

Tennessee newest Team Charleston member

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Today, more than ever, military members and their families need to see evidence that the community cares about what they're doing and the sacrifices they have made.

One resident of the middle Tennessee area saw that need and sprang into action to rally his local community to donate a variety of food, sundries and other items to Charleston AFB Nov. 21.

Retired Lt. Col. Randy Harmon organized the efforts of local Tennessee residents and created Project Unlimited Support to provide care packages, post cards, food and gifts for military members and their families. Harmon personally delivered several thousand pounds of goods to the base and timed his delivery to occur in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

"People are flocking to churches to pray, donating blood and donating money to those directly hit by the attack on America," said Harmon. "All these are powerful and right things to do. But in areas where there is little knowledge or background about exactly what our

military does, there has been an overwhelming desire to know 'what else can I do to help?' Project US is an attempt to partially answer that question."

Charleston AFB first sergeants helped unload the donated goods and distributed the items throughout the base.

Chief Master Sgt. Harvey Hampton, 437th Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant, helped organize the distribution efforts.

"This is a great initiative for our younger airmen and families," Hampton said. "It is always special when members of the community show their support to our people. What a wonderful gesture."

After the supplies were unloaded, Hampton conducted a meeting with the first sergeants to work out the details for future shipments.

Harmon, in explaining the program in a letter to Tennessee residents, talked about his experiences meeting with family members and senior leaders at CAFB about the base's worldwide global mobility mission during Operation Enduring Freedom.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Bergmann

Spare tire?

Airman 1st Class Thomas Cole (left), a crew chief from the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, Staff Sgt. Kevin Posey (center), 437th Maintenance Squadron, and Senior Airman Aaron Bickel, 437 AGS, put a new tire on a C-17 at a deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Team Charleston personnel and aircraft are currently deployed to various areas around the world in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Buyer beware: Holiday charging may take years to pay off

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The busiest shopping day of the year is over, and holiday shoppers will continue to fill the malls until the end of December.

Unfortunately, many Americans may already have climbed into a bottomless credit card pit.

According to the Neway (a non-profit organization helping people and families become debt free) Web site, the average balance on a credit card is \$7,000, and Americans paid approximately \$65 billion in interest in 1999.

Another statistic from the site states a credit card balance of \$8,000 will take more than 25 years to pay off if minimum monthly payments are made at an 18 percent interest rate. That means \$15,432 will have been paid to interest charges alone, bringing the actually price of \$8,000 of goods and services to \$23,432.

"If you don't think that fulfilling the urge to use plastic is such an atrocity, think again," said Barb Lang, Family Support Center personal financial manager. "Credit card abuse is one of the leading causes of debt today. It's that same debt that destroys marriages, families, homes and even

lives. Pretty powerful for such a small item, only 2 by 3 inches square."

Lang said credit cards have become such an essential part of people's daily lives, that they don't even realize how much it costs to use them. She warns consumers against rushing to the stores with plastic in hand to buy holiday gifts.

"One of the biggest mistakes many people make is that they don't save for large purchases such as Christmas gifts, and they feel have no other alternative other than to use their card," Lang said. "The second biggest

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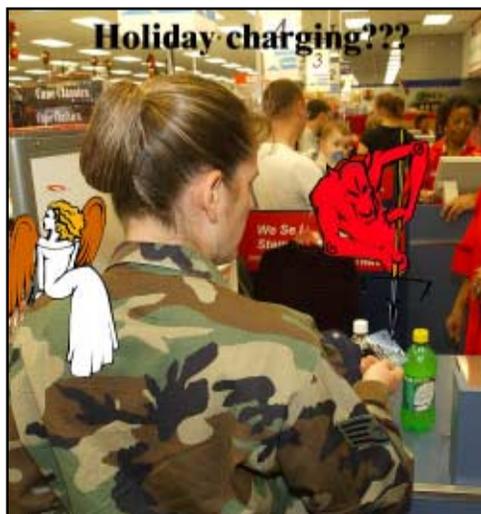


Photo illustration by Senior Airman Jason Smith

IN THE NEWS

Career assistance advisor hunts down Stop Loss answers

By Master Sgt. Matt Harless
437 AW career assistance advisor

The way the Air Force conducts business has changed drastically since mid September.

The Air Force is now operating in a Stop-Loss environment. Nearly 400 Charleston AFB people have been or will be affected by Stop Loss.

I recently attended the Worldwide Career Assistance Advisor conference at Headquarters, Air Force Personnel Command. I spoke to those responsible for creating the policies and procedures under which we are now operating. While the nation and its warriors are working harder than ever to combat terrorism across the globe, we can all be assured that steps have been taken to ensure we still have the same career opportunities and benefits we had prior to Sept. 11.

In cooperation with the 437th Military Personnel Flight, I have tried to answer some of the more common concerns that may affect your career in the Stop Loss environment.

