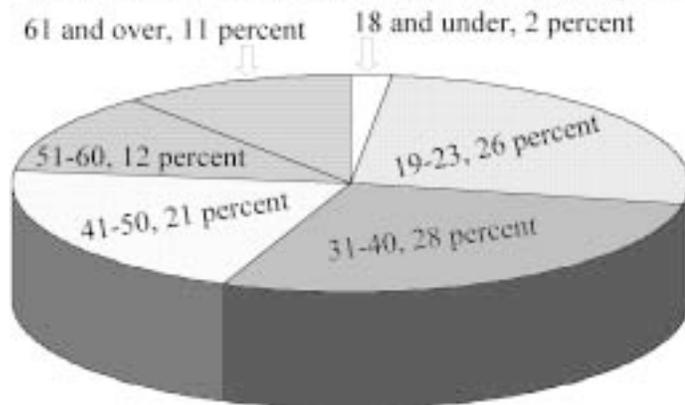
Welch said the prominent form of identity theft she's worked on is unique to the military. "We've had cases of people using expired IDs, or IDs that didn't even belong to them, to get on base or shop at the Commissary and BX."

Identity theft is not a victimless crime. Credit lines and credibility can be immediately ruined, and it may take years to fix the damage a thief has done.

Many resources and agencies are available for victims of identity theft. Following the guidelines above and notifying the appropriate agencies as soon as theft is suspected can help combat the crime. The FTC can provide further guidance and information at 1-877-438-4338. Information and identity theft reporting forms can be found at www.consumer.gov/sentinel/idchart.htm.

Identity Theft by Age

Source: Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse



Passenger service says 'you have to buy tickets here' for official travel

By Senior Airman Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

As permanent change of station season begins to reach full swing, the 437th Traffic Management Office's passenger movement section would like to remind members of the regulations regarding airline tickets for official travel.

"A high percentage, about 90 percent, of people heading overseas want us to issue

them a ticket from their leave location, instead of from here," said Staff Sgt. Cole Harn, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the passenger movement section. "What they don't realize is we can't do that."

"When you go home, or wherever, on leave before a PCS, it's leisure travel," Harn continued. "We can only issue a ticket for what is on your orders."

According to Harn, the government has contracts with

individual commercial airlines for travel between specified airports. This contract allows for discounted fares, fixed fares, no refund penalties, advanced seat reservations, no blackout periods and no advanced purchase requirements. The government receives a 68 percent discount off the full walk-up fare.

"Cost is not a factor," said Tech. Sgt. Shawn White, NCOIC of the passenger movement section. "People

come in here a lot of the time with a better deal they found on the Internet. Most of the time those 'better' deals look cheaper, but there are a lot of restrictions on the ticket. It might not be refundable, where as our tickets are good for up to a year.

"Besides," White continued, "the only place you can get tickets when traveling on official orders is here. Don't go out and buy them on your own."

White cautions tickets

purchased by individuals may not be refundable.

There are options available that may allow a member to travel from a leave location to the PCS destination, Harn said. "The best advice I can give to people in this situation is to contact us after that initial PCS briefing so we can give you options and you have enough time to make plans."

For more information call White at 963-3059 or 963-3093.

NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Profile



Photo by Senior Airman Donald Church

Staff Sgt. Cole Harn 437th Aerial Port Squadron

Staff Sgt. Cole Harn works as a traffic management office passenger service agent for the 437th Aerial Port Squadron. His duties include assisting military, reserve and civilian travelers with official travel arrangements for military duty such as TDY's or training.

Harn works closely with civilian travel agents and commercial airlines to ensure Team Charleston personnel have a smooth and inexpensive traveling experience.

Harn arrived at Charleston in 1997. His wife, Staff Sgt. Lashawna Harn, work at the Dely Dental Clinic. They have a daughter, Julianna, who is 14 months old.

Originally from Minnesota, Harn recently received orders assigning him to Grand Forks AFB, N.D., and will be leaving Charleston AFB at the end of May.

"Charleston has been real good to us, but I guess it's time to move on," said Harn. "I am going to miss the weather, but I enjoy skiing. I will especially miss the care Julianna has received from the Child Development Center. I wish we could take all the great folks that work there with us to Grand Forks.

