

DISPATCH

AIRLIFT

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Vol. 40, No. 22

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, June 8, 2001



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Here comes the rain again

While the recent rain in the Charleston area has kept many people indoors, some are happy to see gray skies over Charleston AFB. According to the Southeast Regional Climate Center Web site, the Charleston area is experiencing moderate drought conditions. In a Santee Cooper Power press release, Bill McCall, executive vice president and chief operating officer, said without additional rainfall, recent rain will only bring short relief, and the state climatologist has called for a continuing drought. Due to the drought that has affected the whole state, inflows into area lakes last year averaged only 3,900 cubic feet per second, compared to the normal inflows of 13,260 cfs. The conditions caused Santee Cooper to halt operations at the St. Stephen Powerhouse, costing approximately \$6.5 million in replacement power costs.

CAFB members win employee of year honors

By Senior Airman
Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Three members of Team Charleston were recently named 2001 Federal Employee of the Year award winners.

Darrie "Debbie" Ross, director of the Child Development Center; Kathleen Perry, 437th Mission Support Squadron, commander's secretary; and Senior Airman Robert Florio, 437th Comptroller Squadron account technician, were selected as award winners from a field of 45 nominees.

All told, seven Charleston AFB personnel were nominated and selected as finalists in seven of the eight categories.

Ross took home the award in the Outstanding Managerial/Executive category. "She's an outstanding employee," said Timothy Garrahan, 437th Family Member Support Flight chief. "Her knowledge and expertise, and her coordination with outside agencies to further our program here make her outstanding. I think it couldn't have happened to a better person. It was well deserved."

Ross said she was honored to receive the award.

"The most important thing was the fact that we, the staff and I, work very hard to provide the highest quality of care to the children," Ross said. "The award validated the fact that we are doing a good job with the children."

"I could not have won it without the wonderful teachers and staff at the

See Awards, page 12

Base Chapel sponsors single parents, provides tickets

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston AFB Chapel sponsors a base Single Parent's Network Lunch the second Tuesday of every month.

The next lunch, Tuesday, will host Capt. (Dr.) James Feiste, 437th Medical Group

pediatrician, as the guest speaker. According to Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Newton, 437th Airlift Wing chaplain, Feiste will be available for a question and answer session after he speaks.

"It's difficult to get one-on-one time with a pediatrician like this," said Newton. "Every meeting we try to bring in a speaker who can provide

good information about the needs of single parents."

This lunch will be catered by the Outback Steakhouse. Newton said past lunches have had food from places like the Olive Garden, Sticky Fingers and Baldino's Pizza.

"We try to have a meal that's beyond what's expected," Newton said. "We want to let single parents

know they are special and treat them to a meaningful, relaxing lunch."

The single parent network concept is not a new one. According to Newton, the Base Chapel has been sponsoring the group for about 3 years. It's a great opportunity for single parents to network, discuss relevant issues, make friends with others who

have the same commonalities and receive free tickets to local events.

"Anytime you can spend some time with other people in the same situation as you, there's camaraderie," said Lisa Sweatt, 315th Airlift Wing Family Readiness director. "Single parents don't neces-

See Parents, page 12

IN THE NEWS

Confined spaces leave small room for 'air'

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Bart Craven, 437th Airlift Wing Safety Office, is concerned about Charleston AFB personnel crawling into holes.

Craven teaches the base's Confined Space Entry Course, and wants to eliminate accidents and mishaps for those who have to work in a tight environment.

According to Craven, confined space safety is currently a special interest item Air Force wide.

"We teach folks who enter confined spaces for maintenance work, inspections and repairs," said Craven. "That includes people who work on sewer lines, aircraft fuel tanks, above-ground fuel tanks and the heat plant. Fire department folks also have to be trained annually."

The students learn to use equipment in the two-day course including a tripod and man winch, full-body harness and personal protective equipment. Once students show they can use the equipment and are tested in all areas of confined space entry, they are taken to a man hole, on South O'Neal Avenue across from the housing maintenance building, to perform a practice run.

The first step in entering a confined space is evaluation, according to Craven.

"Determine if entry is necessary," he said. "Once the entry requirement is validated, a confined space entry permit is issued. Certain organizations need to certify that the space has been tested and evaluated by a qualified person and all necessary protective measures have been met."

Next, said Craven, comes preparation. Preparation is performed in four steps: isolation, lockout/tagout, purging/ventilation and cleaning.

The area has to be isolated, which means it is removed from service and protected against the release of energy or material into the space.

Lockout/tagout procedures must also be completed. A lock and tag must be placed on any equipment directly or indirectly affecting the confined space.

"Lockout/tagout is always important, especially when working in aircraft fuel tanks," said Craven. "There's the possibility of engulfment if someone turns on the fuel pumps. Also, if there's any live circuits, someone could be electrocuted."

Purging/ventilation is next. It's the method in which gases are displaced by natural or mechanical ventilation.