If you have further questions concerning Stop Loss, visit the Stop Loss website at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/stoploss. For questions concerning your career, call me at 963-8004, or e-mail me at matt.harless@charleston.af.mil. For MPF related questions, call Master Sgt. Tonya Harris at 963-6211, or e-mail her at tonya.harris@charleston.af.mil.

Q: When will Stop Loss end?

A: The Stop Loss program will end when the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Air Force determine there is no longer a need to retain the capability (all or some AFSCs) to meet national security requirements. Further guidance will be available in January.

—Staff Sgt. Adrienna Thompson, 437th Mission Support Squadron, 963-4562 or 963-4563

Q: If a member is affected by Stop-Loss in a career field with a Selective Reenlistment Bonus, will they receive the SRB?

A: No. The only way for a member to receive the SRB is to reenlist in the Air Force.

—Staff Sgt. Troy Jarrell, 437 MSS, 963-4519 or 963-4525

Q: Can I change my mind and reenlist after I've been involuntarily extended?

A: Yes. If you're paid a SRB, the involuntary extension will not be subtracted as obligated service from the SRB payment.

—Jarrell

Q: I am stationed in the CONUS. My AFSC is on the Stop Loss list, and I have an assignment. Can my commander hold me here until Stop Loss is over?

A: The assignment cannot be cancelled or delayed based solely on the fact that your AFSC is affected by Stop-Loss. Your commander always has the option to request a Report no Later than Date delay based on mission needs.

—Tech. Sgt. George McKey, 437 MSS, 963-4550

Q: Will my assignment be cancelled because my AFSC is on the Stop-Loss list?

A: No. Assignments will continue.

—McKey

Q: Officer separations have been changed to indefinite because of Stop Loss. What does this mean in terms of assignments?

A: Individuals who had an approved separation or retirement on file are not eligible for PCS. These members will have an Assignment Control Flag placed on their record that will pull them out of the PCS eligibility pool.

—McKey

Q: If a member previously declined professional military education because of pending separation, and then is affected by stop loss, will they be able to meet the next promotion board?

A: The member may request withdrawal of the PME declination, and if approved by AFPC, may then request (in writing) promotion eligibility be reinstated with their commander's recommendation for approval.

—Jarrell

Q: If I declined promotion testing because I was intending to separate, am I eligible to test now that I fall under Stop Loss?

A: Yes.

—Jarrell

Q: Does Stop Loss affect enlisted members with an approved retirement or separation for high-year tenure?

A: Yes. HYT is established by policy,

not law, and their HYTs will be adjusted.

—Thompson

Q: Can the commander initiate a waiver request for stop loss personnel?

A: Yes. The commander may initiate the waiver from Stop Loss if the commander feels the member will not make significant contributions to the on-going operations and their retention is not in the best interest of the Air Force.

—Thompson

Q: Since retirements and separations through May 1 are being rescinded because of Stop Loss, once Stop Loss is over, will we have to formally go through the application process for retirement or separation all over again?

A: Members who had approved retirement or separation dates who were involuntarily extended as a result of Stop Loss will receive priority in establishing new retirement or separation dates once Stop Loss is over. Additional guidance to process these requests when Stop Loss is over is forthcoming.

—Thompson

Q: I elected to separate on my date of separation, and my retraining window closed. Since I'm still in due to Stop Loss, can I get my chance to retrain back?

A: Yes. You may submit a request for an exception to policy through your local MPF Retraining Office.

—Senior Airman Leslie Melencion, 437 MSS, 963-4567

HARMON

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Harmon said the donations are especially unique when one considers that there is no military presence in the local area.

"I met with several moms

with young children whose daddies were gone to an undisclosed location for an unknown period of time." Harmon said. "One lady had three children, ages 5, 2 and 8 months. I offered to help and asked how we, ordinary citizens, could support not

only the deployed troops from CAFB, but also the families left behind."

The answer he got was to develop a program like Project US.

Harmon chose to donate the goods to CAFB because he has known Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437 AW commander, for many years and learned of the hard work everyone was doing. He also has ties to the local area, having attended college in Newberry, S.C.

"The wing commander and I go way back to when we went through initial navigator training together," said Harmon. "I was out here for his promotion ceremony, and I specifically asked him (and several others) what the middle Tennessee area could do to help and show more support to our troops."

Harmon explained that many of the suggestions he received were for morale items for forward deployed

forces and their families. The items are designed to take their minds off the monotony of the day by giving them books, snack foods, magazines and toiletry items, he added.

"I brought the idea up to my Sunday school class. It is a very large church, and our class took hold of it and began a general gift-giving campaign around Oct. 1," Harmon said. "It is a grass-roots effort of patriotic Americans with about 15 organizations participating to date, to include everything from Girl Scouts to local churches and schools."

