



- ▶ AF Ball / 3
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ Skills Center / 11
- ▶ Swami / 15



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Airman 1st Class Greg Glinka, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron electrical systems specialist, works to prepare the power station on Hill Boulevard Tuesday for today's power outage. Members of the 437 CES have been working hard all week, preparing equipment and finalizing plans, to make sure today's outage goes as smoothly as possible.

Lights out!

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB, including Hunley Park, will be without power today, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.

According to Ron Wiggins, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron chief of infrastructure, the outage is necessary to perform timely repairs and upgrades to the electrical distribution systems.

Wiggins said in the past, unexpected power outages have adversely impacted the base. The outages may continue in the future if proper maintenance and repair of the electrical system are not performed as soon as possible.

"In April 1999, a suicidal squirrel climbed into the main substation and produced an electrical short in two cutout switches," Wiggins said. The incident caused an unexpected base-wide power outage that lasted 34 hours for base residents on the south side of Hill Boulevard. The incident resulted in 300 claims for spoiled food.

Due to the size and cost of the electrical components damaged, the 437 CES was not able to keep them in stock and had to order them from the manufacturer, according to Wiggins. "The manufacturer has now provided the new replacement switches to the 437 CES and the squadron's personnel are ready to install them."

See **POWER**, page 2

Three Charleston members travel to Tuskegee Airmen Convention

Inspirational journey

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Three Charleston AFB members traveled to the Tuskegee Airmen Convention, Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 15-19.

Lt. Col. Bruce Alexander, 437th Services Squadron commander, 2nd Lt. Ron'Dell Harley, 437th Operations Support Squadron executive officer, and Tech. Sgt. Alfred Gregg, 437 OSS chief of commander's support staff, made the journey to the an-

nual convention.

According to Harley, the convention is held to recognize the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen for their contribution to making the military what it is today.

Actual Tuskegee Airmen, high-ranking military leaders and family members of deceased Tuskegee Airmen were special guests at the five-day event.

"You read about them (Tuskegee Airmen) in the PFE (Promotion Fitness Examination book), but to actually see them and hear about all the

obstacles they had to overcome is something special," said Gregg.

The conference offered military seminars, displays, tours, a luncheon with Gen. Richard Myers, newly nominated chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, briefings and an awards banquet, among other events, and one-on-one time with Tuskegee Airmen and their families, according to Harley. He said actually seeing some of the people who paved the way for black airmen left him speechless.

"Seeing all those histori-

cal people who helped get me where I am at today was incredible," said Harley. "Their strong will, courage and desire not to quit set an example that anyone could follow. It was motivating to see them still smiling and healthy, telling stories of their struggle."

The black airmen began training in Tuskegee, Ala., in November 1941. Once they became pilots, they were not allowed to fly combat missions, according to Gregg.

"They went through all the training and were prepared

to fly," said Gregg. "One guy I talked to got sent to Africa and had to sit there and just wait. All he wanted to do was help his country in the war."

Eventually, the Tuskegee Airmen flew fighters to escort bombers to and from drops, said Harley. Not a single bomber was destroyed while escorted by members of the fighter squadrons totally comprised of African-American aviators trained at Tuskegee. Harley also pointed out Tuskegee Airmen

See **TUSKEGEE**, page 2

IN THE NEWS

Team to spread word on AEF changes: Team Charleston gets chance to learn new guidelines

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB members will have a chance to learn more about the many changes made to Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployments when a special team from Langley AFB, Va., visits Sept. 12.

The three-person AEF team will brief all military members in the base theater Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The briefings are open to everyone, including retirees and family members. A separate briefing is scheduled for Air Force Reservists Sept. 16, 2 p.m. as part of the 315th Airlift Wing Commander's Call in the base theater. The briefings are expected to last about an hour, which includes a question and answer session.

The briefing team from the AEF Center will spread the word on improvements in AEF Cycle 3, answer questions, and get ideas from Air Force people on improvements to the AEF process.

"Not everyone knows what they need to know about the AEF," said Maj. Michael Knight, a space-operations specialist in the AEF Center.

For instance, AEF Cycle 3, will feature a "team" concept, where a base will provide a large number of people for one or two AEF deployments, instead of small groups of people throughout the cycle. That will change the impact that AEF deployments have on individual bases and units.

The first AEF cycle was a new entity, a new way of doing things for the Air Force, according to 1st Lt. Charles Rock, chief of AEF planning and programming in the 437th Logistics Support Squadron.

"Expeditionary Air Force is who we

AEF Online can be accessed from computers in the dot-mil and dot-gov domains at <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil/>. Another site with information on the AEF concept open to everybody is <http://aefc.langley.af.mil>.

are, AEF is what we do," said Rock. "The second cycle is revamping that concept and looking at what lessons we have learned from previous cycles. The third AEF is all focused on the teaming concept.

"In the second AEF, we had used that peanut butter smear effect where our base assets were utilized over the entire 15-month cycle with taskings for one or two folks at a time," Rock continued. "Now with AEF cycle 3, we are looking at a two-hit mentality where the majority of our assets will be hit hard twice during the 15-month period."

Charleston will be tasked heavily under this new teaming concept in AEF Cycles 1 and 6, according to Rock. Cycle 1 begins March 2002.

"It's a new process, and the majority of Charleston falls into Cycles 1 and 6, except the aerial port (437th Aerial Port Squadron)," Rock said. "Aerial port is in AEF buckets six and nine. We are working right now to get all of the aerial port resources tasked in bucket 10. It is still being worked."

These taskings apply to those base members in the support Unit Type Codes.

Rock said he thinks the interest is pretty high in these briefings, and he already answers a lot of questions.

"A lot of times, we don't have the answers," Rock said. "I am trying to gather the many questions and get them up to the briefers in time for their briefing."

