

DISPATCH



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Vol. 40, No. 39

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Oct. 5, 2001

Books to Troops

By Senior Airman
Jason Smith

437 AW Public Affairs

Deploying Charleston AFB members will be able to catch up on some reading thanks to the efforts of some patriotic people.

Leah Marie Brown, wife of Maj. Kevin Brown, 14th Airlift Squadron chief of training, and Virginia Farmer, author of the award-winning novel "Sixpence Bride," visited the CAFB Chapel Sept. 27 to drop off some books.

Brown, an Air Force broadcaster during Desert Storm and published author, and other members of the local chapter of the Romance Writers of America, have pulled together to help support the national Message of Hope Book Drive. Local authors, Brown's writing organization and independent booksellers throughout the country are donating books to be given to

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Lighting the way

Tech. Sgt. Steve Semones, 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron (left), and Staff Sgt. Edward Bradley, 615th Air Mobility Operations Group, Travis AFB, Calif., change a wing landing light on a C-17. Bradley is TDY here for C-17 training.

New Commissary coming to CAFB in February 2003

*Texas company awarded \$11,575,000 contract Sept. 25 to build modern facility
New building will cover 89,000 square feet, as compared to current 26,312*

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

The first steps toward constructing a new Commissary for Charleston AFB got underway when a \$11,575,000 contract was awarded Sept. 25 to Medlin Construction of San Antonio, Texas.

The project was awarded using Air Force streamline source selection procedures, where offerors' proposals for this project were evaluated to determine which offer provided the best overall value to the government. The Defense Commissary Agency selected from a list of contractors who had previously built commissaries for them.

The project provides for over 89,000 square feet of total floor area compared to the present Commissary, which has only 26,312 square feet. The completed project will include 452 total parking spaces (eight handicap parking spaces). The project provides for a modern merchandising format and will use the latest Defense Commissary Agency interior décor scheme, according to DeCa officials.

"The exterior of the building has been de-

"The exterior of the building has been designed to match our existing architectural style at Charleston."

Warren May
437th Civil Engineer Squadron

signed to match our existing architectural style at Charleston," said Warren May, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron and base project manager for the new Commissary. "It will have a flat roof instead of the standard standing seam roof, but will use the same brick and pre-cast concrete seen throughout the base."

The site for the new building is located adjacent to the existing Commissary and just south of the existing Base Exchange. The existing Commis-

sary will eventually be demolished, after the majority of the new facility is completed, and a new parking lot will be constructed in that space. Hazardous material abatement will also be required in the demolition of the existing Commissary. The new Commissary entrance will face Dorchester Road.

The project will require phased construction. May explained that construction will start first in the parking lot next to the Base Exchange and Shopette. After the warehouse is constructed in that spot, then the old warehouse will be torn down and the new Commissary sales area will be

See COMMISSARY, page 3

IN THE NEWS

August Justice Files

Airman basic fails to obey lawful order

Airman first class derelict in duties

Three airmen discharged for infractions

By Senior Airman

Geoffery Gunn

437 AW Military Justice

Court Martial

An airman basic was convicted by a special court-martial for failure to obey a lawful order, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. His sentence included a Bad Conduct Discharge and four months confinement.

Article 15 actions

An airman failed to obey an order to cease and desist contact with another airman.

Punishment: Suspended reduction to airman basic, a reprimand and 21 days of extra duty.

An airman first class was derelict in the performance of his duties by failing to maintain automobile insurance and dishonorably failing to pay his Military Star Account debt.

Punishment: Suspended reduction to airman, a reprimand and 14 days of extra duty.

An airman basic went from his appointed place of duty without proper

authority and was derelict in the performance of his duties by failing to report an on-duty mishap.

Punishment: A reprimand and 15 days of extra duty.

An airman was derelict in the performance of his duties by failing to verify and document sewer discharge times.

Punishment: A reduction to airman basic and 15 days of extra duty.

An airman first class failed to follow a lawful order to not drive on CAFB.

Punishment: A reduction to airman, a reprimand, restriction to CAFB for 14 days and 14 days of extra duty.