He said the effort has been concentrated in the Williamson County, Tenn., area, and the message has spread mostly by word of mouth.

The 437 AW commander spoke of the need to help families cope with the long deployments and said the outpouring of support from the local

community and the base has been wonderful.

"We're fortunate to enjoy such great support in the local community, and this is even more special now that another community in Tennessee has chosen to adopt us as one of their own," Findley said. "It says a lot about what the American public thinks about our military."

Harmon said he realizes the difference a kind gesture can have.

"I know that to get something from someone who doesn't even know you makes a significant impact," Harmon said. "One of the questions that has been asked to me was how long do I plan to keep doing this. How does unlimited sound? We're looking at monthly collection and distribution to Team Charleston and perhaps growing to other military installations throughout the U.S."



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Retired Lt. Col. Randy Harmon delivers donations from Tennessee to Charleston AFB Nov. 21. Harmon organized the efforts of local Tennessee residents and created Project Unlimited Support to provide care packages, post cards, food and gifts for military members and their families.

AMC launches Warrior Award

By Staff Sgt. Scott Leas
AMC Public Affairs

In the next few weeks, some airmen and civilians in the air mobility community will be showing off their new designation as Air Mobility Warriors.

This new award is part of Air Mobility Command's Year of the Warrior Spirit campaign and is sponsored by the AMC Director of Operations.

The award provides a means for Headquarters AMC Directors and mobility commanders from Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard to recognize airman and civilians of all ranks who exemplify the warrior spirit by both their attitude and actions in accomplishing the mobility mission.

The motivation behind creating the award, according to Maj. Gen. Roger Brady, AMC director of operations, was to give immediate recognition to individuals demonstrating the warrior spirit.

"Our whole purpose in this

Year of the Warrior Spirit is to foster the understanding that every airman and civilian member of the air mobility community must think and act like a warrior if we are to be effective in accomplishing our mission," Bradysaid. "The tendency is to limit our image of warriors to those who wear flight suits, but that's simply not accurate. We can all be warriors, and we must be."

The award itself is a gold coin bearing the images of three mobility pioneers. First, Lt. Gen. William Tunner, architect of mobility operations over "The Hump" during World War II and the Berlin Airlift immediately following the war, represents the airlift mission.

Second, Capt. Lillian Kinkela-Keil, veteran of over 250 combat missions in World War II and Korea, represents the aeromedical evacuation community.

Third, Chief Master Sgt. Nathan Campbell, a boom operator who orchestrated the

first aerial refueling involving three aircraft simultaneously "in contact" in flight, represents the aerial refueling mission.

The side containing the three images also displays the motto of the Year of the Warrior Spirit: "Warriors-First and Foremost." It also contains a declaration by Tunner that mobility forces can deliver "anything, anywhere, anytime."

The other side of the coin carries an American flag and the designation "Air Mobility Warrior." Around the edges of the coin are the Air Force's core values-integrity, service, excellence, as well as the three core missions of air mobility-airlift, air refueling, and aeromedical evacuation.

Brady said the "award" should really be thought of as a designation as an Air Mobility Warrior, and that this designation is not intended to preclude receipt of other awards or decorations during the same time period.



Courtesy photo

Tops in Blue

Tops in Blue is scheduled to perform Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at the Gaillard Auditorium, downtown Charleston. Doors open at 7 p.m., and seating is first come, first served. Admission is free. For more information, call 963-5608.



Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Stingrays: Tuesday, 7 p.m., vs. Macon. For more information, call 554-6060.

Lowgators: Monday, 7 p.m., vs. Roanoke. For more information, call 764-4013 or 416-1162.

Reindeer run: Piggly Wiggly 5K run/walk for all ages, including a holiday costume contest starts 9 a.m., Saturday at the Southend Brewery, 161 East Bay St. Proceeds benefit MUSC Children's Hospital. For more information, call 345-6906.

Entertainment:

Theater: Footlight Players present "Crumbs from the Table of Joy," a comedy-drama by Lynn Nottage, Today-Sunday, 8 p.m., at the Footlight Players Theatre, 20 Queen St. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$17 for students and seniors. For more information, call 722-4487.

Comedy: The Have Nots! perform improvisational comedy tonight, 8 p.m., at Theatre 99, 30 Cumberland St. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 853-6687.

Theater: "A Christmas Carol" tonight and Saturday, 8 p.m., at the Dock Street Theater, 135 Church St. The Charleston Stage Company produces a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic. For more informa-

tion, call 965-4032.

Live music: Weird Science performs at the Music Farm Saturday, 10 p.m. Tickets are \$6. For more information, call 722-8904.

Live music: Reverend Horton Heat, with special guest Dash Rip Rock perform at the Music Farm Thursday, 10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 722-8904.