The biggest question area right now for junior enlisted is the Third

Country National escort duty. TCN taskings now have their own UTCs. According to Rock, 45 percent of E-1 through E-4s who can fulfill this requirement are in the 437th Logistics Group. TCN taskings are only 45 days while AEF rotations are three months. He added that these taskings count against CAFB's AEF taskings and those selected should not be asked to go again during the 15 month cycle.

"People still need to work towards their primary UTCs, but can deploy on these TCN escort taskings while they get qualified for their primary UTC," added Lt. Col. Steve Guzek, chief of the aviation branch in the AEF center and one of the briefers slated to visit Charleston.

Guzek added one of the major reasons for the briefing is to address concerns by Air Force leadership that people at the lowest level do not really understand how they fit into the AEF. "Our goal is to educate to the lowest level as to what AEF is and what it does." Guzek said they have about nine different teams, assigned by region, which will do about 100 briefings.

"With each cycle, we're making significant improvements to the way we schedule these rotations," Guzek said. "We definitely wanted to explain the cycle 3 changes."

He added the team can address many of the misperceptions airmen have about AEF too. "For example, some airmen think that an AEF tasking is suppose to last only three months or 90 days, but it may take a

little longer allowing for travel time and any cross-over briefings, depending on the supervisory responsibilities of that person," said Guzek.

Rock added that some services may have to be curtailed or be reduced on the base during these AEF teaming cycles to account for the heavy deployment taskings.

"You might see shortened hours at certain 437th Services Squadron facilities or less housing maintenance done for non-critical items or a longer wait for some services," Rock said.

The briefing teams also want to let people know about the amazing range of information available on the World Wide Web, Guzek said. EAF Online provides position-specific information for deploying people, like what their duties will be and what training and equipment they will need. The Web site lets commanders track the readiness status of all their people.

The site "started two years ago as an idea on a chalkboard," Knight said. "It's continually being improved."

Going to every base to talk about AEF changes lets the AEF specialists field questions from the audience.

"If we don't know the answer, we'll be able to call back (to the AEF Center) and we can put all our resources to work to answer it," said Lt. Col. Jeff Urie, a special-operations specialist and another briefer.

Urie is sure the briefers won't know all the answers. "There's no such thing as an AEFologist," he said. "What we have here (in the AEF Center) is a representation of the Air Force — people who cover just about every area of expertise." (*Master Sgt. Terry Somerville, Air Combat Command Public Affairs, contributed information for this article.*)

TUSKEGEE

continued from page 1

weren't just pilots, but mechanics and support personnel also.

Harley said the convention offered him the chance to be part of a question and answer session with many general officers from across the Air Force, including Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force Material Command commander, and Lt. Gen. John Hopper, Air Education and Training command vice commander. Harley said the small forum was a nice personal touch in learning first hand about some of the on-going changes occurring in the world of Air Force diversity. The attendance and participation of so many high-ranking Air Force leaders showed the true importance of the convention.

Throughout the conven-

tion, various military forums were held dedicated to the enlisted force and women in the military. Chaired by Alexander, and other Air Force leaders, the forums offered discussions and mentoring on continuing a successful Air Force career.

Along with the events the convention offered, Harley and Gregg said they had the opportunity to visit the Civil Rights Museum and the hotel where Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed.

Harley and Gregg agreed the experience was one they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

"I think everyone in the military should have the chance to go to the convention," said Gregg. "I will definitely go again."

Next year's convention is scheduled to take place in Atlanta, Ga., in August.

POWER

continued from page 1

According to Wiggins, in addition to installing the replacement switches, the 437 CES will use the power outage as an opportunity to balance the base circuits, providing a secondary power loop over the entire electrical grid.

"As a result of this repair and maintenance, Team Charleston will have a more reliable electrical distribution system, which will substantially reduce the probability of future power outages impacting the base," Wiggins said.

There are several steps family housing residents should take during both planned and unplanned power outages to protect themselves and their families.

■ Stay away and keep children away from electrical or

utility boxes

■ Ensure a good supply of flashlights and batteries are on hand

■ Where possible, keep items in the freezer instead of the refrigerator; do not open the freezer unless absolutely necessary when the power is out

■ Use a cooler and tie the refrigerator shut; prior to an outage, take out what is needed from the refrigerator/freezer and put it in a cooler with ice, then get a length of string, rope, etc., and tie the refrigerator door shut to prevent accidental openings that otherwise occur, especially with children

■ Barbecue if possible; be flexible in planning meals, and be prepared to cook food on a grill outdoors whenever possible

Additionally, housing residents are expected to take

steps to reduce food spoilage in the event of a power outage, especially if the outage is planned, according to base officials.

According to base officials, if the freezer door is kept closed, food inside should be fine for 48-72 hours. However, thawed items should not be refrozen. Most refrigerators will keep food safe and usable for up to 24 hours if the doors are left closed.

"If you have any questions about whether food is okay or not, feel free to call (963-6962)," said Staff Sgt. Tiffany Richardson, 437th Public Health. "For the most part, everything should be maintained at 40 degrees Fahrenheit. If in doubt that the item is good, throw it out."

Richardson advises cooking out. "Throw some dogs on the grill and make the best of it," she said.

Base School Committee holds first meeting

**By Senior Master Sgt.
Terrie Powell**
437 SPTG

The Base School Committee met on Aug. 21 at the Family Support Center to get organized for the 2001-2002 school year.

The purpose of the BSC is to address issues affecting Charleston's Air Force community as a whole, focusing on schools in Charleston County School District 4.

The intent of the committee is to address community issues related to educating Air Force children. However, the committee is also building partnerships with other school districts in the tri-county area where there is a high concentration of Air

Force families.