An airman first class signed a false official statement.

Punishment: A suspended reduction to airman, restriction to CAFB and 30 days of extra duty.

Administrative discharges

Three airmen were discharged for minor disciplinary infractions with General Discharges.



Two airmen get Bad Conduct Discharges

An airman from the 437th Operations Support Squadron was court-martialed at Charleston AFB July 31. He pled guilty to violating Articles 121 and 130 (Larceny and Housebreaking, respectively) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice at a special court martial.

On March 17, the airman knowingly and willfully committed the offense of housebreaking by unlawfully entering another airman's dorm room with the intent to steal.

He wrongfully took about \$1,440 of electronic equipment from the airman's dorm room.

On May 19, the airman wrongfully took one flight helmet and one flight bag, property of the U.S. government, by removing them from his duty section and giving them to another airman. Both items had a total value of about \$900.

For the offenses of larceny and housebreaking, he was sentenced to reduction to the grade of airman basic, forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for four months, confinement for four months and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

An airman from the 437th Security Forces Squadron was court-martialed at CAFB Sept. 6. The airman pled guilty at a special court-

martial to violations of Articles 121, 130 and 134 of the UCMJ (Larceny, Housebreaking, and Receiving and Concealing Stolen Government Property, respectively).

March 17, the airman knowingly and willfully committed the offense of housebreaking by unlawfully entering another airman's dorm room with the intent to steal property.

The airman wrongfully took about \$1,568 of electronic equipment, DVDs and CDs from the other airman's dorm room.

Between May and July, the airman wrongfully received and concealed one flight helmet and one flight bag. Both items were government property.

For the offenses of larceny, housebreaking, and receiving and concealing stolen government property, the airman was sentenced by a military judge to the maximum sentence available; a forfeiture of \$695 pay per month for six months, confinement for six months and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Courts-martial are open to the public. For more information about attending future trials or the court-martial process, call 963-5502. **(Submitted by the 437th Airlift Wing Military Justice Office.)**

YORR comes to close; retention still focus

By Senior Airman

Jason Smith

437 AW Public Affairs

Air Mobility Command's Year of Retention and Recruiting ended Sept. 28, but officials expect continued focus on retaining and attracting the finest people, according to an AMC news release.

Charleston AFB's YORR campaign was extremely successful, according to Master Sgt. Matt Harless, 437th Airlift Wing career advisor. He said CAFB led AMC in first and second term retention.

"We were able to help a number of airmen improve their quality of life and get what they want out of this career," said Harless. "For example, we had three times as many people apply for commissioning programs here this year than we did last year, and 81 percent were selected. We are now able, more than ever, to get people the job or assignment they want. That's what motivates

them and keeps them in the Air Force."

The success of CAFB's YORR program can be measured in various statistics, according to Harless. He said most of the people he speaks with are a year away from their separation dates, so they're not always reflected in numbers. However, they impact the long term because they stabilize the force and provide a greater depth of training and experience. This allows the Air Force to accomplish its mission better and faster.

Retention issues were attacked in a variety of ways, said Harless. One of the most successful programs was the Career Right Decision Seminar.

The seminar was designed to educate members about the various opportunities and benefits the Air Force has to offer. It also provided perspective concerning the transition to the civilian sector and how it could affect the

ability of former service members to take care of themselves and their families.

Recruiting issues were the responsibility of Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones, 437 AW Public Affairs.

"He (Jones) aggressively enhanced recruitment in the local area and throughout our neighboring states by hosting Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets, ROTC cadets and other groups that had the potential for a large number of Air Force applicants," said Harless.

Even though YORR is over, CAFB's retention and recruiting issues have not ceased. The career assistance advisor position was created to continue the process as a permanent wing position, said Harless.

"Attention to retention issues was long overdue," Harless said. "The increases we have seen, and will continue to see, in our base pay, BAH, educational benefits, medical benefits and assign-

ment opportunities are a sign that retention will always be a priority from now on.