Events:

Chili cook-off: Things will "heat up" on the rooftop of the Vendue Inn Saturday, 3-6 p.m., as local celebrities share samples of their chili recipes. Tickets are \$25, and proceeds benefit the John Ancrum Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. For more information, call 747-4849.

Edisto Christmas parade: Edisto Island offers a parade, music, tree-lighting and a visit from Santa Saturday, noon, on Palmetto Boulevard. The parade is free. For more information, call 869-3897.

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.

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mistake is that they pay only the minimum amount due each month. Abuse the card by only making minimum payments, and you've built a time bomb."

The holiday season is an especially dangerous time to get into credit card trouble. Master Sgt. Gregory Brown, 437th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, said people often feel obligated to spend money they don't have on gifts for their friends and loved ones.

"People have forgotten what the real meaning of Christmas is," said Brown. "It has become so commercialized that everyone thinks they have to go out and spend a bunch of money they don't have to make people happy with expensive gifts."

For those who don't have the money on hand to pay for the presents they want to buy, Brown recommends other ways of spreading holiday wishes.

"Explain to them that it's not the gift, but the thought that counts," said Brown. "You would be surprised, but a simple Christmas card or phone call on Christmas Day will do the trick for family members not in the local area. For your immediate family, just sit them down and talk about your financial situation, and decide what you can afford."

The lower the monthly payment, the longer it takes to pay, and the more it costs since most card issuers require monthly payments of just 2-5 percent of the balance, said Lang. The less the consumer pays monthly,

the more the credit card benefits monetarily.

Along with being put in an immediate financial bind, credit cards over usage can have a negative impact on the big picture, according to Neway. Placing a monthly \$218 credit card payment in a 12 percent money-savings plan instead would turn into \$1,354,930 in 25 years. Many Americans are using money that should be put away for retirement to pay high credit card bills.

Air Force members are held to an even higher standard than civilian counterparts when dealing with debt problems. Brown said financial irresponsibility can lead to letters of reprimand, unfavorable information files and even discharge.

"We live in a buy now, pay later society which usually gets Air Force members in trouble," said Brown. "We don't mind getting what we want now with a credit card, but we don't like to pay it back in a timely manner. It's always better to just save your money and pay cash. The bottom line is; learn to live within your means."

Brown said he encourages airmen to see him before their financial situation gets out of control.

"I can get them to the FSC to talk to a financial counselor or talk to someone about Air Force Aid," said Brown. "If you feel yourself getting into financial trouble, stop spending and get a plan set up to get your bills paid."

Choosing to keep credit card balances at a manageable level can be more difficult now than any other time of the year. The FSC has information and services available to help. For more information, call 963-5448.

NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Profile



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Senior Airman Brian Sharman 437th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Brian Sharman is an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD Flight.

The Tampa, Fla., native and his coworkers are responsible for neutralizing any explosive hazard on Charleston AFB and surrounding areas. Sharman said he has also been tasked with providing personal protection for the president, vice president and other individuals the government deems VIPs.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, Sharman and several other CAFB EOD personnel were tasked with port mortuary duty at Dover AFB, Del., x-raying remains transported to the site to ensure they didn't contain explosives potentially hazardous to medical workers.

"I think what I like best about my job is that it's unique," Sharman said. "Also, there's great camaraderie, and not just in the Air Force, but throughout the joint services in this career field."

Sharman, who holds a Community College of the Air Force degree, earned both the Academic Achievement and John Levitow Awards earlier this month when his class graduated from Airman Leadership School. He will sew on staff sergeant stripes Saturday.

Making technical sergeant on the first try and continuing to have a successful marriage are two of Sharman's goals.

In his free time, Sharman enjoys water skiing, watching the Miami Dolphins and spending time with his wife, Carla, 5-year-old daughter, Brianna, and 13-year-old stepdaughter, Lauren.

A/TA: The Airlift/Tanker Association is awarding \$200 tuition grants for enlisted A/TA members in the rank of airman basic-technical sergeant pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree. Information packets are available at the Community Education Center. Applications can also be requested via e-mail at 437mss.dpe@charleston.af.mil.

Construction: The 437th Medical Group is undergoing significant renovations at the Clinic and Behavioral Sciences buildings. Construction is scheduled to take place through June. The Clinic staff apologizes for any delays that may occur during the renovations.

Family Support Center

Pre-deployment Briefing: Monday, Dec. 10, 17, 24 and 30, 8-8:30 a.m., and Thursday, Dec. 13, 20 and 27, 4-4:30 p.m.

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

Resume I: Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon.
Women and Self-Esteem: Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

Coping with Holiday Stress: Tuesday, 6-7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

TAP 3-Day Workshop: Dec. 11-13, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

Smooth Move: Dec. 18, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Resume II: Dec. 18, 9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Troops-To-Teachers: Dec. 18, 10-11 a.m.

TSP Briefing: Dec. 18, 3-4:30 p.m., and 6-7:30 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.