Removing the hazardous materials, or cleaning, is the final step in preparation.

Finally, testing and monitoring must be done continuously when working in a con-

finied space.

"Our students learn how to purge and ventilate, along with testing and monitoring procedures," said Craven. "Once they're certified, they go back to their shops, and some of them are selected as monitors. The monitors have to be certified by bioenvironmental (437th Aeromedical Dental Operations Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight)."

Testing and monitoring are vital to the safety of those going into confined spaces, according to Staff Sgt. Melinda Quigley, 437 ADOS.

"They have to be trained and certified," said Quigley. "Someone needs to check the air for carbon monoxide, oxygen content and flammable material, such as methane. We test them to make sure they know how to operate and interpret the readings on their atmosphere monitor."

If there's a problem with the air, the students are trained to know exactly what to do.

"We teach them how to calculate the size of a space so they can figure how long it will take to have a full change of the air," said Craven.

While most people don't climb into the sewers on base unless they're trained and have a need to do so, Quigley warns some people can find reasons to put themselves in danger.

"Parents need to know not to climb into the sewer be-



Students in the 437th Airlift Wing Safety Office's Confined Space Entry Course use a tripod and man winch to pull a student from a manhole near South O'Neal Avenue.

cause their kid's ball rolled in the storm drain," Quigley said. "They should also make sure their kids know not to climb into open holes or sewer pipes."

The next Confined Space Entry Course is scheduled for June 27 and 28. Supervisors of individuals who need the training should call Craven at 963-5598 to sign up.

Scholarship recipients announced

The son of a retired Air Force colonel was selected as the Charleston AFB Commissary's first Scholarships for Military Children recipient.

James Stratton Knight IV of Mt. Pleasant is the son of retired Col. James and Mona Knight.

Stratton is a graduate of Wando High School and is planning to attend North Carolina State University in the fall.

The Scholarships for Military Children program was initiated last fall to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors or college-enrolled students at over 280 commissaries worldwide. At least one \$1,500 award per commissary location was planned for the first year, but students turned in

more than 5,000 applications and sponsor donations amounted to well over \$500,000.

"The response from students and sponsors was fantastic," said Defense Commissary Agency Director, Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter, Jr. "Through the generosity of our trading partners, additional scholarships are available for other high quality applicants."

According to Charleston AFB Commissary officials, applicants for the scholarships were numerous.

"We were pleased with the response of our customers to Scholarships for Military Children," said CAFB Commissary Store Director, Eddie W. Williams. "There were many inquiries between Dec. 1 and the Feb. 15 deadline. The community was really enthusiastic about the program, as is our local scholarship sponsor ConAgra."

The commissary benefit is always named as one of the top military benefits, according to Courter.

"This scholarship program en-

hances an already valuable benefit by improving educational opportunities for military children."

The scholarships were open to qualified children of U.S. military members to include active duty, retirees, guard and Reserve. A 3.0 grade-point average, community and leadership activities, and an essay on "What Being a Military Dependent Means to Me" were also required.

The Fisher House Foundation is administering the Scholarships for Military Children program.

Manufacturers and organizations that do business with the commissary system funded the scholarships with money ordinarily used for various other contests and promotions. The scholarship funds were accepted by Fisher House, which contracted with a professional scholarship management company, Scholarship Managers, to screen the student applications and choose recipients based on merit. Fisher House and DeCA were not involved in the selection process.

According to Bernard Coté of Scholarship Managers, the overall caliber of applicants for Scholarships for Military Children was very high.

"I'm impressed by the quality of the students," said Courter. "It's a testimony to the educational values of our military families, and I want to be sure the commissaries support those values by helping to 'feed' the minds of our young people as well as literally 'feeding' them through the commissary benefit!"

The commissary system has long supported promotions with a focus on education.

"This program is meant to complement existing local or regional scholarship programs that are awarded through installation activities or organizations affiliated with the military community, or by vendors at local commissaries," Courter said. **(Bonnie Powell, Defense Commissary Agency, submitted this article. Senior Airman Melanie Streeter, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed.)**

'Teamwork is essential' says Charleston mayor

Story and photo by
Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

The importance of teamwork was the key theme of Charleston Mayor Joe Riley Jr.'s speech to members of the Lowcountry chapter of the Airlift/Tanker Association May 31 in the Charleston Club.

Riley, the seven-term mayor of the state's second largest city, spoke about his experiences in rallying the city to survive some major challenges such as Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision to close the Charleston Navy Shipyard in 1993.

Riley said teamwork among city agencies and the public working together allowed them to overcome these obstacles. He said a vision for the future with such items as the South Carolina Aquarium, the River's Edge development and the Charleston Waterfront Park also demonstrated great teamwork.

Amazing teamwork allowed the city to be safely evacuated and ensured the city was ready when Hurricane Hugo struck, because they had done their homework by checking with other cities that had faced similar storms, Riley said. After the hurricane passed, Riley remembered gathering his staff together and discussing what they would do next. "We did the best job we could getting ready. Then we had to do the best job any community has ever done in recovering," said Riley.