The BSC spent its first year establishing a relationship with the schools and school board to work transition issues that affect children as they PCS with their parents, for example curriculum concerns. During the 2001-2002 school year, the committee will build upon the initiatives and accomplishments of last year's efforts.

The Committee is also seeking to form partnerships with parents of children who are home schooled or attending magnet schools.

Committee members serve as a clearinghouse for information from a parent's perspective and can also up-channel concerns within their schools that can be presented

to the local school boards.

The program offers an opportunity for the Air Force community to come together to support military children. Monthly meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning Sept. 25, 7 p.m., in the Family Support Center. Senior Master Sgt. Allan Harris can be contacted at 963-2202 for additional information.

To find out more about the committee's accomplishments, check out the BSC's Web page at www.charleston.af.mil/schools/EAGLE/INDEX.HTM. The Web page offers information and links to local schools, answers frequently asked questions, offers a virtual tour of the schools and much more.

Base School Committee representatives

Lambs Elementary – Primary: Michael Garrou – 552-0489

Alternate: Barbara Haar – 810-0048

Hunley Park Elementary – Primary: Jennifer Jones – 207-0359

Alternate: Vacant

Morningside Middle – Primary: Patricia Clark – 767-0554

Alternate: Vacant

North Charleston HS – Primary: Darl Tremain – 963-4505

Alternate: Brian Miller – 963-4559

Private Schools – Primary: Brian Miller – 963-4559

Alternate: Vacant

If interested in being a school representative, call Betsy Crump at 963-4411.

AF Ball tickets going fast



Charleston AFB will host the Air Force Ball Sept. 14, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Ticket prices are: E-1 through E-4-\$10; E-5 and E6-\$18; E-7 and above and all officers-\$22.

More information and tickets are available through squadron POCs as follows:

437th Aerial Port Squadron – 1st Lt. Zabrina Robinson at 963-3070; Master Sgt. William Brown at 963-2266; Master Sgt. Oscar Thompson at 963-3357; and Staff Sgt. Kelly Burgess at 963-3238

437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron – Capt. William Reynolds at 963-6173; Capt. Elaine Washington at 963-6747

437th Airlift Wing Staff – Master Sgt. Larry Wallace at 963-5580

437th Civil Engineer Squadron – Staff Sgt. Jeffery Smith at 963-5262

437th Communications Squadron – Capt. Jon Bakonyi at 963-2935

437th Logistics Group – Capt. Robert Whetzel at 963-2395

437th Medical Operations Squadron – Master Sgt. Frank Lisenbee at 963-6780

437th Medical Support Squadron – Airman 1st Class Brian Thompson at 963-6898

437th Mission Support Squadron – Master Sgt. James Brady at 963-4410

437th Operations Support Squadron – 2nd Lt. Michael Morrison at 963-5625

437th Security Forces Squadron – 2nd Lt. Sara Fisher at 963-3612

437th Services Squadron – 2nd Lt. Veronica Parnell at 963-6257

14th Airlift Squadron – Joyce Anchors at 963-2158

15th Airlift Squadron – 2nd Lt. Eric McUmbert at 963-2266

17th Airlift Squadron – 1st Lt. Lance Hofer at 963-2914

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Logistics Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Junior Mathis Sep. 14, 2 p.m., at the Community Education Center. For more information, call Richard Hutchinson at 963-5980.

Around the base

Commissary: The Charleston AFB Commissary will be closed Tuesday in observance of Labor Day. The Commissary will resume normal hours Wednesday, and is holding a case lot sale Sep. 7 and 8.

PWOC: The Protestant Women of the Chapel invites all women, active duty and spouses, to a special one-day retreat Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Base Chapel. No fee or pre-registration is required, and lunch and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Ruth King at 207-9686.

A/TA: The quarterly Airlift Tanker Association meeting will be Sep. 11, noon-1:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. There will be buffet lunch at noon, followed by the meeting. Those planning on attending the A/TA convention need to be at the meeting. The deadline for signing up for the lunch is Sep. 7. For more information, call Jan Fuquea at 740-7541.

Chiefs' group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold their monthly

meeting Sep. 20, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from Bank of America will address the group, and lunch will be provided. All chiefs and chief selectees are invited and encouraged to attend.

Dining out: The 14th Airlift Squadron's Order of the Pelican is holding a dining out, Nov. 9, at the Charleston Club. All present and former Pelicans are invited to attend. For ticket information, call Capt. Eric VonTrotha at 963-2980 or 1st Lt. Cassius Bentley at 963-4767.

Legal assistance: Effective Sept. 11, Legal Assistance hours will be Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., and Thursdays, 8-11 a.m. For more information, call the 437th Airlift Wing Legal Office at 963-5502.

Education office: The Base Education Office is offering the Scholastic Aptitude Test Oct. 17 and Dec. 12 for military members only. Those interested in the Oct. 17 SAT must sign up for the test by Sept. 7. Those interested in the Dec. 12 test must sign up by Nov. 2. To sign up, members should visit the Education Services Flight in Bldg. 221 or call 963-4575. Tests cannot be booked via e-mail or by answering machine message. At least five individuals must sign up for each special testing session.

Scholarship: The Aerospace Education Foundation is offering a scholarship for Air Force spouses. Applica-

tions are accepted until Nov. 1. The \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in early January. Applicants must be the spouse of an Air Force active-duty, Reserve or Guard member. Applications are available at the Community Education Center. For more information, call 1-800-291-8480.

Fraud: The British Ministry of Defense Police and the Air Force Office of Special Investigation are currently conducting an investigation into a company that rents vehicles to U.S. and other authorized personnel in and around the RAF Lakenheath, Alconbury and Mildenhall areas within the United Kingdom. This company allegedly may have charged for damage to rental vehicles, which did not occur. US personnel may also have been deceived into paying other fraudulent charges for vehicles. This scheme was cleverly disguised so those who have been defrauded may not know they paid unnecessary or unlawful fees. Those who feel they may have been subject to fraud committed by this company should contact a local AFOSI unit. For more information, call Special Agent Michael Lewis, AFOSI Detachment 310, at 963-3248.