Around the base

Holiday wishes: From now until Dec. 31, Circuit City stores are videotaping holiday wishes of family members whose sponsors are serving overseas. The messages will be put on DVD and sent to the service member. A valid ID is required to use this free service.

Golf tournament: The Combined Federal Campaign Golf Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, 11 a.m., at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The captain's choice tournament costs \$20, plus green fees. Carts are optional. Food and beverages will be provided. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin, longest drive and more. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Anthony Maffini at 963-2791. Those interested may also sign up at the Wrenwoods Pro Shop.

Early closure: The 437th Mission Support Squadron will close at 3 p.m., Dec. 7, for a squadron function.

Nativity: The chapel is hosting the Nativity of Emmanuel, or NOEL, program Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-noon. The program features crafts, stories, songs and more for children ages 3-12. Registration is required. This time may be used by parents to shop, wrap presents or just relax. The Chapel staff will need help with the program. Anyone wishing to volunteer can call

the Chapel at 963-2536 or Mary Davis at 552-0303.

Golf tournament: The 3rd Annual Toys for Tots Golf Tournament will be held at Wrenwoods Golf Course Dec. 8, 9 a.m.. The registration fee is \$30 and one new, unwrapped toy for non-members of the course, and \$15 and one new, unwrapped toy for members. Prizes will be awarded for best score, longest drive and closest to the pin. All entries must be received by Tuesday. For more information, call Marine Staff Sgt. Pat Yandell at 743-4947.

Closure: The Military Personnel Flight Customer Service Office will be closed Dec. 10-12 while the system for the new identification card, the Common Access Card, is installed. The office will be closed for all services. For more information, call Master Sgt. Ronnie Cullum or Staff Sgt. Shonna Billings at 963-4545.

Commissary: Effective Dec. 11, the Commissary will be operating under new hours. The new hours of operation are Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and closed Mondays.

OSA: The Officers' Spouses Association is holding an ornament exchange Dec. 12, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Entertainment will be provided by Charr, a jazz and gospel

singer, and a farmer's breakfast will be served. The cost is \$8.50 for club members and \$11.50 for non-members. People whose last names begin with A-M can call 875-2505 for reservations. Those whose last names begin with N-Z can call 207-7379.

BOA card: Standard Bank of America government travel cards used to have an ATM withdrawal limit of \$500 per month. A new \$500 limit has been set until a payment is made, meaning a member can withdrawal a total of \$500 regardless of TDY length, unless they make a payment.

Officials ask to report pay problems now

Air Force personnel officials are asking all airmen with pay or bonus payment problems to call the Air Force Personnel Center's contact center by Dec. 7.

As the Air Force's internal tax reporting deadline approaches, personnel officials want to ensure airmen have received all their pay and entitlements so they are not faced with problems when tax season rolls around.

Officials want to make sure they have enough time to work with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to resolve all cases in time for this tax year.

Common problems may include initial enlistment or re-enlistment bonuses, special or incentive pay, or problems with regular pay.

People who do not receive their bonus payment this calendar year may receive double payments next year, which can result in a higher tax bracket, officials said.

People can reach the contact center at DSN 665-2949 or (800) 558-1404, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

USO performers, Charleston C-17



Wayne Newton kicks off the 2001 USO tour in Tuzla, Bosnia, Nov. 14. The entertainers performed for thousands of military personnel and their family members during five performances. (Courtesy photo)

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

A Charleston-based C-17 and aircrew transported an entourage of stars who took their message of support and holiday wishes to military personnel stationed in Bosnia and Italy as part of a 2001 United Services Organization tour.

Entertainer Wayne Newton, who is also the Chairman of the celebrity circle of the USO, said the performers had numerous objectives, but the most important was to "bring a touch of home to the military personnel."

The celebrities kicked off the five-day event with a three-hour performance at Eagle Air Base, in Tuzla, Bosnia, where they entertained more than 1,000 troops during two shows, Nov. 14 and 15.

"I've been on three USO trips and this was the best," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch.

The mission was accomplished because the show made people feel better, proud to be in the military and happier because they were remembered, he said.

The performers and the aircrew stayed two nights in Hungary, while shuttling to and from Bosnia both nights.

"It was grueling," Newton said. "We were getting, at most, six hours of sleep then we were on a moving plane or bus, working or signing autographs."

Maj. Pete Wilson, a C-17 pilot with the 17th Airlift Squadron, said the celebrities were very

down-to-earth, normal people who took great interest in what the military does and how it's done.

"Their willingness to reach out to the troops and improve their morale is the one memory that will stick out," he said.

The group left Hungary for Aviano AB, Italy, Nov. 16, where a performance was held that night.

Nov. 17, the tour took them to Capodachino, Italy, where they entertained troops assigned to Naval Support Activities Naples and Headquarters Allied Forces Southern Command.