The morning after, Riley said there was not a hot power line within 80 miles of the city, and there was great devastation. "We included the whole team, and we had learned from natural disasters that they catch you where you are. We had the community committed to working as a team, and we had one another worrying about the other guy.

"We needed a lot of help from around the country, and I had to send a call-out to the country," he continued. "On the other hand, Charleston is a tourism community so I didn't want to send a message out that we were destroyed and that there was no reason for people to think of visiting

Charleston for the next five years because there is nothing here."

To demonstrate the city needed help, but was not destroyed, the city came up with a slogan called, "Charleston going strong."

The hurricane affected some 30 counties, and the city provided aid statewide. "We were sending generators to Williamsburg County, sending supplies to Marion County and different areas throughout the state," Riley said. "Just a phenomenal commitment to teamwork. Nobody ever stopped to ask 'Am I going to get credit for something?' Nobody ever worried about themselves. We had to force our people to take care of their own personal stuff. They were so committed. Hugo changed our city as it brought our people closer together. Alliances were formed. The city is better than it ever looked."

The next challenge the city faced was a bombshell that exploded in February 1993.

"I got the call that the Naval shipyard would be on the next BRAC list," said Riley. "No one in Charleston ever thought it would happen since it was the most efficient in the country, and the base was the most popular. If you ever talked to any admiral, he would have told you that the quality of life was top-notch here and that the people were extremely patriotic.

We were so proud to be a military town."

Riley knew the community had to do two things simultaneously, fight the proposed closure while preparing quietly should their efforts fail. "We needed a quiet redevelopment plan to be working on," he said. "I knew if we lost, our people needed to be told we had a plan of action."

He said that Charleston had the best-organized team to fight the BRAC closing, but the Navy had already decided.

"Because we were so well organized, the Navy was willing to do anything they could to help us," said Riley. "That is why SPAWARs is here. If you are going to take all that from us, then consolidate Naval Engineering command assets here. It was because of teamwork in working and fighting for us."

He said the community worked so hard on the next BRAC round that they were able to get the Navy Power School here. "The lesson here is if you work hard as a team, good things eventually happen. We would rather have the Navy, than not, and not just for the jobs, but because of the pride. We had a redevelopment plan, and we got the community to come together like never before. Our community is stronger economically than it's ever been and that was because of team-

work.

"You couldn't achieve the missions you do without teamwork and commitment," Riley continued. He added the city is committed to keeping Charleston AFB here and felt the base is in good shape in future BRAC rounds.

Riley also discussed the teamwork involved in creating the S.C. Aquarium. "It's a national aquarium for a very small city. The reason we have it is because we had a wonderful team committed to the vision, and we worked to get \$9.5 million from the state.

"Great cities are those that give its property on the waterfront to the community," Riley added. "Where the Charleston Waterfront park is now, there was a plan to build private development housing and high rises instead. We said no, and made that a public zone, and we created a group of volunteers that raised several million to get it going. We had to have a team committed to the vision."

Riley was invited to speak before the A/TA as part of their professional speaker series. Following his speech, Riley was presented with a coin and a crystal mug from Lt. Col. Dave Rodriguez, president of the Lowcountry chapter of A/TA. Riley said that he would use the mug that evening as part of Spoletto festivities.

"As a valued member of the community, I brag about this great city and why we should be proud of this city. Every team needs a leader and thanks for your leadership," said Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander. Findley presented an oil painting of a C-17 flying over downtown Charleston to Riley.

The AT/A has 230 members, but is also looking for more. The chapter sponsors a number of awards and scholarships. The annual membership fee is \$30 and there is a one-time Lowcountry chapter fee of \$15. One of the opportunities allowed members every year is attending the annual conference. This year's conference is scheduled for Oct. 18-21 in Dallas, Texas. The chapter is selling a special coin for \$5 to raise funds. For more information about the A/TA or to join, call Master Sgt. Jim Scanlan at 963-2794.



Charleston Mayor Joe Riley Jr. accepts an Airlift/Tanker Association coin from Lt. Col. Dave Rodriguez, 17th Airlift Squadron and A/TA president.

Air Force reaches recruiting milestone; recruiters still hard at work

The Air Force reached its first milestone in meeting this year's recruiting goal with the recent signing of its 34,600 enlistment contract.

With 22,027 new airmen sent to basic training since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Air Force has more than enough contracts with new recruits to enter basic training by Sept. 30 to meet its annual goal of 34,600.

"This is a great accomplishment for our country, the Air

Force and our recruiters," said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. "We increased the number of our recruiters, utilized enlistment bonuses, and continued an aggressive advertising and marketing campaign, and basically worked very hard. However, we won't let up. We're definitely still hiring."

The last time AFRS achieved this milestone during May was in 1986.