"I guess the best thing for us will be how close I will be to my family," said Harn. "It's only a three- or four-hour drive home and my mother is looking forward to spending time with her granddaughter."

When not helping passengers with their travel arrangements or spending time with his wife and daughter, Harn can often be found at Wrenwoods improving his golf game. He has been on his squadron's intramural team for several years and his team is currently rated in the top ten.

Spotlight

Change of command: Lt. Col. Peter Hirnese will assume command of the 17th Airlift Squadron from Lt. Col. Red Millander at 3:30 p.m. today at the Charleston Club. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Retirement: The 437th Airlift Wing Safety Office is hosting a retirement ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Anthony Palangi today, 2 p.m., at the 14th Airlift Squadron auditorium. For more information, call Master Sgt. Allison Bethea at 963-5597.

Retirement: The 437th Airlift Wing Inspector General's Office is hosting a retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. Rod Pressley today, 3 p.m., in Bldg. 246. For more information, call Col. William Schell at 963-3552.

Around the base

Retreat: All women are invited to join the Protestant Women of the Chapel for a spiritual retreat today through Sunday at Short Stay and the Farmer's Bank of Moncks Corner. There will be guest speakers. Attendees can stay for all or part of the weekend. For more information call Linda Redman at 767-5449.

HAWC: The Health and Wellness Center is celebrating May as Fitness Month by hosting the Spring into Fitness Challenge. The program begins Tuesday and runs through May 28. The first event will be a free 5K Fun Run/Walk at 11:30 a.m., Tues-

day, at the Sports and Fitness Center. It is open to the entire Charleston AFB community. Free t-shirts will be given to the first 25 people to show up at the race. For more information call 963-4007.

Holocaust: The National Days of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust Commemoration will be Wednesday, noon, at the Base Chapel. Attire for the event is uniform of the day, or Charleston casual. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call Lori Roop at 216-0286.

CCAF: The base education office is hosting an annual Community College of the Air Force Graduation May 4, 2:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The office will close at 1:30 p.m. Thursday for graduation practice and will be closed May 4 for the ceremony. For more information, call 963-4575.

Parenting Teenagers class: The Behavioral Sciences Flight will offer a free six-session class for Charleston AFB parents of teenagers. This evening class will start May 22 and meet for six consecutive Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information and to register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

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 the pump" system to purchase fuel. The pumps will be unattended, so cus-

tomers should follow all posted safety rules.

AEF scholarship: The Aerospace Education Foundation is taking applications for the annual Jodi Callahan Memorial Graduate Scholarship. Applications must be post-marked 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 e-mail to AEFstaff@aef.org, or visit their Web site at www.aef.org/scholars/callahan.html.

Consignment: The base Consignment 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 a paid, part-time bookkeeper. Apply in person. The shop is located in Bldg. 203 on Graves Avenue. For more information, call 963-3294.

Officers needed: The Officer Accessions recruiting office needs field-grade officers to volunteer as Officer Training School candidate interviewing officials. Volunteers will interview prospective OTS candidates who have been prescreened by recruiters. The number of applicants will probably not exceed 25 per year. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Perry Anderson at 569-6956.

TMO: The peak season for shipments of personal property is here. Personnel should report to the TMO office as soon as they receive their orders. Because of current volume, three-four weeks are needed to confirm requested move dates. For more information, call 963-2255, or visit www.charleston.af.mil/CHAS/437AW/OG/TMO/index.htm.

BX: The BX has extended its check cashing services to all registers. Customers may cash a personal check up to \$300, or a two-party check of up to \$100, at any register. Other checks, up to \$500, may be cashed at customer service. Starter checks are limited to \$100 per day at any register. Military star card payments and layaway payments are also accepted at any register. Also, social security numbers are no longer required to cash a check. The new procedure requires the cashier to enter the SSN of the person presenting the check, not the sponsor's. The cashier takes the number from the presenter's ID card and key enters it into the register for authorization. Other basic data, such as the presenter's name, address and military unit must still be printed or written on the check.

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 also 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 Linda Lankosz at 963-5187.