AFSA: The Air Force Sergeants Association has more than 155,000 active-duty, retired, Guard and Reserve members. The mission of AFSA is to advocate improved quality-of-life and economic fairness to support the well

being of enlisted personnel and their families. The Charleston AFB AFSA meets on the second Tuesday of every month, 4:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Tundra Gatewood at 963-6901.

College: The City Colleges of Chicago is now offering Intro to Computers and Accounting classes at the Community Education Center. The college would also like to know what other classes students are interested in. The college will form classes to meet students' needs as long as eight people sign up. For more information, call 552-5959.

Overpricing: The Zero Overpricing Program's goal is to eliminate overpricing incidents where the Air Force pays more for an item than it's worth. Monetary awards are also available through the Air Force Suggestion Program when an overpricing incident is identified and approved. To report an instance where an item's price isn't fair and reasonable, contact the Wing Zero Overpricing Monitor at 963-4826.

Consignment Shop: The Consignment Shop has extended its hours to include Tuesday nights, 6-8 p.m. Consigning on Tuesday nights will be available from 6-7:30 p.m. The shop is still 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 Consignment Shop is located in Bldg. 203, Graves Avenue, and can be reached at 963-3294.

Reunion: Members of the 435th Organizational Maintenance Squadron are having a reunion for members assigned from 1975-1985. The reunion will be held Oct. 12-14 at Myrtle Beach. For more information, call Stanley Miller at (910) 867-6508, or e-mail him at flymiller@mindspring.com.

Family Support Center

Sponsorship Training: Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and Sep. 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Newcomer's Tour: Thursday, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

Stress Management: Thursday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Pre-Deployment Briefing: Sep. 10, 17 and 24, 8-9 a.m., and Sep. 13, 20 and 27, 4-5 p.m.

Investment Fundamentals: Sep. 10, 2-4:30 p.m.

Resume I: Sep. 11, 9 a.m.-noon.

Educational Opportunity Assistance: Sep. 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sip-n-Chat: Sep. 17, 6 p.m.

Mini Job Fair: Sep. 20, 2-4 p.m.

Troops-to-Teachers: Sep. 24, 10-11 a.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.

Charleston Profile

Airman 1st Class Brande Morgan
437th Services Squadron

Airman 1st Class Brande Morgan works at the 437th Services Squadron's Flight Kitchen. Her main responsibility is to make sure flight crews and passengers don't go hungry during their flight.

Morgan usually has about a half hour to prepare meals for crews. That includes making sandwiches and packaging them with a wide variety of sides. She said there are two main formats for flight meals.

"There's an A-meal and a B-meal," said Morgan. "The A-meal is the most popular. It has cookies, a candy bar, soda, juice, a pastry, fresh fruit, chips and a granola bar. The B-meal is the healthy one with a salad, fruit, pretzels, a Nutrigrain bar, a Rice Krispee treat, a fig newton, raisins and a milk."

When an aircraft has passengers, Morgan said she is given a tentative meal list about an hour before the flight leaves. When a lot of flights are leaving, she stays very busy keeping up with food demands to make sure the aircraft leave on time.

While she didn't name any meals to steer away from, Morgan did say the salad meal was her favorite, and she recommends trying it.

The Fort Wayne, Ind., resident has been in the Air Force for almost three years, and is about to sew on the rank of senior airman. She is married to another Team Charleston member, Airman 1st Class Brian Morgan, 437th Security Forces Squadron.

Morgan said she spends her free time with her husband and her two cats, but said she would like to have more time to volunteer at the Youth Center.

"I used to volunteer, but I'm too busy now," said Morgan. "I like working with kids."

Her appreciation of children could come in handy, as she's expecting her first child in April 2002.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

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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Address/Numbers

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Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604.

Mail to: 437 AW PAI

102 East Hill Blvd.

Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154

or send to:

dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander
Col. Vern M. "Rusty"
Findley II

Chief, Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

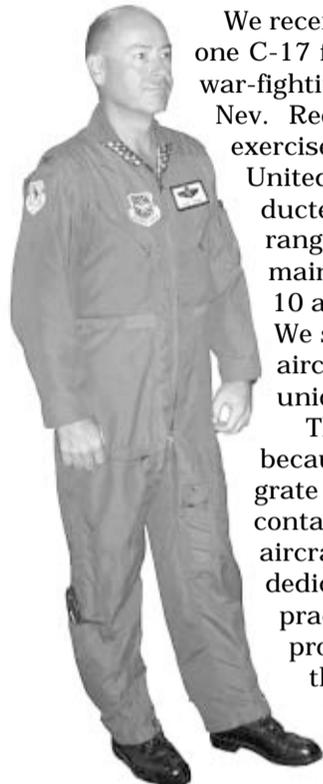
Editor
Senior Airman Jason Smith

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Photo Support
Base Visual Information Center

Red Flag provides valuable combat training for CAFB airmen

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander



We recently deployed about 70 people and one C-17 from Team Charleston to hone our war-fighting skills at Red Flag, Nellis AFB, Nev. Red Flag, a realistic combat training exercise involving the air forces of the United States and its allies, is conducted on vast bombing and gunnery ranges at Nellis AFB. Our maintainers and aircrews left Aug. 9-10 and will return around Sept. 7-8. We swapped out our maintainers and aircrews to broaden exposure to this unique training opportunity.