"What is exceptionally special about this announcement is that it occurred during the month of May, which happens to be the last of our toughest accession months," said Col. James Holaday, chief of the AFRS operations division. "We refer to our slowest time as 'FMAM,' which represents the first initial of the months of February through May. Although we consider last year also to be very successful, we didn't reach this

milestone until July."

Even with nearly 37,000 sign-ups in hand, recruiters are still hard at work recruiting additional candidates in anticipation of possible cancellations and to begin filling more than 35,000 new jobs for next year. The Air Force also faces a tough challenge in recruiting health professionals, primarily nurses, dentists and pharmacists.

"This is an indicator of how hard our recruiters are work-

ing, but we still have a daunting challenge ahead of us," Deal said. "But the success of meeting such a tough challenge is part of what makes recruiting duty so special."

Recruits cite the opportunity to further their education as the top reason for joining the Air Force, according to a recent survey. All new recruits are automatically enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force. (AFRS News Service)

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Airlift Wing is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Diane Chancey today, 10:30 a.m., in the Daedalian Room at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Susan Henry at 963-3201.

Retirement: The 437th Aerial Port Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Jeff Tilley today, 2 p.m., in Bldg. 174. For more information, call Master Sgt. Alex Scruggs at 963-3015 or Staff Sgt. Dan Smith at 963-2122.

Retirement: The 1st Combat Camera Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Michael Mulligan today, 2 p.m., at the Charleston Club.

Going away: The 437th Operations Group is hosting a going away luncheon for Chief Master Sgt. James Moody June 15, 11:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. RSVP to Senior Master Sgt. Michael Freebury or Master Sgt. Jim Scanlan at 963-6009.

Retirement: The 437th Maintenance Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. Robert Garceau June 15, noon, at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. William Seabreeze at 963-5220.

Retirement: The 437th Civil Engi-

neer Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. Danny Dean June 18, 10 a.m., at the base picnic grounds. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Karl Nichols at 963-5327.

Retirement: The 437th Airlift Wing Safety Office is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Larry Cain June 22, 11 a.m., in the 14th Airlift Squadron auditorium. For more information, call Master Sgt. Allison Bethea at 963-5597.

Around the base

Closure: Finance will be closed today for an official squadron function.

Closure: All 437th Mission Support Squadron facilities, to include the Military Personnel Flight, will close today, 10 a.m. They will reopen Monday.

Blood drive: There will be a base blood drive Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Base Education Center. For more information, call 963-4423.

Limited service: The 437th Communications Squadron is holding its annual picnic June 15. Operations will be limited due to minimum manning in the afternoon. For more information, call 963-3511.

Chiefs' Group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold its monthly meeting June 21, 11 a.m., at the

Charleston Club. Representatives from Bank of America will address the group, and lunch will be provided.

Closure: The 437th Military Personnel Flight customer service office will be closed July 9-10 for DEERS/RAPIDS system upgrade and training. For more information, contact Senior Airman Angela Hawkins at 963-4536.

Education Center: The Air Command and Staff College is offering a seminar for majors, major selectees, and GS-11s and above. The Air War College is offering a seminar for lieutenant colonels, lieutenant colonel selectees, and GS-13s or above. Both courses begin Aug. 6 and run through mid-June 2002. For more information, call 963-4575.

SIU: Southern Illinois University is having open fall registration, now-Aug. 13, for its one year Workforce Education and Development program. Enrollment is open to military members, dependents, retirees and civilians. The program starts Aug. 28 and runs through August 2002. For more information, call 552-7320.

Scholarships: The Airlift/Tanker Association is offering Scholastic Assistance Awards of \$500 and \$250. All active duty, guard and Reserve members in the rank of E-6 and below are eligible. Application packages are available at the Base Education Center or the Family Support Center.

The deadline for submitting applications is July 18.

Volunteers: The Muscular Dystrophy Association is seeking volunteers to be counselors at their summer camp in Rincon, Ga., for July 28-Aug. 3. Counselors assist campers with activities of daily living such as feeding, bathing and dressing, and help them enjoy activities such as arts and crafts, swimming, and tennis. Housing and meals will be provided to volunteers. For more information, call Nicole Gelb at 556-3654.

Pet shipment: Air Mobility Command, in cooperation with Commercial Patriot Express, is initiating a 3-month test program, allowing movement of pets with containers weighing up to 150 lbs on all AMC missions. This test program will begin immediately and run until Aug. 31. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Shawn White at 963-3066.

CLEP tests: The Education Center will offer an additional day for college-level testing. The new testing schedule will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. DANTES testing and tests that allow more than two hours for administration will still be limited to the 8 a.m. session. The additional testing on Wednesdays will be offered as long as the session is utilized. All college-level testing, AFIADL testing and proctored college exams can be scheduled by calling 963-4575.