"We have learned the key to retention is making people happy, improving the quality of life and making them part of something important," continued Harless. "The senior leadership at CAFB has done more to improve quality of life here than any other place I know of."

Positive feedback about retention from base-to-base is common, according to Lt. Col. Joshua Jose, AMC Retention and Recruiting Division chief, in the release. Jose said everyone was fired up about retention and recruiting.

"Each base had their own way of doing things, and you could tell that success stories on a particular base could have only happened there due to their uniqueness of mission, personnel and facilities," said Jose.

AMC officials have already named fiscal year 2002 Year of the Warrior.

CFC 2001

Every little bit helps

Did you know:

\$2 per month (\$24 a year) will buy

■ Personal necessities such as toothpaste and soap for a family whose home was destroyed by fire

■ The materials to outfit a guide dog for someone who can't see

\$10 per month (\$120 a year) will buy:

■ Clothing for one homeless American child.

■ One week's worth of medication for an AIDS Trial participant

For more information about the Combined Federal Campaign, contact a squadron CFC representative or 1st Lt. Wade Cornelius at 963-4723.

Former prisoners come together: Congressman speaks to more than 100 POWs attending 6th annual picnic in North Charleston

By Capt. Krista Carlos
437 AW Public Affairs

In the wake of the past month's tragedies, America's patriotism has reached amazing levels.

This sense of patriotism had a special meaning to the group of prisoners of war who celebrated their existence last week.

The 6th Annual Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Picnic, sponsored by the Veteran's Administration Hospital, was held Sept. 28 at Wannamaker Park in North Charleston. Due to Charleston AFB's enhanced force protection measures, the picnic, originally scheduled for the annual POW/MIA Day Sept. 21, was rescheduled and moved off base.

Approximately 100 former POWs and family members participated in the festivities,

which included a live band, barbecue, raffle, a few speeches and lots of socializing.

"Next to Christmas, this is my favorite day of the year," said Dexter Hood, VA picnic coordinator, as he kicked off Friday's ceremony.

The VA Hospital hosts the picnic every year and always tries to have it on base or a military-oriented location, according to Hood.

Along with the POWs and their families, Congressman Henry Brown attended the picnic as the guest speaker. He spoke about the attack and the uncertainty in America.

"Terrorism is a widespread organization," Brown said. "We are not sure where the enemy is going to hit us next."

Additionally, he commented on how Americans needed to instill confidence in the U.S. and go back to

their own ways of life.

"All of you have paid the price", said Brown, referring to the POWs/MIAs past sacrifices.

All of the POWs who attended were from South Carolina, mostly from the Lowcountry area. Most attendees were World War II veterans, and a few were from the Korean War.

Al Mitro, retired Navy, was captured and began his three years as a POW April 11, 1942, when his minesweeper sank off the coast of the Philippines. He was captured by the Japanese army and spent several months in Filipino prison camps before being transferred on a "hell ship" to Japan. Mitro worked at several camps before eventually being moved to Osaka, where he worked as a stevedore loading freight for the Japanese Navy.

"We may have been de-

feated on the battlefield," said Mitro, "but we sabotaged everything we could".

Mitro told a story about a time when he and some fellow prisoners were uploading trucks with oil jugs earmarked for the Japanese Navy.

Japanese supervisors specifically told the POWs to load the jugs with holes facing up so they wouldn't leak. The prisoners purposely passed on the message that the jugs must be placed down in the trucks, Mitro said. By the end of the ride, the jugs were completely empty and the trucks were full of oil.

Mitro expressed pride in doing what he could to help the war effort, even while captive.

Mitro was not the only hero at the picnic.

Robert Dunbar, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, was captured in 1944 after

his B-17 was shot down over Germany. He was on his 25th mission when he was captured and taken to the Frankfurt interrogation center with a broken leg and was eventually moved to an allied air forces officer POW camp in Sagan, formerly located in Germany.

"It was a miserable existence," said Dunbar, who almost froze to death in his nine months of incarceration at the camps.

His group was forced to relocate and march 100 kilometers when the Germans heard the Russians knocking on their front door. They were then transported to Munich and moved again to Stuttgart when the enemy heard the Americans approaching.