The exercise is great training because it allows our C-17s to integrate with a large strike package containing a wide mix of different aircraft. The exercise also includes a dedicated airlift day where the fighters practice flying combat air patrols to protect our airlift forces as we get the forces to the fight. We are flying twice a day, practicing airdrop and airland resupply missions under some simulated

high threat conditions. It is a hectic pace for our aircrews and maintainers, but it does not get much more realistic than this. Our mission commander for our deployed members is Maj. Cade Black, 15th Airlift Squadron.

It's that time of the year when we go through our books and reconcile our money as part of the fiscal year closeout. Once again, we are spring loaded to spend any funds that the headquarters should give us. Our wish list includes about \$3.1 million in Operations and Maintenance money to pay for approximately 44 projects. In the Transportation Capital Working Fund Account, we need \$4.7 million for about 100 projects. Thanks to all who have put in great effort to make close-out go smoothly.

This is the busiest time of the year for our 437th Comptroller, Contracting and Supply Squadrons. They have been busy closing out accounts across the wing and consolidating funds to use any remaining money for our unfunded projects. This process of consolidating accounts should be completed by Saturday. Everyone needs to be ready to spend our money on these legitimate unfunded projects, should fallout funds become available, which often happens at the last minute.

At Monday's staff meeting, it was my pleasure to recognize several of the wing's exceptional performers during the most recent Inspector General exercise, July 31-Aug.

9. The following airmen in the 437th Aerial Port Squadron were singled out by the Air Mobility Command Inspector General for their performance: Capt. Steven Rickenbacher, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Michaud, Tech. Sgt. Ed Swinson, Staff Sgt. Eric Samples, and Senior Airman James Pickel. Tech. Sgt. Reginald Smith, 315th Airlift Wing, was also recognized. The IG also noted the superb performance of our entry control point team. Thanks for being the professionals that you are.

I was also pleased to shake hands with two airmen who received \$100 scholarships from the enlisted Top-3 Association. Receiving scholarships were Staff Sgt. Robert Bouchillon and Tech. Sgt. Manuel Trejo Jr. Good luck in your studies.

I attended the Community Action Information Board on Monday that integrates the efforts of a variety of base helping agencies to benefit our military members and their families. At this meeting, they provided copies of the recently completed Community Capacity Action Plan, a comprehensive plan designed to meet certain health and wellness, community goals and special needs of our families. In the next several months, these helping agencies will chart a course to improve their high quality services to our families. Based on Air Force trends, we are focusing on getting ahead of problems rather than reacting to them. We want to get the word out about the type of help that is available, whether it is for financial reasons or marital problems. We have a number of agencies that are ready to assist. We will use this plan to look for ways to improve the quality of those services.

We encourage everyone to come out and hear the briefing from the Air Expeditionary Force Team Sept. 12, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., in the base theater. Since it's an evolving concept, there are some changes in how Air Force members will be tasked under AEF Cycle 3. The briefings are a great way to get the latest news from the experts and get your questions answered. I hope to have a good showing at the theater for these briefings. See the article on page 2 for more details.

I want to thank everyone for the good showing at our end-of-month promotion ceremony at the Charleston Club Thursday. As usual, there was plenty of unit pride to mark this special occasion for our people. I appreciate everyone's support!

If the weather cooperated, you may be reading this newspaper with a flashlight because of our basewide power outage today, 6 a.m.-2 p.m. It was a necessary action to conduct some preventive maintenance to avoid future unplanned catastrophic power outages. I am optimistic that everything will go as planned. There is never a good time to shut off the power, and we realize it can be difficult during the summer heat. A special thanks to everyone for their patience during this inconvenience. See the story on page 1 for more details. Have a great weekend!

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.



Commonly used phone numbers

Base Exchange 552-5000
Charleston Club 963-3920
Commissary 963-5695
Education Office 963-4575
Family Support 963-4406
Housing Office 963-3859
Medical Group Info 963-6700
Security Forces 963-3600
Services Squadron 963-3821



Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Battery: Tonight, 7:30 p.m., vs. Richmond, and Sep. 8, 7:30 p.m., vs. Nashville. For more information, call 971-GOAL.

Beach volleyball: The March of Dimes Bumpin For Babies doubles beach volleyball tournament takes place Saturday, 9 a.m., with registration at 8 a.m., at the Windjammer, 1008 Ocean Blvd., Isle of Palms. Tournament play costs \$50 per team. For more information, call 856-9408.

Summerville Speedway: Labor Day Celebration Saturday, 7:30 p.m., featuring mother-in-law bus and school bus races, Super Mini-Cup cars and NASCAR Late Models, plus four NASCAR divisions. For more information, call 871-8331.

Southern 500: NASCAR Winston Cup Southern 500 Sunday at Darlington Raceway. For ticket information, call 395-8499.

Triathlon: Kiawah Island Triathlon Sep. 9, 8 a.m. The triathlon consists of swimming, biking and running. Entry fees are \$50 for an individual and \$70 for a relay team. For more information, call 853-9987.

Tickets for sports events, as well as many other attractions in the area, may be available at a discount price for active-duty military, reservists, military retirees, Department of Defense civilians and their dependents from the Outdoor Recreation Center. For more information and for prices, call the Information, Tickets and Tours Program at 963-5271.

Entertainment:

Theatre: The College of Charleston's Theatre Department performs Shakespeare's "As You Like It" tonight-Tuesday, 8 p.m., with a special matinee performance Sunday, 3 p.m., at Robinson Theatre, Simons Center. Tickets are \$12, \$8 for seniors and College of Charleston students. For

more information, call 953-5604.

Theatre: Footlight Players perform "Forever Plaid," a musical review, tonight-Sunday and Sept. 7- 8 and 13-15, 8 p.m., with a special matinee performance Sept. 9, 3 p.m. at 20 Queen St. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors. For more information, call 722-4487.