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. Three-four weeks are needed to confirm requested move dates. Personnel shipping vehicles overseas must ensure they have all proper documentation upon arrival at the Vehicle Processing Center. Required documentation now includes permanent change of station orders and either the title or letter of authorization from the lien-holder or lease company before shipment can be accomplished. For more information, call 963-2255, or visit their Web site at www.charleston.af.mil/CHAS/437AW/OG/TMO/index.htm.

Family Support Center

Pre-Deployment Briefings: Monday, June 18, and 25, 4 p.m., and Thursday, June 21 and 28, 4 p.m.

Investing Fundamentals: Monday, 2-4:30 p.m.

Educational Opportunities Assistance: Tuesday, 10a.m.-1 p.m.

TAP Three-Day Workshop: Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Employers Panel and Mini Job Fair: Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

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

Charleston Profile



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Senior Airman Tina Onley
437th Services Squadron

Senior Airman Tina Onley is the storeroom supervisor for the 437th Services Squadron dining facility.

Onley said her main duty is to ensure Charleston AFB members get to eat. That's because she's the person who orders and receives the food.

"I take the menu and figure how much of everything we have to order and when it has to be here," said Onley. "I also receive the food when it gets here."

Roughly 350 people eat at the dining facility every day just for lunch. The breakfast, dinner and late-night meal crowd bring the total to 600 per day.

"There's even more involved during the Reserve Unit Training Assemblies," said Onley. "I have to plan for 300-400 more people."

Weekends are not necessarily full of free time for Onley. She said due to deployments and other vacancies in the unit, she also completes paperwork and processes cash register receipts. She said she doesn't mind putting in a little extra effort to complete the mission.

The Rockford, Ill., native will be reenlisting later in the month and plans on starting college as soon as possible.

"I'm not 100 percent, but I'm thinking about becoming a pastry chef," said Onley. "I'm taking it one step at a time."

When she's not figuring out how to feed the entire base, Onley enjoys reading, computer games and trips to the beach.

Now that she's about to be a career airman, Onley offers the following advice to new folks: "There are good days and bad days, but it will all work out in the end."

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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Deadlines

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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437 SFS members save the day, win pistol match

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

The 437th Security Forces Squadron Defender Challenge team and 437 SFS took first and third place respectively in a pistol match against nine local law enforcement teams June 2.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Stokes, 437 SFS and member of the Defender Challenge Team, won the "Top Gun" award in the competition for the best individual score. The 437 SFS and 100 Club of South Carolina hosted the pistol match on the base. The competition was tough and served as good practice for the AMC Defender Challenge competition June 25-29.

Team leader for the Defender Challenge team was Master Sgt. Richard Graves. The other Defender Challenge team members were Staff Sgt. Mark Furtado, Senior Airman Jimmy Blevins, Senior Airman Nicholas Sherwood and Airman 1st Class Brian Morgan.

Our 437 SFS members also distinguished themselves recently when they apprehended a deserter from Maxwell AFB, Ala. This deserter had access to weapons and took a 9mm pistol and ammunition when he left Maxwell. He was tracked down to the Charleston area, and an alert was issued to be on the lookout for him. An alert gate guard, Airman 1st Class Chris Blye, noticed the suspect coming through the Rivers Gate and "sounded the alarm."

437 SFS patrol officers, Staff Sergeants Brian Hilliker and Harold Bordeaux, performed a high-risk felony traffic stop with their weapons drawn. The

suspect had previously used his weapon in another crime. The 9mm and explosives were found in the vehicle when it was stopped. The suspect was arrested without incident, and he has been transferred back to Maxwell.

A chief master sergeant from Maxwell AFB wrote to the 437 SFS thanking them for capturing the suspect. His comments were: "I just want to thank you and your fine troops for capturing this airman. One of my young troops was a victim of his rampage. She feels very safe now that he has been captured." I can only echo my thanks that we have such sharp security forces members ensuring everyone's safety. Our cops work hard behind-the-scenes everyday. Thanks for a job well done!

A big thanks to Public Affairs, the 14th Airlift Squadron, 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and the 437th Logistics Group for their support in arranging for 37 civic leaders to enjoy a C-17 orientation flight to North Auxiliary Airfield Monday. The civic leaders included North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey, the city council, members of a North Charleston citizens advisory committee and 22 members of Leadership Berkeley, a chamber-sponsored group of rising civic leaders. They all had a good time, and this orientation flight gave them a much greater appreciation for our mission and the capabilities of the C-17. We continue to make strong inroads to the local community and continue to capitalize on the success of Air Expo 2001.

I was pleased to recognize our Diamond Sharp recipients for this month. Those



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Master Sgt. Richard Graves, 437th Security Forces Squadron and Defender Challenge Team chief, takes aim during a pistol match June 2. Graves and his team used the match as practice for Air Mobility Command's Defender Challenge competition scheduled for June 25-29.

honed Tuesday were Senior Airman Kasondra K. Crain, 437th Transportation Squadron; Staff Sgt. Robert S. Constable, 437th Services Squadron; Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Y. Jordan-Wells, 437th Contracting Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Paul D. Guenther, 17th Airlift Squadron.