All of these men are heroes in the eyes of their families and their country.

BOOKS

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American troops and victims of Sept. 11's terrorist attacks.

So far, books have been sent to the major hospitals treating victims of the attack, the entire USS Theodore Roosevelt Fleet and CAFB, to name a few. All of the books have a message on the inside cover, said Brown. Many of them are handwritten by the authors.

"Signing books is part of the grieving process for me," said Farmer, who is sending all of her books to CAFB for distribution. "I know it's not much, but I want to do what I can."

Deployments are not a mysterious military secret to Farmer. Her husband served during the Gulf War before retiring from the Navy. She said he told her about down time with nothing to read while traveling from point to point. Since Farmer is an accomplished writer, she saw the Message of Hope Book Drive as a perfect opportunity to use her talents to support the United State's effort.

Since Brown is the creator and organizer of the national book drive, she wanted to bring CAFB in the loop. After recruiting local authors and booksellers, Brown contacted Lt. Col. William Changose, 14 AS commander. Brown said Changose was very enthusiastic about the book drive and put her in contact with Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Newton, 437th Airlift Wing chaplain, who helped organize the distribution of the books.

"After Chaplain Newton explained troops were being deployed from Charleston AFB regularly, and that the books would be appreciated, I worked hard to gather books from local authors and sellers quickly," said Brown. "Brenda Rollins (owner of the Book Exchange, Summerville,



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith
Leah Marie Brown (left) and Virginia Farmer brought 500 books to the Charleston AFB Chapel Sept. 27 for deploying service members.

S.C.) donated a lot of books. We have books donated from multi-published and New York Time best-selling authors, including local writer Mary Alice Monroe."

Brown and Farmer dropped about 500 books at the Chapel, and Brown said she has at least that many more at home. If any books are left over from CAFB, Brown said she hopes to get them to somewhere in the Persian Gulf. If the base is unable to ship the extra books to the Gulf, they will be redirected to the sailors of the Theodore Roosevelt Fleet who are already deployed to the area.

"At this time of pain and uncertainty, it brings me great joy to think the books I help send might offer comfort and hope to a family member, a victim or a deployed service member," said Brown. "As an author, there could be no greater reward than that."

COMMISSARY

continued from page 1

built in it's place. Once the sales area is transferred into the new facility, the rest of the building will be torn down and the new parking lot will be completed.

"There may be some loss of parking during construction, but the phased approach should avoid any major hurdles. He added the phased approach will also allow the Commissary to remain open for business," May said.

The present Commissary does about \$2.1 to \$2.5 million dollars of business a month, which includes sales of items as part of the defense overseas Commissary program that supports more than 30 countries. The old Commissary was built in 1972 and had a minor renovation in 1992.

"The new Commissary will be more spacious, have wider aisles, energy efficient refrigeration and built to more modern standards," said Eddie Williams, base Commissary manager. "It will be a tremendous improve-

ment compared to our present, antiquated facility."

Williams added service will continue uninterrupted throughout the construction phase.

"As the project comes to an end, we'll start to diminish some stock," said Williams. "But don't expect a big deficit in the quality of service. Our motto is quality first, people always."

Williams said the CAFB Commissary is the busiest one in the local area.

The architect and engineering firm managing the project is the Jenkins Group, Itasca, Ill.

"My biggest challenge was ensuring the new Commissary design met our standards and it does," May said.

He said design for the project was completed in spring 2001, and the base will have an inspector to help the A&E firm in managing the project.

A pre-performance conference with the contractor has been tentatively scheduled for October. Construction on the project is expected to begin in November and is scheduled to be complete around February 2003.



Courtesy drawing

Charleston AFB's new Commissary is scheduled to open in February 2003.

NEWS BRIEFS

Around the base

Commissary: The Commissary will be closed Monday in observance of Columbus Day. It will reopen Tuesday.

Base yard sale: The base-wide yard sale is scheduled for Oct. 13 at the base picnic grounds. Tables may be rented from the Base Consignment Shop, Bldg. 203, Graves Street, for \$10. For more information, call 963-3294.