Live music: The Blue Dogs perform Saturday at the Windjammer, 1008 Ocean Blvd., Isle of Palms. Tickets cost \$10. For more information, call 886-8948.

Events:

Fine arts exhibit: Artists from around the state exhibit works through Sept. 16., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Old Santee Canal Park's Interpretive Center, Moncks Corner. The exhibit is free with park admission. For more information, call 899-5200.

Labor Day Weekend at Short Stay: Swimming, boating, volleyball, horse-shoes and dancing will be some of the activities at Short Stay for a Labor Day Weekend celebration Saturday. Anyone with a military ID may attend. Gates open at 7:30 a.m., and the street dance starts at 8 p.m. A gate fee of \$1 per person applies. For more information, call 743-1366.

Outdoor festival: 98 Rock and Budweiser present an outdoor concert with BEAM, Rev 7, Supafuzz, Turn, Agape and Left Front Tire Saturday, noon-7:30 p.m., at Scerry Jerry's, Folly Beach, 588-2381. Tickets cost \$5.

Blues, brews and barbecue: Southern barbecue specialties, wine and beer, and music by Shrimp City Slim is available Saturday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Charleston Grill, 224 King St. The event costs \$65. For more information, call 577-4522.

Listings are published on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor of the Airlift Dispatch. Events listed are subject to change without notice. Those interested in attending an event should call ahead to confirm the date and time. To submit an event for Off duty, send a fax with all pertinent information and a call-back number to 963-5604.

FEATURE

Feeling crafty?

CAFB's Skills Center has everything the do-it-yourselfer needs for projects big and small

**Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs**

From stretching canvas to making cabinets to changing the oil in the family van, Charleston AFB's Skills Center has everything the do-it-yourselfer needs to complete a project successfully.

Vicki Parrish, Skills Center director, said, "We're multifaceted. We're not any one particular thing, and we try to be what the customer needs."

The range of programs, products and services at the Skills Center covers a broad spectrum of interests.

"We have classes in calligraphy, drawing, water color, ceramics, pottery, just an assortment of what people are asking for," Parrish said. The Skills Center also offers shops for auto maintenance and wood-working.

"In addition to doing the class programs, we do a lot of one-on-one instruction," said Parrish. "For people trying to figure out how to do something, we (Skills Center staff) each have our strong points, and we try to help however we can."

The Skills Center staff also

makes site visits to squadrons that have renovated or moved into a new building and want to showcase their memorabilia or quarterly award winners, Parrish said.

"We framed pretty much all of the things that are in the 14th Airlift Squadron, the 15th Airlift Squadron, we did the Heritage Wall in the wing building, the Charleston Club, we did the things in the fitness center, and we've done several lodging buildings, so you can kind of witness our talents everywhere," Parrish said.

The center also provides custom framing for pictures, posters, needlepoint and more; laser engraving for awards; shadow boxes, which include a variety of items such as ribbons, patches, photos and flags; and just about anything else someone might need for these types of projects, Parrish said.

"We have most of the items customers need, but if we don't we can try to special order it or suggest an alternative," Parrish said.

According to the 437th Services Squadron Web site, the center's Sales Store stocks memory album supplies; ceramic supplies; pottery clay and tools; oil, watercolor and acrylic paint sets, brushes; a selection of Charleston, aviation and variety prints; and much more. Firing of ceramic pieces is also available for a nominal fee.

"There have been times when someone wants something we can't get, and we have researched and led them to where they can find it, without recommending a certain place," said Cleo McKenzie, a member of the Skills Center team. "Some people just don't



Wanda Rodriguez, Skills Center staff member, stocks a shelf with awards recently laser engraved. Laser engraving is just one of many services available at the center.

have the slightest idea of where to start researching something, and then it dawns on them, 'Oh yeah, I could've checked with them too,' so we're not recommending it, but we can tell them where to look."

Both Parrish and McKenzie emphasized the value of getting project requests in well ahead of any deadlines.

"We would like to be one of the first stops, not the last stop, for getting something done," Parrish said.

Another aspect of the Skills Center is the woodworking shop. "O.B. O'Brian, the woodworking instructor, has over thirty years experience and can assist with building almost anything. Just bring a sketch or picture and he can help you get started," Parrish said.

The shop is strictly do-it-yourself, but the staff will do some special projects for squadrons also, Parrish added.

Equipment available in the shop includes a variety of hand tools, power sanders, drills, jig saws, routers, and skill saws. Shop equipment also includes a belt/disk sander, a lathe, table saws, a radial arm saw, a planer, a shaper, a plunge router with table, a band saw, a drill press and a jointer.

The woodshop is a popular place for mili-

tary personnel wanting to build their own furniture.

"The shop benefits us," said Senior Airman Garth Horton, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron. "It benefits people who aren't able to afford woodworking equipment. They have everything you would need to build anything from a simple cabinet to a dining room table."

The Skills Center is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The woodworking shop is open Wednesdays-Thursdays, 3-8 p.m., Fridays, noon-5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The Auto Skills Center is open Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesdays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., and Fridays-Saturdays 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For Parrish, the best part of her job is customers she works with.

"The best part is the people, being able to take whatever they bring us and make them something that they will cherish, or help them make something to cherish," Parrish said.

The Skills Center may just be the do-it-yourselfers dream come true.



Senior Airman Garth Horton, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, spends a Saturday afternoon at the Wood Skills Center crafting a dining room table.



Vicki Parrish (left), Skills Center director, and Cleo McKenzie, Skills Center staff, discuss choices for a shadow box. Shadow boxes can be custom-made at the center.

Tom's Toyota principle: a modern telling of 'The Tortoise and the Hare'

In Aesop's "The Tortoise and the Hare," a slow, careful tortoise is challenged to race a fast, careless hare. Against all odds, the plodding tortoise crossed the line first after passing the exhausted hare.