Congratulations to our airmen who were selected for promotion to technical and master sergeant. Thanks for making the Air Force a career. Congratulations on your achievement.

Master Sgt. Diane Chancey, 437th Airlift Wing NCOIC of the command section, retires today at 10:30 a.m. in the Charleston Club after 26 years of service. This marks her second attempt at retiring. The first time she was on terminal leave when she was affected by the Air Force Stop-Loss program, which restricted certain Air Force Specialty Codes from separating or retiring in 1999 during Operation Allied Force. She will leave a big void when she leaves,

and we will miss her greatly. She plans to stay in the local area, and we wish her the best of luck.

There will be a military appreciation night with the Charleston Swampfoxes (arena football) Saturday, 7 p.m., at the North Charleston Coliseum. Discounted tickets (buy one, get one free or \$5 off the price of admission for upper-level reserved seats) are available at the North Charleston Coliseum box office.

I went to last year's game and there were a lot more Navy folks at the coliseum than Air Force. I hope we can have a better showing this time around, and maybe when the announcer asks for the Air Force people to stand up and shout, we will fare much better.

Summer is here and it is a great time for taking leave. I want everyone to have fun. Have a safe and enjoyable weekend. Remember to be careful, especially when driving, and thanks for all you do everyday.

Action line caller stresses importance of Retreat

Q: I have a concern about some civilians on base not paying respect to Retreat at the end of the duty day. I just witnessed personnel in civilian clothing walk to their three government vans and drive off, blatantly disrespecting Retreat. I think this should be addressed in the base paper, because it happens a lot on this base.

A: Rendering appropriate respect to the flag is an important tradition, which I expect to

be upheld by all personnel, dependents and guests at Charleston AFB. When Retreat begins at 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, vehicles need to stop and wait until the music ends before proceeding. Pedestrians need to stop, turn and face the flag, or face the direction the music is coming from if the flag is not visible. Military members in uniform stand at attention and render a salute throughout the playing of the national anthem. Civilians and military members not in uniform remove headgear

and place their right hands on their hearts during the national anthem. It is everyone's responsibility to set the example and to enforce the standards for Retreat. Ensure your guests follow the proper protocol and correct those who you see disregarding the tradition. Retreat gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our pride, professionalism and passion for what we stand for every day.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached at 963-5581.



Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Riverdogs: Tonight and Saturday, 7:05 p.m., and Sunday, 5:05 p.m., vs. Macon. For more information, or for tickets, call 577-DOGS.

Swamp Foxes: Military Night Saturday, 7:30 p.m., vs. Jacksonville. Tickets are \$5 or buy one, get one free, and are available at the North Charleston Coliseum box office. For more information, call 744-1232 or 214-0936.

Battery: Next home game, June 16, 7:30 p.m., vs. Indiana.

Summerville Speedway: NASCAR Late Models, four NASCAR divisions, and bicycle, scooter and Super Mini Truck races for the kids. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.summervillespeedway.com.

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 dependants from the Outdoor Recreation Center. For more information and prices, call 963-5271.

Entertainment:

Karaoke: The Riverbend Lounge and Grill presents karaoke with Monica tonight and Saturday, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. The Riverbend is located just outside the Dorchester Gate.

Live music: Plane Jane performs today at the Alive After Five weekly concert series, 5-9:15 p.m., Maritime Center, 10 Wharfside Dr. Tickets cost \$5. For more information, call 856-9922.

Live music: Better Than Ezra performs Saturday, 10 p.m., at the Music Farm, 32 Ann St., Charleston. Tickets cost \$14. For more information, call 722-8904.

Live music: Big Black Building performs Sunday at the Windjammer, 1008 Ocean Blvd., Isle of Palms, 3-6 p.m. For more information, call 886-

8948.

Comedy: The Have Nots! perform at Theatre 99 tonight, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., and Saturday, 7 p.m., 10 p.m. and midnight. For more information, call 853-NOTS.

Theatre: The Flowertown Players present the East Coast debut of the drama *The Ruse*, about a young man and his family and how they deal with the result of a truck accident. Show times are tonight, 8 p.m., and Saturday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., at 133 South Main St., Summerville. Tickets cost \$5.

Auditions: Auditions for the Charleston Stage's performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* will take place July 16, 7 p.m., at the Dock Street Theatre, 133 Church St., Charleston. For more information, call 577-5967.

Events:

Cheerleading camp: The Stratford Cheerleading camp at Stratford High School runs from June 18-June 22, 9 a.m.-noon. Enrollment costs \$40. For more information, call Kathy Knichel at 875-3785.

Basketball camp: The Anthony Johnson Basketball Camp offers a chance for boys and girls, ages 5-14, to learn from former College of Charleston and NBA star Anthony Johnson June 11-15th, Isle of Palms, and July 30-Aug. 3 at Porter-Gaud School. For more information, call 556-3006.