College registration: Class registration for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's winter term is going on now through Oct. 15. Classes begin Oct. 15 and end Dec. 18, and are held in the Community Education Center. For more information, call 963-4575.

SAT: The Community Education Center will be taking registration for SAT testing Nov. 2. The test date is scheduled for Dec. 12. For more information, call 963-4575.

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

Scholarship: Applications for the Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships for Military Children Program will be available beginning Nov. 1 at the commissary and at www.commissaries.com. Qualified

children of U.S. military ID card holders, to include active duty, retirees, and Guard and reservists, may apply for the \$1,500 scholarships.

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

Pet care: Margaret Ward-Brown has offered to use her Charleston area home to house pets at no cost, except food expenses, for deployed personnel. Brown has worked with animals in the past and has a large amount of land for them to exercise. She requires animal insurance on the pet. The insurance, which costs about \$120 per year, is needed to take an animal to a vet in case of an emergency. She also requires enough money for six-months food. Brown also requires owners to have a will stating where the pet should go in case of death of the owner. For more information, e-mail her at edistodane@aol.com. Brown requests using a subject line about pets because she deletes messages from senders who she doesn't know.

Education Center: The testing fees for CLEP exams has increased to \$56 each, and the fees for DANTES

exams has increased to \$35 each. The payment method for CLEP/DANTES testing is by money order or certified check only. Civilians authorized to utilize on-base programs may test at the Community Education Center. Testing for military personnel will remain free, however, a military identification card is required. For more information, call 963-4575.

TRICARE: Any Guard or Reserve member with questions about their TRICARE benefits should contact the Beneficiary Advisor and Assistance Coordinator at 963-6706, or the TRICARE Service Center at (800) 444-5445.

GRE/GMAT: Military personnel are authorized to take the GRE/GMAT once at government cost, provided it's required for admission to a graduate program, and the approval has been

documented in their education records prior to testing. GRE/GMAT testing is provided by a DOD contractor, Prometric Testing Centers, 1954 Ashley River Rd., Suite G, 766-5599. The cost of the GRE is \$105 and the cost for the GMAT is \$200.

Volunteers: The Charleston AFB Retirees Activities Program is seeking volunteers to help in a number of positions working with military personnel in such areas as gate security, pharmacy staffing, administrative offices, medical records, etc. Military retirees, spouses, widows, and veterans and their family members are needed, as well as other citizens who wish to support the U.S. military. Those interested in volunteering do not need to have prior military affiliation. For more information, call 963-2228.

Family Support Center

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

Job Search Basics: Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon.

Couples Communication: Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Pre-Deployment Briefing: Oct. 15, 22 and 29, 8 a.m., and Thursday, Oct. 18 and 25, 4 p.m.

TAP 3-Day Workshop: Oct. 16-18, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Troops-to-Teachers Workshop: Oct. 22, 10-11 a.m.

Home Buying Workshop: Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Resume II: Oct. 23, 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon

Positive Attitude and You: Oct. 24, 1-3 p.m.

SMOOTH Move: Oct 25, 8:30 a.m.-noon

Interview Techniques: Oct. 25, 1-4 p.m.

Smart Women Finish Rich: Oct. 29, 6-8 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.

OKTOBERFEST**Admit one**

Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., in the campus area between Dormitories 473 and 466.

Free admission, including food and beverages for E-6s and below, all others \$5.

Door prizes, games and a live band!

Coupon not required for entry. For more information, call Master Sgt. Matt Harless at 963-8004.