Sponsorship Training: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m., and May 16, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Newcomer's Tour: Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pre-Deployment Briefings: May 7, 14 and 21, 8 a.m., and May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 4 p.m.

Investing A-Z I: May 7, 9-11:30 a.m.

Resume I: May 8, 9 a.m.-noon
Educational Opportunities Assistance: May 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Investing A-Z II: May 14, 9-11:30 a.m.

Positive Parenting: May 15, 9-11 a.m.

TAD2 Day Workshops, May 15-17

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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

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Base hosts several top leaders

By Col. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

The Charleston Swampfoxes honored our aircrew that transported the 24 "heroes" from the Navy EP-3 from Hawaii to Guam. They received a standing ovation from more than 4,000 fans in the audience Saturday evening. It was nice to see the local community show their appreciation to our people, and their response was a reflection of what you do each and every day for our nation. It also gave us a chance to plug our upcoming Air Expo, May 19. See the story on page 15.

The Citadel hosted Gen. and Mrs. Michael E. Ryan, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, for a parade and reception in their honor April 20. I had a chance to meet them as they arrived and departed here, and I joined them at the Citadel. A special thanks to our always top-notch protocol staff, led by Kathy Knichel, for their arrangements.

We also had a visit this week from Air Marshal G. E. Stirrup, deputy Commander-in-Chief, Strike Command for the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force for an orientation to the C-17. He toured a C-17 static display, the 15th Airlift Squadron, 373rd Training Squadron Field Training Detachment 5 and flew in the Boeing simulator. He was impressed with Team Charleston!

Brig. Gen. Dean Fox, director of civil engineering at Air Mobility Command headquarters, and members of his staff, visited for our periodic CE line item review on Wednesday. They spent time touring our base facilities and construction projects such as the additional C-17

simulator, corrosion control facility, life support, new dining facility, squadron operations and aircraft maintenance units 3 and 4, golf course, and the site for a new transient lodging facility. We are always glad to host General Fox and his staff because of the great support they have given us in the past. He is a strong supporter of Charleston AFB, and I just cannot thank him enough.

Tuesday morning was another chance for me to recognize some of our best people as part of the quarterly awards breakfast. Award recipients were Senior Company Grade Officer of the Quarter,

Capt. Tracy Velino, 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs; Junior CGO of the Quarter, 1st Lt. Erika Tanner, 437th Communications Squadron; Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Senior Master Sgt. Randall von Holdt, 437 CS; NCO of the Quarter, Master Sgt. Sheila Musser, 437th Medical Group; Airman of the Quarter, Senior Airman Christopher Wakham, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron; Honor Guard Airman of the Quarter, Airman 1st Class Bryan Potts, 437th Maintenance Squadron; Civilian of the Quarter (Category 1), Dennis Russell, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and Civilian of the Quarter (Category 2), Anna Nix,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, greets Gen. Michael Ryan, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, during a recent visit to Charleston AFB.

437th Contracting Squadron. We bid farewell this week to two superb officers on their retirement. Lt. Col. Rod Pressley, deputy Inspector General and Exercise Evaluator Team chief, retires today after 26 years in the Air Force. He served here for five years as the wing chief of standardization and evaluation and with the IG. We will miss him and his wife, Rhonda. Fortunately, they will stay in the local area and continue to operate their two businesses. Please drop by his office today around 3 p.m. in Bldg. 246 and say farewell.

We also held a retirement ceremony Wednesday for Lt. Col. Fred Cianciolo, deputy commander of the 437th Operations Group. Fred has been our resident expert on the C-17 for many years. He arrived here in June 1994 as a part of the initial C-17 cadre, played a big role in the Reliability, Maintainability and Availability Evaluation in 1995, led our efforts in a number of real-world contingencies and even flew the president a couple of times in the C-17. He most recently led our efforts to bring back the

Special Operations Low Level II mission to Charleston. He and his wife, Emily, will remain in the local area. Fred, thanks for all you did for our nation!

Lt. Col. Peter Hirneise assumes command of the 17th Airlift Squadron from Lt. Col. Red C. Millander today. Red and his wife, Deb, are headed to Scott AFB, Ill., where Red will serve as special assistant to the AMC commander in May. He will continue to do great things for the Air Force. We wish them our best. Pete, congratulations!