Backyard Monsters: Giant, robotic insects at the Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street. Exhibit runs through Aug. 31. For more information, call 722-2996, Ext. 234.

Family fun: Rock Around the Block, Monday evenings, 6-9 p.m., offers musical entertainment, food and drink, and tons of children's activities in the Mt. Pleasant Towne Center. The event is free. For more information call 216-9000 extension 223.

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 or send an e-mail to dispatch@charleston.af.mil.

FEATURE

A walk on the wild side; base nature trail offers refuge from technology-crazed modern society

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

Screened from civilization by a stand of tall bushes and thickly wooded areas, the Base Natural Resources Awareness Trail offers Charleston AFB members a chance to get away from the bustle of humanity without going very far at all.

The mile-long trail weaves its way through the forested area across the street from the Airman Leadership School. The silence and peace of the trail are only broken by the occasional buzz of a jet engine as an aircraft passes overhead.

"Some of the base residents who live near the trail use it, but I don't think many people even know about it," said Keith Thompson, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, environment protection specialist.

The trail is slated for improvement, with the contract for the improvements to be awarded later this month, Thompson said. Included in the improvements will be more boardwalks, four additional seating areas and interpretive signs, explaining the wildlife and plant life in the area.

"Most of the time you'll see squirrels," said Thompson. "You might also see rabbits or snakes. Once in awhile, if you're really quiet, you might see deer."

Thompson said some of the new seating areas will be along the creek that winds through the trail. "We plan to have stone steps going down the bank to seating areas along the creek," he said.

Thompson said he also plans to move the sign marking the trail closer to where the trail begins. The sign is currently located within the wooded area.

"I've thought about taking my lunch out there sometime," Thompson said.

Runners, walkers, joggers and bikers tired of the same old paths have a more scenic option for their daily exercise and base residents longing for solitude don't have to travel miles to find a slice of wilderness when they can find it in their own back yard.

Right: Runners pound across the bridge that spans the creek running through the Nature Trail area. The always-shaded trail helps to beat the heat of Charleston summers.

Bottom right: Carey Stringer, the asbestos program manager for the 437th Environmental Flight walks the trail during a break from work. The trail is directly across the street from the environmental flight office.

Below: Jacqi Garrison, 437th Environmental Flight, uses the trail as a quiet place to catch up on reading.



Parents

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sarily have it as easy as two-parent households, unless of course, a spouse is TDY a lot. There's a lot more to deal with being the only one there 24-7.

"Some of the lunches have definitely been beneficial to me," Sweatt continued. "It's nice to share stories with others who have already been there. We're not trying to reinvent the wheel. We're just sharing insight about things we may have already tried."

While the program is Chapel sponsored, Newton said some of the money used to sponsor it comes from the command.

"Air Mobility Command has allotted funds for us to run this program," said Newton. "We used part of the Chapel's MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) money to buy non-dated ticket vouchers for the Riverdogs, Battery and South Carolina Aquarium. Instead of having a group event where we say 'OK, we'll all take a van to the game on a certain day,' the ticket vouchers give these individuals the freedom they need."

Newton said there are lots of vouchers left, and single

parents who want them aren't required to attend the lunch. The vouchers are available for children, adolescents and adults, and a trip or phone call to the Chapel can secure them for single parents.

"My son and I have taken advantage of some of the free tickets," said Sweatt. "We went to see the Riverdogs, Stingrays and Disney on Ice when it was here. We had a great time."

Currently, Newton said about 16 or 20 single parents attend the monthly lunches. He said he would like to see an increase in that number, and people shouldn't be scared off by certain religious affiliations.

"There are about 110 people who claim single parenthood on CAFB," said Newton. "We'd like to see more of them take advantage of the opportunities we're offering. They don't have to worry about it being like a Bible study, which is

"We'd like to see more of them ... We will keep our integrity as chaplains and spiritual leaders, but we won't impose our beliefs on the group."

*Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Newton,
437th Airlift Wing Chaplain*

great for some, but can exclude others. We use this money to benefit all single parents. We will keep our integrity as chaplains and spiritual leaders, but we won't impose our beliefs on the group."

Along with free tickets and the associations single parents can make, Newton said the attendees always walk away with some tangible information in hand.

"We hand out checklists and information about topics covered at the lunches," Newton said. "For instance, when we went over child abuse, we handed out a checklist for parents to watch for changes in behavior and things of that nature."

Sweatt said she hoped to see more single parents at CAFB participate in the network.

"I think it's a great group and should be utilized more by the active duty and Reserve single parents here," said Sweatt. "It's held at the Chapel, which in itself, gives it a spiritual overtone, but you don't have to be religious to attend."

All Team Charleston members were welcomed at the Tuesday meetings. For more information, call Newton at 963-2225.

Awards

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CDC," Ross added.