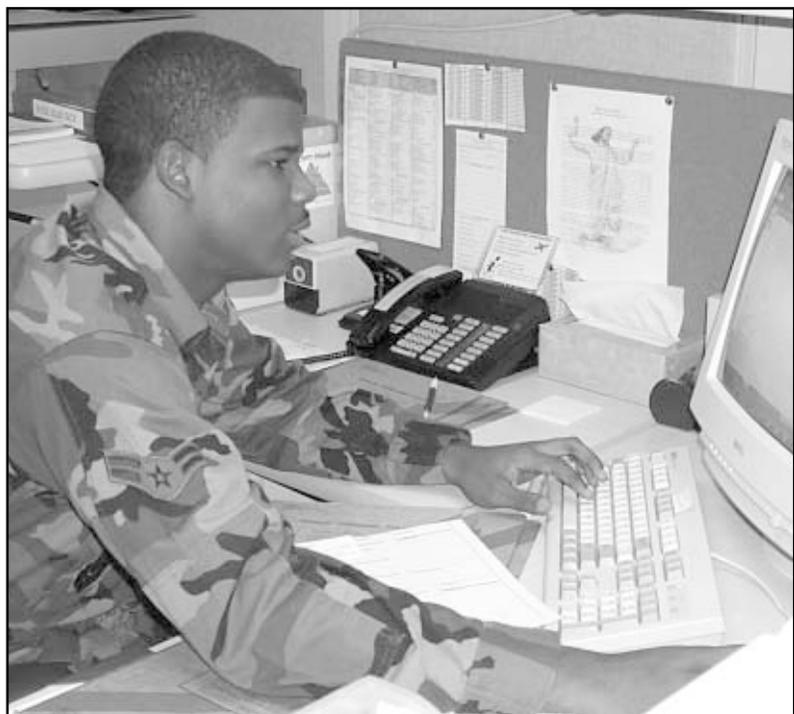
**Charleston Profile**

Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

**Airman 1st Class Brian Thompson
437th Medical Group**

Airman 1st Class Brian Thompson is a personnel apprentice in the 437th Medical Group orderly room.

According to Thompson, all personnel in the 437 MDG deal with the group orderly room, unlike other groups where each squadron maintains its own orderly room.

The Dillon, S.C., native has been in the Air Force for a little more than a year and was named a Diamond Sharp Award winner for the month.

Thompson said dealing with customers and helping them solve their problems was the thing he likes most about his job.

In addition to his duties, Thompson volunteers his time as a member of the Medical Group Association, which raises funds and organizes group functions.

When not working, Thompson said he enjoys playing basketball and relaxing.

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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FY 2001 closeout one of many success stories this week

By **Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley**
437 AW commander

Two of our big heroes for the week are the hard-working members of the 437th Comptroller Squadron and 437th Contracting Squadron and the many group and squadron Resource Managers who came in and spent our remaining wing and headquarters funds as part of the end of fiscal 2001, which ended at midnight Sept. 30. There were many people working long hours to ensure another successful year-end closeout. It was an especially challenging closeout since we were also deploying aircraft and people in support of our on-going operations.

Among some of the items we were able to fund were improvements to the 911 emergency call system, expanded parking area for the dormitories, new computers for many offices and various facility projects.

The 437 CPTS took the lead once again on orchestrating another perfect closeout. **Joy Delk**, deputy budget chief, oversaw the huge effort. Staff Sgt. **Carolyn Brandt** and **Holly Mehringer** were phenomenal working with our civil engineers and working the reimbursements. Staff Sgt. **Jeannine McGuire** and Senior Airman **Rob Florio** ensured all the contracts flowed through smoothly and the money was available and posted to each contract. 2nd Lt. **Jim Cohn** oversaw the efforts to ensure the funds were certified. It was a huge effort! I am extremely proud of our 437 CPTS members who made this difficult process look easy.

The 437th Supply Squadron was also impressive. Staff Sgt. **Jeannette Tinkey** processed all our mobility and equipment items through base supply. She did it at 11:58 p.m. with only two minutes to spare.

No less impressive were the dedicated efforts of the 437 CONS. Tech. Sgt. **Paul Harris**, Tech. Sgt. **Chris Seaman**, **Tammy Guy** and **Sandy Ford** directly resulted in cost savings for all projects. A special thanks to Tech. Sgt. **Nathan McCoy**, 437 CONS, who spearheaded and prepared contract instruments especially tailored to purchase computer equipment for all organizations throughout the wing. His efforts will benefit the wing for years to come. A new "year-end tool" was introduced this year for large pre-planned requirements and was an overwhelming success. **Libby Billham** successfully managed a centralized Government Purchase Card used by contracting officers and served as the billing official for the card. As with every year-end, **Veita Williams** sets the standard in year-end processing between two paperless environments, Automated Business Services System and the Standard Procurement System. All of these great initiatives could not have happened without the flawless orchestration of **Betty Smith**, who "makes it all happen."