"We loved it," said Navy IT2 Deanna Whitt, who attended the Naples show with her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Chad Whitt. "Especially since the families could be here."

The tour ended in Vicenza with a crowd of mostly Army paratroopers.

"It's been fantastic," said actress Bo Derek, who is planning a trip to the Persian Gulf in January.



The 2001 United Services Organization performers prepare to perform in Italy. (Courtesy photo)

"The best part was meeting all the service members. It was a reminder of the sacrifices they're making. It felt so cold and lonely, especially in Bosnia."

- Bo Derek
Actress

Actor and comedian Rob Schneider serves lunch to Navy personnel at Naval Support Activities Naples. The USO performers spent the afternoon at NSA Naples eating lunch and visiting with troops prior to their 3 p.m. performance for military members and their family members. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith)



USO tour

- Wayne Newton - E
- Bo Derek
- Dallas Cowboy
- Kandace Krueg
- Peter MacN
- Neal McC
- Ruth Point
- Rob Schne
- Shaggy
- Jessica Simp



Country singer Neal McCoy gets some help from the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders as he sings his hit single "The Shake" during the USO show at Capodachino, Italy. The crowd was mostly made up of military personnel assigned to Naval Support Activities Naples and Headquarters Allied Forces Southern Command and their family members. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith)



The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders perform at Capodachino, Italy.

7 take a touch of home overseas



Organization tour group pre-Courtesy photo)

"The best part was meeting all the service members. It was a reminder of the sacrifices they're making. It felt so cold and lonely, especially in Bosnia."

Miss USA, Kandace Kruger, said that she has attended many notable events, such as the MTV and Country Music Awards, but this has been the highlight of her reign.

"I'm not just saying that, it truly has," she said. "I will cherish these memories forever."

The crowd was left with their own memories to cherish.

Navy IT Joseph Desmarais had just arrived at NSA Naples

when he met the stars and said it gave him hope for his tour.

"It's great," he said. "This is my first week here and it makes me look forward to the next two years."

Country singer Neal McCoy said this was one of the coolest things he's ever done and hopes to do it again.

"I hope they had fun and got something out of it," he said. "But it's not really what they got out of it, it's what I got out of it from them. This has been an experience I'll never forget."

Newton toured military bases during two prior wars, Vietnam and Desert Storm, and said the objective is to bring awareness not only to the military but also to the American people.

"The Persian Gulf War was so short that the public was not aware of the needs of people in uniform," he said. "The most important message we want to give to service members is that we're behind them and we support them. The Vietnam War was someone else's, but this war is ours."

Newton said he too would remember this trip. "As I reflect on it, there are two or three things each day that will be with me for the rest of my life."

The C-17 crew also said this was a mission they will never forget.

"Watching the entertainers interact with the crew members throughout the whole trip was memorable," said Lt. Col. Matt Heuer, 17 AS and C-17 mission commander. "They were friendly, helpful and above all, they always looked out for us. They were concerned with our well being by making sure our rooms were OK and that we were being taken care of."

This trip has a bittersweet taste, Newton said. There were tears when the performers left the stage and tears when they left the plane.

"When we left (Washington) D.C. we were virtual strangers," he said. "When we came back, we were family."



Emmy-award winning actor Peter MacNicol and his wife, Marsue, bid farewell to well-wishers prior to boarding a C-17 at Andrews AFB, Md., with Staff Sgt. Bruce McCormick, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, looking on. (Courtesy photo)

performers

Entertainer, President

Celebrity Circle

k - Actress

by Cheerleaders

eger - Miss USA

Nicol - Actor

Coy - Singer

ter - Singer

elder - Actor,

y - Singer

mpson - Singer



(Left-right) Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley; Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Alford McMichael; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Herdt; Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Vincent Patton and Wayne Newton get the crowd warmed up prior to a performance at Camp Eagle, Bosnia. (Courtesy photo)

"I hope they had fun and got something out of it. But it's not really what they got out of it, it's what I got out of it from them. This has been an experience I'll never forget."

- Neal McCoy
Singer



chino, Italy. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith)

(Right) Wayne Newton and Bo Derek visit with a hospitalized soldier while at Camp Eagle, in Tuzla, Bosnia. The USO performers received a tour of facilities on the post and ate lunch at the dining facility. Prior to their evening performance, the entertainers signed autographs and posed for pictures with military personnel assigned to Camp Eagle and Eagle Air Base. (Courtesy photo)



COMMENTARY

Ship-naming ceremony honors Pitsenbarger

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

We were pleased to host Gen. John Handy, commander-in-chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mobility Command, for a brief visit. Gen. Handy visited the Charleston area to participate in a ship-naming ceremony in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Airman 1st Class William Pitsenbarger Wednesday at the Detyens Shipyard.