Perry was the winner of the Outstanding Clerical/Administrative award. She said she was very surprised when her name was announced as the winner.

"It's nice to be recognized," Perry said. "Sometimes I hear civilians complain that military members get points along with their decorations, but even though I didn't get any points for the award, it was still great."

"In the ceremony, the speaker mentioned how nice it was that supervisors actually take the time to nominate people for awards like this," Perry continued. "I've been blessed in the last couple of years to have really good bosses."

In the Outstanding Technician/Assistant category, Florio bested the field of local federal employees. He had no idea the awards program existed and was surprised to learn he had been nominated, Florio said.

"It was a great honor, because I not only competed against other military members, but also against civilians in the Charleston area and on base," said Florio. "I know the caliber of people in

this area; they're good at what they do. The tough competition is what made winning feel so good."

Also competing as finalists for CAFB were Gregory Vitalis, 315th Operations Support Squadron (transferred to Robins AFB, Ga., in March), Outstanding Supervisor category; Catherine Hallett, 437th Medical Group, Outstanding Scientific/Professional category; Randy Clayton, 437th Maintenance Squadron, Outstanding Trade/Craft category and the 437th Behavioral Sciences Flight team, Team Award category.

The members of the Federal Executive Association are the highest officials of the federal government in the area. The FEAs role is to ensure program managers are exposed to each other's projects and problems, keep in perspective the fact that each federal agency represents one government, and strive to improve liaison with each other and other units of the government at a grass roots level, according to information provided by the FEA.

The annual awards program recognizes the professional and personal accomplishments of federal employees who excel in their various fields.

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 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.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

"Joe Dirt" – David Spade

Joe Dirt hits the road to find the parents that he lost, or lost him. His wandering, misguided search takes him from one hilarious misadventure to another. Through triumph and adversity, Joe Dirt plows on to unearth the mystery of his family's disappearance with startling results. **(PG-13) 91 minutes**

Saturday, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

"Spy Kids" – Antonio Banderas

For years, Ingrid Cortez has told her children the bedtime story of "The Spies Who Fell in Love." Little do Carmen and Juni Cortez know, the spies in the fairy tale are actually their parents who have been nabbed by the enemy. To keep their family together, the kids take on two perilous missions that defy the odds. **(PG) 87 minutes**

June 15, 7:30 p.m.

"Driven" – Sylvester Stallone

A young driver is in the middle of a championship season and is coming apart at the seams. **(PG-13) 109 minutes**

June 16, 7:30 p.m.

"The Mummy Returns" – The Rock

Fitness & Sports

Sports line

Aquatic aerobics: Aquatic aerobics is a new, widely accepted method of physical exercise that allows participants to exercise more independently due to the buoyancy in the water and reduced gravitational force. Aquatic aerobics is successful in the treatment of chronic pain management, back rehabilitation, sports medicine, post-op knee joint and shoulder therapy and sedentary lifestyles. The Health and Wellness Center offers aquatic aerobics Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.-noon, at the base pool. For more information, call 963-4007.

Mouth guards: The 437th Medical Group Deily Dental Clinic provides fitted athletic mouth guards for use during all contact sports. Mouth guards can prevent traumatic injuries such as fractured teeth, cut lips and dislodged or lost teeth. Call 963-6839 or 963-6842 to receive a mouth guard.

HAWC combines health, cars

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Health and Wellness Center is sponsoring a Men's Health Expo June 15, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at the base education office.

"A lot of medical professionals will be on hand to address men's health issues," said Jason Ham, HAWC exercise physiologist. "We figure to have in the ballpark of 20 or more health experts from different services and agencies. There's a growing increase in preventative illnesses like certain cardiovascular diseases, cholesterol levels and creeping obesity. We'll be talking about those issues along with many others."

Ham said women are welcome to attend the expo also.

"We encourage women to stop out," said Ham. "Usually, wives and mothers are the motivators to get men to see their primary care providers about possible health issues."

As an added incentive to get concerned about men's health, Ham said the expo will also offer the opportunity to show cars and motorcycles.

"It's not a car show with prizes or anything like that," said Ham. "It's just an opportunity to show off some vehicles while you discuss specific men's health issues."

So far, Ham said they have a 1966 Corvette coupe, 1964 Chevrolet Nova and many motorcycles slated to be on hand.

While he didn't offer incentive rides, Ham promised to have his Harley Davidson on display, weather permitting.

"It's a 2000 bronze-pearl Fatboy Twin-V," said Ham. "There are too many additions to list, but I have upgraded quite a bit to include a lot of chrome extras."

For more information about the expo, call 963-4313.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Reaping the benefits

Jason Ham (right), 437th Health and Wellness Center exercise physiologist, hands out t-shirts June 1 to participants of the Spring Into Fitness Challenge. The top three teams were House of Dreams, 6,760 points, CS Survivors, 6,450 points, and High Expectations, 5,795 points.