I just want to thank the Inspector General staff, unit deployment managers and the entire wing for their hard work during our recent mobility exercise. We still have a ways to go, but everyone put forth a great effort and lead forward to make it happen seamlessly. See the article on the cover for more details.

Continue to do great things for the wing and our Air Force. I am impressed with your great pride, passion and professionalism. It is great to be a part of the premier airlift wing on the face of planet. Keep up the good work!

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.



FEATURE

CAFB family lives with autism; asks for understanding

Story and photos by
Senior Airman Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Through a normal pregnancy, and for the first 15 months, he was a typical little boy. Then, he stopped eating and talking and withdrew from his parents. They knew something was wrong.

For Tech Sgt. Cy Rousseau, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and his wife, Adrienne, life with their son, Alexander, was about to change.

Following "an episode," Xander, as his family calls him, was paralyzed on his left side for a few days. The Rousseau's took him to a doctor, who performed a magnetic resonance imaging of his brain. The MRI showed a lesion or possible tumor in his brain. This was the beginning of the Rousseau's experience with autism.

Xander is the youngest of three children. He was seen by an occupational therapist regularly, starting when he was four-months old, for low muscle tone. After the lesion was detected, a pediatric neurologist also treated him.

Working with the occupational therapist and the neurologist, Adrienne took her observations, and theirs, and started to research Xander's condition.

"I started doing research and realized he was on the autism spectrum," Adrienne said.



Adrienne Rousseau and her son, Xander, 3, spend time on Xander's therapy ball. Alexander has an autism spectrum disorder called atypical autism.

Autism is a developmental disability typically appearing in the first three years, according to the Autism Society of America Web site. Autism and its associated behaviors affect thousands of individuals. It is more prevalent in boys than girls and affects people from every background.

The disorder impacts the development of social interaction and communication skills, according to the site. Autism often heightens sensitivity in the five senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. For individuals with autism, an intense awareness of the world makes concentrating extremely difficult.

"Imagine trying to play outside with your friends while trying to compensate for all of the beautiful sights, smells and sounds outside; only to our children, they are not beautiful, they are scary and overwhelming," Adrienne said.

The Rousseau's have readjusted their lifestyle to better suit Xander's needs, Adrienne said. "Our house used to be more cluttered than it is now. There were toys in every room. Now, the only room where toys are allowed is the bedroom. Xander copes much better with an organized, uncluttered environment."

Because there are no outward signs of autism, people often don't understand Xander's behavior, said Adrienne. "We were in the Commissary and I was almost done shopping. He had been screaming the whole way, and I was practically in tears. This woman I had been bumping up against through all the aisles said to me, 'What that child needs is a good slap!' I lost it, all of the pain we'd been going through just broke through and I really cried, I just broke down."

This wasn't the first careless remark the Rousseau's heard, and it wouldn't be the last. To combat rude comments, Adrienne printed business cards explaining her son's condition. She hands them out when people are rude or careless in their reactions.



Xander, like any other boy his age, enjoys cruising around on his motorcycle.

"I once left one for a waitress as a tip," Adrienne said.

Another part of Xander's disorder is his dependence on routines. This dependence can make a simple process, like getting Xander into his car seat, into an ordeal, Adrienne said. When he gets in the seat, the harness has to be put on the same way every time. This is followed by a series of hugs, kisses, and "bye-bye's."

"If it doesn't go the same way every time, Xander will scream for the entire trip," Adrienne explained.

This need for rituals and routines is a big part of autism spectrum disorders.

Congress, in response to the requests of families affected by autism, recently named April National Autism Awareness Month, with today being National Autism Awareness Day. What the Rousseau's, and hundreds of families like them, want is for people to understand and be aware of this disorder.

"I'd like for everybody to be more educated about this illness," Adrienne said.

In addition to understanding, the Rousseau's want the support of the military family here. "Parents need support," said Adrienne. "Maybe if people are aware, a stranger at the Commissary would show some understanding instead of saying 'He needs a spanking!'"

Another thing Cy and Adrienne would like to see is increased medical coverage for autism. Currently, the disease is classified as a behavioral disorder by Tri-Care and is not covered. Much of the therapeutic equipment Xander needs was purchased using a grant from the Air Force Aid Society.