The tale hold's true on the highways of today, where a beat-up old truck, driven by a careful man, makes it to the gate without incident, just two cars behind a reckless driver.

By Tech. Sgt. James Scott
437 SFS

Let me tell you a true story about my friend Tom and his old, 1984 Toyota 4x4 pickup truck.

It was the standard four-cylinder, five-speed engine with plenty of roadway miles. It was light brown and fading fast. Though it was never the nicest car on the road, it was dependable, good on gas and always delivered him to work on time.

While stationed together overseas, I had the opportunity to learn a valuable lesson from Tom and his Toyota. We both lived about 20 miles from base on a lake resort. Every morning we'd leave for work at about the same time. I'd climb into my sleek Lancia that easily topped out at 140 mph. Tom would crank up his rickety old dependable beater truck.

I'd shoot off to work weaving through traffic, running yellow lights and pushing the speed limit. Nobody was going to pass me.

I had to get there and get there

fast. Tom? Well, I'm not sure what he did. I never had the chance to see him while driving to work. I was too busy racing traffic and mumbling under my breath at the drivers in my way. I'd only see him in my rearview mirror as I entered the front gate.

One day, Tom asked me if I thought I was really getting ahead in traffic by taking so many risks. I knew I was a good driver because all sorts of people ended up behind me. I never had a wreck and never got a traffic ticket, although I was guilty of infractions. I was winning on the roadway! Of course I thought it made a difference. My answer to Tom's question was definitely "yes!"

Tom then said something so profound, it caught me off guard.

He said, "The next time you pull through the front gate, notice who's right behind you. I don't speed. I don't take extra risks. I drive the speed limit while relaxing on my way to work."

The next day I raced to work, setting a new land speed record! As I entered the gate, I looked in my

rearview mirror. Sure enough, there was Tom and his old pickup truck, three cars back, with a grin on his face bigger than Texas. He didn't take any time in telling me he was always a few seconds behind me, no matter how fast I drove.

So what did I learn? From time to time, I catch myself racing to my destination.

At those moments, I make it a practice to apply "Tom's Toyota Principle." I select a car that's obviously part of Richard Petty's road race team, and I see if I catch them a few miles down the road. The important part is to stay within the speed limit and rules of the road.

Just the other day, I witnessed an Air Force member in his pickup truck run a red light and weave from lane to lane, obviously trying to qualify for the next day's NASCAR race.

I didn't see that guy for another 15 minutes. Then, to my surprise, seven miles down the road, there he was, sitting at the red light waiting for it to change to green. I

chuckled to myself as I thought he hadn't made any more progress or cut down any travel time. He had only risked the lives of his passengers, his own life and that of other roadway patrons by his excessive speed and careless driving.

The moral of the story is a simple one. Those of us who feel the need to risk life and limb to race traffic only hurt ourselves.

Cutting people off, not allowing cars to merge in our lane, tailgating and running yellow lights gets us nowhere fast. It only heightens our blood pressure and increases our chance of an accident. We're putting others at risk to get nowhere fast.

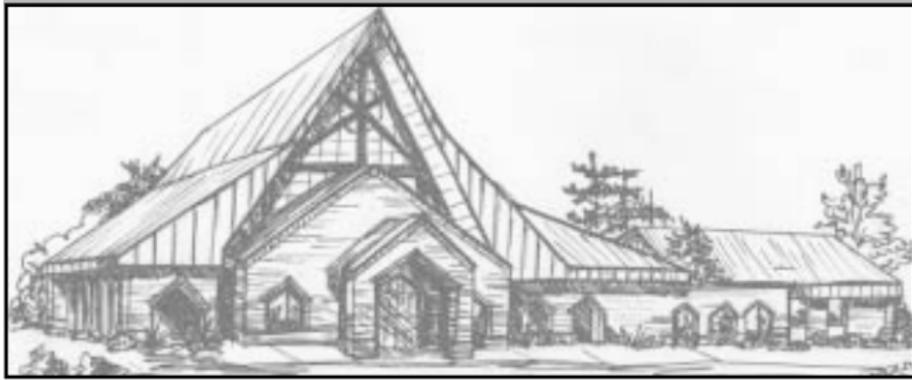
The next time you catch yourself pushing the traffic laws to the limit, try applying Tom's Toyota Principle.

You'll see that normal, courteous driving will not only get you there at the same time as Mario and his Formula-1 car, but you'll be more relaxed to enjoy your day at work or evening with family and friends.

The proven principle works. Try it sometime, you'll be surprised.



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. Truth Project contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

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 963-8041.

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 an 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.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

***"Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within"* – Computer generated**

In the not too distant future, Earth is invaded by aliens. Great cities are deserted, populations are decimated, and alien beings have taken over the planet. Aki Ross, her mentor, Dr. Sid, and the few humans who remain must find a way to survive the invasion and reclaim the planet. **(PG-13) 106 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.

***"Cats and Dogs"* – Jeff Goldblum**

There's a secret war being waged in the homes and neighborhoods of Earth that humans don't even know about; an eternal struggle between two great armies – the Cats and the Dogs. Cats plan to destroy a new vaccine, that if developed, would destroy all human allergies to Dogs. The Dogs try to stop the Cats from destroying the vaccine. **(PG) 87 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

***"Legally Blonde"* – Luke Wilson**

Elle has a cute boyfriend who dumps her because she's "too blonde" and not serious enough for his future political career. She sets out to prove him wrong. **(PG-13) 96 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Champions

Flyers take championship with impressive 22-6 win

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith

437 AW Public Affairs

The Flyers became the Charleston AFB 2001 softball champions with their convincing 22-6 victory over CS/SVS Aug. 23.