Gen. Handy was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. His schedule did not allow enough time for a base visit, but he will visit all AMC bases in the future, and we look forward to his return.

Pitsenbarger's heroism was honored when a chartered ship operated for the Navy's Military Sealift Command was named the MV A1C William H. Pitsenbarger.

The ship will preposition Air Force ammunition at sea, near potential war or contingency sites, adding greatly to the U.S. military's combat readiness. The Pitsenbarger will operate from the Diego Garcia area in the Indian Ocean.

The 621-foot Pitsenbarger will join a fleet of more than 35 Afloat Prepositioning Ships under MSC's operational control. A civilian contractor for the Navy operates the ship.

With the recently concluded Thanksgiving holiday, we were fortunate to be on the receiving end of a generous contribution by the citizens of the middle Tennessee area. Retired Lt. Col. Randy Harmon organized the efforts of residents in his hometown to provide snacks, sundries and other morale items for deployed airmen and their families. Harmon personally brought the items to the base in time for the holidays. The first sergeants helped distribute the items. You can read more about his efforts to help the men and women of Team Charleston on page 1.

During the holidays, the base dining hall staff went beyond what was required by providing a first class meal for our single airmen and local retirees and their families. The food preparation was excellent, and we had a great turnout of commanders, first sergeants and chiefs to help serve up another delicious meal Thanksgiving Day. We had a great chance to meet with many of our base airmen during this special meal. Thanks to everyone who played a part.

Likewise, the Charleston Club held a superb Thanksgiving brunch for the rest of Team Charleston. Once again, the club staff impressed everyone with their service and quality meal. If you missed the meal at the club, you missed a good one. It was fantastic!

The Air Mobility Command Hennessey evaluation team will inspect our dining facility Monday and Tuesday. The team will review every aspect of our world class dining facility, and we are hoping to come out on top from this evaluation and be named the best dining facility in the command. I encourage everyone eligible to eat in the dining facility to sample the wonderful cuisine.

We held a groundbreaking ceremony for a sorely needed new Combat Arms Training Facility Tuesday afternoon. The new facility will be a two-story pre-fabricated 7,600 square foot building that will contain a classroom, armory, weapons maintenance area and Firearms Training Simulator area. The \$470,574 design-build contract was awarded to Roscoe Allen Company in Columbia, S.C., and the new facility will look similar to the existing Explosive Ordnance Disposal building located nearby. The new facility will be built across from the firing range and will be completed next spring. The old facility will be returned to maintenance and will be used for munitions processing.

Don't forget, Air Force Tops in Blue will perform Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., in the Gaillard Auditorium. The performance is free, but you may have to pay for parking in downtown Charleston. This year's show is a patriotic salute, and the performance, like last year, is open to the public. I encourage everyone to get there early for the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, carves the Thanksgiving turkey at the Gaylor Dining Facility Nov. 22.

performance since we will probably have a full house again.

The 2001 edition of Tops in Blue, "The Magic Of Music," is a musical medley of songs guaranteed to captivate the entire audience. This year's team will take center stage for an hour and a half, performing a variety of music styles ranging from big band to pop, country to rhythm and blues, and contemporary Latin to nostalgic rock and roll. Their show in Charleston will be their last performance of the 2001 season.

The Combined Federal Campaign Golf Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, 11 a.m., at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The Captain's Choice golf tournament costs \$20, plus green fees. Food and beverages will be provided. Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin, longest drive and more. For more information, please call 2nd Lt. Anthony Maffini at 963-2791.

The base will hold its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony Wednesday, 6 p.m., by the wing headquarters building. We will have Christmas carols and some free prizes provided by the 437th Services Squadron. Hope to see you there.

On a sadder note, Team Charleston bids farewell to retired Lt. Col. Jay Marts who passed away before the start of the Thanksgiving holidays. Jay was a big supporter of the base and was frequently in the club on Fridays. He was a bona fide war hero and piloted everything from P-51 Mustangs to F-86s. We held a memorial service in his honor Monday in the base chapel. We lost a good friend.

As many of you already know, Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley deployed Sunday in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He'll miss the wing and certainly regrets missing the Air Force Holiday Ball tonight, but Maj. Gen. Roger A. Brady, director of operations, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill., graciously accepted his invitation to fill in as the guest speaker. General Findley extends his warm regards to the wing and asks everyone to keep charging forward.

As we get into the full swing of the holiday season, it is important that everyone exercise good common sense as we travel the highways. The highways are much more congested than in past years, and a little mission planning before a big trip can go a long way in avoiding a mishap. The holidays can also be a stressful period. Try to look out for one another during this busy holiday season. Please help take care of those families whose spouses are deployed.

Keep up the good work! I'm proud of the hard work of Team Charleston and the great things we continue to accomplish day after day.