"These children need help at the legislative level for research funding," Adrienne said. "Though autism doesn't change life expectancy, it horrifies the quality of life for these individuals."

Adrienne didn't hear her son say "mama" until he was two and a half. She didn't hear "I love you" until he was three. "One out of every 500 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism," Adrienne said. "That's more than Down's syndrome, childhood cancers and childhood diabetes combined. People need to be aware that this debilitating disease exists and what it can do to their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews."

"When I was a child, autism was some freakish, horrible illness," Adrienne continued. "It had this stigma attached to it. Now I don't know many families that aren't touched by it. Everyone either knows someone whose child has autism, is related to someone with autism or just met someone dealing with autism."

Autism currently has no cure. It's a fact of life the Rousseau's will have to face for the rest of their lives. Only the support and awareness of those around them will make life a little easier.

For more information

www.autism-society.org
www.unlockingautism.org
1-800-3AUTISM ext. 150.

To learn more about
Xander, go to <http://members.cchat.com/crar/autism.htm>.

Aerial porters send medical supplies, computers to Bolivia

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Aerial Port Squadron loaded medical supplies and computers on an Altus AFB, Okla., C-17 Saturday, bound for La Paz, Bolivia.

The supplies were shipped on the Altus training mission as part of the Denton Program.

The Program, passed in 1985, allows for the DOD to transport approved, privately donated humanitarian cargo worldwide on a space available basis.

"We act as a channel hub for Central and South America," said Ken Hundemer, Denton Program operations officer here. "Since October, we've shipped 874,052 pounds of humanitarian cargo."

Mike McAvoy, Denton Program operations manager, said a list of the available cargo and delivery sites is sent out to requesting units every week on an overseas and continental United States log.

"With the most recent mission, Altus contacted us and asked to make the trip to complete some of their training requirements," said McAvoy. "It was a two-part mission. They flew one load April 13, and then sent a different crew to fly another on Saturday."

According to McAvoy, donor applications are processed through U.S.

Aid and eventually get a transportation control number that allows movement on DOD transports.

"We schedule cargo to be delivered to and palletized at the nearest air base. All donations must be from non-governmental, non-profit organizations or individuals.

"This particular shipment came from four sources," continued McAvoy. "Bank of America (Calif.), Diocese of Juliet (Ill.), Mano A Mano Medical Resources (Minn.) and the Children's Home Society (Minn.) all donated the cargo."

Cargo shipped through the Denton Program can't be time sensitive and should not be confused with disaster relief, according to a Denton Program fact sheet. It is mainly used for ongoing relief and development efforts.

"There's no requirement for bases to take these missions, and there's no pressure," said Hundemer. "Units pick them up to maximize their training time and do something good for someone else in the process."

McAvoy said until recently, some members of the 437 APS didn't even know about the program.

"We set up a PowerPoint briefing for the aerial port and showed it at a commander's call," said McAvoy. "A lot of people were surprised at what we actually do. Since then, we've been getting incredible support and everyone is working together to get

these supplies where they need to be."

McAvoy said missions, like the recent Altus one, offer more than training to participating units. "These

are some of the few missions that a crew can fulfill training requirements and fly away with a feeling of doing something good for someone less fortunate."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

Members of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron load humanitarian cargo on an Altus AFB, Okla., C-17 Saturday, as part of the Denton Program.

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: Senior Airman 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.

"The Mexican" – Brad Pitt

A man tries to transport an ancient gun called the Mexican, believed to carry a curse, across the border, while his girlfriend pressures him to give up his criminal way. **(R) 123 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.

"See Spot Run" – David Arquette

Gordon offers to baby sit the young son of his beautiful neighbor, but soon finds himself with a new animal in his life: an FBI agent's drug-sniffing dog. When the runaway canine seeks refuge in Gordon's truck, it's the beginning of a wildly comic adventure that leads to some unexpected transformations for both man and dog. **(PG) 94 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Hannibal" – Anthony Hopkins

After having successfully eluded the authorities for years, Hannibal moves to Italy in disguise as an art scholar. He is soon discovered and flees to his homeland of America to once again make contact with now disgraced FBI Agent Clarice Starling. **(R) 131 minutes**

May 4, 7:30 p.m.