Going into the game, the Flyers had an edge because they were in the winner's bracket. CS/SVS, being in the loser's bracket, played more tournament games, and would've had to beat the Flyers two games in a row to claim the title.

It didn't take the Flyers long to draw first blood. They were ahead 6-1 at the end of the first inning, and there was no looking back. By the beginning of the seventh, the score was 22-4. CS/SVS managed to score two runs to make the final 22-6, but it wasn't near enough to catch the new champions.

"They (CS/SVS) had to play two games the night

2001 intramural softball regular season top 10

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. MXS | 6. CES |
| 2. CS/SVS | 7. LSS/MSS |
| 3. SUP | 8. APS 1 |
| 4. SFS | 9. 1CTCS/OSS |
| 5. Flyers | 10. AGS 1 |

before," said Damian Fox, Flyer's assistant coach. "Both of them were tight and emotional games. They were just tired when they got to us. If they didn't get into the loser's bracket, they would've been a lot better off."

Eric Lentner, CS/SVS coach, echoed Fox's sentiments.

"We got beat pretty bad," said Lentner. "We had tough games against MXS and SUP the night before, and we were beat up. Mentally, we were out of gas. Not to take anything away from the Flyers; mowing down everyone they faced in the tournament to

stay undefeated in the winners bracket was no fluke."

Both coaches talked about losing players to TDYs and PCSs. Lentner said the Flyers success was due in part to pulling together their best players near the end of the season.

"They pulled together their best team just at the right time," Lentner said. "They were all just good hitters. Our players fought very hard all season. I owe a lot of credit to our replacement players who helped us through the playoffs. I think if we could've kept a steady line-up throughout the season, things would've worked out different."

The Flyers formula for winning was simple, according to Fox. They let everyone who showed up for games play throughout the regular season and kept the mindset that intramural leagues are all about having a good time.

"The biggest motivation for the players was that everyone got to play," said Fox. "We went into the season with the goal of just making the playoffs. We had 25 or 30 people who actually got to play during the season. We kept the starters in during the tournament so we could win it. Five of our starters weren't even there for the big game against CS/SVS."

Two Flyers players put together real gems to make sure the game went their way. John Bishop made some solid plays defensively as the Flyer's first baseman, according to Fox. Trey Hodges put on a batting clinic, going four for

five with three home runs. "It was a lot of luck," said Hodges. "Anyone can strike out every time or hit home runs every time they bat. It's just the way the ball flies."

Hodges also credited CS/SVS for making the tournament exciting.

"They were in the top three all season," said Hodges. "They had to work really hard to get the final game, and they beat us a few times during the season."

The Flyers didn't necessarily have an easy time of winning throughout the tournament. They were down 13-9 in the top of the seventh during a game against SUP. They tied the game and went on to win in extra innings.

Even with player and coaching changes taking place during the off-season, both coaches think they have a shot at next year's title.

Swami talks trash, says 'you stink'

During a recent talk with the great one, an unnamed Charleston AFB member begged the Swami to stop badmouthing the Cowboys. The Swami laughed in his face, and said no one from CAFB has any right asking the Swami for anything. The Swami pointed to some bubble gum stuck on his shoe and compared CAFB's football picks to it.

By the Swami
Pigskin Prognosticator

The Swami has been busy lately making appearances at ATWIND events and rubbing elbows with all kinds of celebrities. Why? Because everyone wants to be near the Swami. Maybe they hope some of his greatness will rub off on them.

Getting back to football, the Swami's picks are underlined and bolded to make it apparent, to those of you who can read, what teams will win in week 1.

Most of the picks were no-brainers for the Swami. However, the Swami had to look into his crystal ball to see the outcome of some of the games.

An obvious pick was Tampa Bay over the Dallas "Cowgirls." The Swami has been asked not to make fun of the Cowboys. Certain people from the 437th Aerial Port Squadron have gone as far as to beg the Swami's understudies for mercy. The Swami has been told "it's a rebuilding year," and "I stick with them even when they lose." The Swami feels bad for people like that,

but he can't stop speaking the truth about the "girls." The Swami has been asked by Dallas officials to watch all the flag football games this year to find some starters for the Dallas team.

"Please, oh great one. Find us some starters. Search the honkey tonks and bars for some decent, law-abiding players," said "Cowgirl" officials. "We know you only speak the truth about our team, and we really need your help."

One of the closer, but totally unimportant games will be the Steelers at the Jaguars. It doesn't matter what type of new-wave steel curtain the Pittsburgh team puts together, as long as Kordell "the rumors are true" Stewart is at the helm, the Steelers will not win. They will have a close game against Jacksonville because an inside source has told the Swami that Mark Brunell's Centrum Silver has been switched with sugar pills in an attempt to sabotage the game.

The Swami will have more winning picks and words of wisdom next week. Read the Swami and try to become like the great one.

Week One

Name/Phone #: _____
Comments: _____



"You losers can't beat the Swami. Don't waste your worthless time."

--The Swami

Sunday, Sep. 9

- Carolina @ **Minnesota**
- Chicago @ **Baltimore**
- Detroit @ **Green Bay**
- Indianapolis @ **N.Y. Jets**
- New England @ Cincinnati
- New Orleans @ **Buffalo**
- Oakland @ Kansas City
- Pittsburgh @ **Jacksonville**
- Seattle @ Cleveland
- Tampa Bay @ Dallas
- Atlanta @ **San Francisco**
- St. Louis @ Philadelphia
- Washington @ San Diego
- Miami @ **Tennessee**

Monday, Sep. 10

- N.Y. Giants @ Denver
- Monday night total points: _____
- Swami's Monday night points: **37**

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.

Send your picks to: swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

****Picks must be submitted by Friday, Sep. 7, 4 p.m.****