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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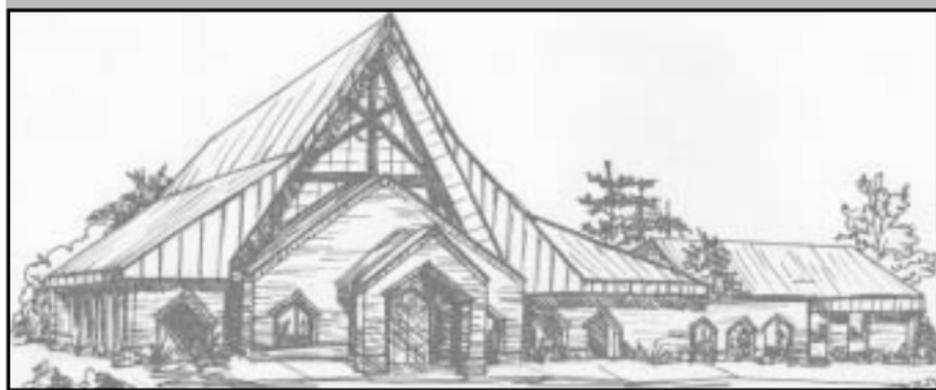
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Base Visual Information Center

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. 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 963-2676.

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.

"The Others" – Nicole Kidman

On the secluded Isle of Jersey in the final days of World War II, three new servants arrive at Grace's home to replace the ones that inexplicably disappeared. Startling supernatural events begin to unfold. Grace begins to sense that intruders are at large. Who are the trespassers? What do they want? **(PG-13) 88 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.

"Corky Romano" – Chris Kattan

Corky Romano, the emotional son of a mob boss, is called upon by his long-lost father to infiltrate the FBI. Under the guise of Agent Pissant, he fakes his way through one tough assignment after another. Corky decides to set up a sting of his own to blow everybody's minds. **(PG-13) 86 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Bandits" – Bruce Willis

Joe and Terry are bank-robbing fugitives who hope a final string of scores will finance their south-of-the-border retirement dreams. Things get more complicated when they meet Kate who joins the bandits on their cross-country spree, and eventually steals something of theirs; their hearts. **(PG-13) 118 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Swami gets food poisoning, picks suffer

By the Swami

Pigskin Prognosticator

The Swami conspirators were out to get the Swami over the Thanksgiving holiday. The Swami has good reason to believe he was given a bad dose of turkey from some real turkeys.

The Swami's picks were eventually sabotaged, leading to a miserable week.

"It's no big deal, those turkeys will be dealt with and I will rebound

from this," shouted the Swami.

After the top-ten pickers were listed in last weeks *Airlift Dispatch*, the Swami knows there are plenty of jealous people out there who are seeking some sort of revenge. The Swami understands why those who can't be like him would want to harm the great one.

Week 11 belongs to Mo Fleming with his 12-3 record. This is the first week Fleming has played.

"I'm confident that I can be an impact player, and I let my picks do the talking," said Fleming.

The Swami thinks Fleming has been sniffing too much jet fuel, and he did not have a clue as to what he was doing. Everyone gets lucky now and then, and Fleming just had his lucky week. He beat out Scott Bartley, James Greer, Aldo Ingold, Amanda King and David Severson by one game.

No one even bothered to say "thank you" to the Swami for the two free games he handed out to everyone on Thanksgiving Day. They actually were not even good games. Do not be fooled by the scores. If you watched the last two minutes of each game, that is all

you needed to see.

Why is it that teams can score touchdowns with less than two minutes left in the game? They were two lousy games played with a couple of horrendous teams (Dallas and Detroit). Please give us different teams next year!

Rounding out last place for week 11 was Curtis Peterson with a 5-10 record. Peterson must be friends with Dutch because these two jokers picked the Panthers to win. Find a new "hometown" team. Try the Jaguars. At least they have two more wins than the Panthers.

Good luck to all the Swami's loyal fans.

Week 13

Name/Phone #: _____

Comments: _____

Sunday, Dec. 9

Carolina @ **Buffalo**
 Chicago @ **Green Bay**
 Cleveland @ **New England**
 Detroit @ **Tampa Bay**
 Jacksonville @ **Cincinnati**
 New Orleans @ **Atlanta**
 New York Giants @ **Dallas**
 San Diego @ **Philadelphia**
 San Francisco @ **St. Louis**
 Tennessee @ **Minnesota**
 Washington @ **Arizona**
 Kansas City @ **Oakland**
 New York Jets @ **Pittsburgh**
 Seattle @ **Denver**

Monday, Dec. 10

Indianapolis @ **Miami**
 Monday night total points: _____
 Swami's Monday night points: **41**

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, Dec. 7, 4 p.m.



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Jason Smith
 The Swami's 6-9 record left him looking a little foolish after all the bragging he did last week. Luckily, the Swami makes friends quick no matter what 'field' he's in.