"Just Visiting" – Christina Applegate

Fitness & Sports

Sports line

Golf tournament: The Officers' Spouses' Association is sponsoring the 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament today at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The tournament will be a four-person captain's choice format and will begin at 8:30 a.m. The cost, \$16 per player, includes range balls, lunch and beverages. Cart and green fees also apply as follows:

- E-4 and below—\$9
- E-5 through O-3—\$12
- O-4 and above—\$13
- Cart rental—\$8

The proceeds from the tournament will be used to fund scholarships and local charities. Prizes for the tournament were donated by Lexus of Charleston, USPA and IRA, Boeing and many other businesses. For more information, call Cindy Mackey at 767-4329 or Wrenwoods Golf Course at 963-4177.

Golf tournament: The Charleston chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association is sponsoring the 9th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament May 11 at Miler Country Club, Summerville, S.C. The tournament will be a captain's choice format and will begin at 1 p.m. The cost, \$35 per player, includes green fees, cart rental, beverages, lunch and a donation to the scholarship fund. Prizes will be awarded. A putting contest will be held before tee time. For more information, call Glenn McNeil at 963-3183.

Fishing tournament: Short Stay Navy Outdoor Recreation Area is hosting the 2001 Battling Bass Open tournament May 5 at Lake Moultrie. The tournament is open to the public and will include cash prizes, a cookout, door prizes and trophies. The entry fee is \$120 per two-person team. Lodging reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Participants should tell the reservation clerk they are fishing in the tournament. For more information call Short Stay at 743-5608 or toll free at 1-800-447-2178.

Base youth baseball season opens

The 2001 Charleston AFB Youth Baseball season kicked off Saturday, 9 a.m., at the fields behind the Sports and Fitness Center.

Roughly 250 children, ranging in age from 5-14, participate in the Youth Baseball Program.

Children of active-duty, reserve and retired members of all military services, and Department of Defense civilian employees, may play.

The season runs through mid-June, when tournament play begins and is open for children ages 9 and up.

For more information, call the Youth Center at 963-5684.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements
(Above) Robert Vereen, grandson of Randall Jordan, 437th Operations Support Squadron, squats low to pick up a ground ball.
(Left) Marissa Estrada, daughter of John Estrada, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, throws to first base. Marissa plays for Woodmen of the World Youth Lodge 1295.

Swampfoxes salute CAFB at appreciation night

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston Swampfoxes, of the Arena 2 Football League, invited the

local Charleston military to a Military Appreciation Night at the North Charleston Coliseum Saturday.

Prior to the game, the fans and players held a special ceremony for the

14th Airlift Squadron aircrew that participated in bringing home the Navy EP-3 aircrew that was held in China. The 14 AS flew the Navy crew from Guam to Hawaii.

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, along with 14 AS aircrew members Maj. Matt Smith, Maj. Richard Bryan, 1st Lt. Jim Martin, Staff Sgt. Corey Carter and Staff Sgt. James Hilton, and flying crew chief, Staff Sgt. Ernie Hires, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, were presented with an autographed game ball and shirts by team owner Bobby Pierce. Pierce also declared them Honorary Swampfoxes.

The crew was present at mid-field when Detroit Lions defensive tackle, Robert Porcher, came out for the ceremonial coin flip. The players acknowledged

the aircrew by giving them a round of applause and shaking hands with them, in front of a crowd of over 4,000 fans.

The honor guard from Charleston AFB presented the colors during the national anthem.

The game featured the Swampfoxes taking on the Wichita Stealth, whose uniforms have an Air Force B-2 bomber embroidered on them.

Swampfoxes marketing manager, Lisa Hixson, said it was just a coincidence that the Stealth would be playing the Swampfoxes for military night. It proved to be an exciting game between these two unbeaten teams. In the end it was the Swampfoxes last minute touchdown pass that sealed their victory as they sneaked by the Stealth with a 38-33 win.



Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, and the C-17 aircrew are recognized during a ceremony at a Swampfoxes game. The Charleston crew moved the aircrew of the Navy EP-3 from Guam to Hawaii following their detainment in China.