I was pleased to recognize our Diamond Sharp recipients Tuesday. These airmen have gone above the call of duty and have impressed their first sergeants with their job performance. Claiming top honors this month were: Staff Sgt. **Jeannine McGuire**, 437 CPTS; Staff Sgt. **Rutorrest Larsen**, 437th Communications Squadron; Senior Airman **Bryan Edwards**, 437th Logistics Support Squadron; and Airman 1st Class **Brian Thompson**, 437th Medical Group.

Congratulations to the following airman selected for Senior Airman Below the Zone for the first quarter of this year: **Melissa DeRemer**, 437 MDG; **Jennifer Fuqua**, 437 LSS; **Jerry Gafford**, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Sharika Lee**, 14th Airlift Squadron; **Nathanial Patton**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; and **Nathan Zahn**, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, fills out his payroll deduction sheet for this year's Combined Federal Campaign, while base CFC coordinator, 1st Lt. **Wade Cornelius**, assists.

A special congratulations to our 25 recent major selects:

Paul Bauman, 17th Airlift Squadron; **Dennis Blythe**, 15th Airlift Squadron; **Robert Butz**, 437 AGS; **Daniel Clark**, 17 AS; **James Cole**, 15 AS; **David Deames**, 15 AS; **Kevin Freeman**, 15 AS; **Brian Hubbard**, 437th Medical Operations Squadron; **Mark Kruse**, 14 AS; **Corey Martin**, 15 AS; **Christopher Mann**, 15 AS; **Robin McKinley**, 437th Mission Support Squadron; **Michael Merritt**, 15 AS; **Brian Newberry**, 15 AS; **Richard Novotny**, 437th Airlift Wing Chaplain; **Janice Owings**, 437 MDOS; **Dirk Porath**, 15 AS; **Terri Saunders**, 437 AW Staff

Judge Advocate; **Michael Seiler**, 14 AS; **David Siegrist**, 15 AS; **John Svoboda**, 437th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; **Marc Tessier**, 15 AS; **Jeffrey Ward**, 17 AS; **Richard Williamson Jr.**, 14 AS; and **Michael Winters Jr.**, 437th Operations Support Squadron.

Overall, our selection rate for promotion to major was 86.2 percent for those in the zone.

The Monthly Enlisted Promotion Ceremony held last Friday was very well attended. I was pleased to see more and more family members attending this significant event. It is great to see the strong support of our families. It makes the occasion even that much more special for all.

My sincere appreciation to everyone who showed up for my promotion ceremony on Monday afternoon. A guy like me doesn't get to where I am today without the support of people like you. I have been blessed with a tremendous support up and down the chain-of-command. I am very lucky to have lived and worked with the people that I did for the past 25 years. What an enriching life! Thank you for your continued support and thank you for your attendance.

I am proud of everyone in this wing and the way you have risen to the challenges before us. We must watch out for one another for the telltale signs of burnout or stress, which can impair the safety of our operations.

The pace is busy, but everyone is focused. This is what we train for, and you have done a good job in getting ready for it. Who knows what is in store for us in the future. Everything has changed significantly in a month. But one of those things that has not changed is that we're the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet and we're proving it. Number two is the creed of our folks is still one of pride, professionalism and passion.

I would like to remind everyone that we need to return to some degree or type of normalcy. As hard as it is, I will try to get back to some of those day-to-day routines and likewise, you should too. Granted, we will never have the same sense of security that we had before the attacks on the Pentagon or World Trade Center towers, but life must go on. For example, we'll get back to many of our weekly meetings. We're trying to get back on track, and I need your help.

One of those programs that kicks off every year is the Combined Federal Campaign, which runs through Nov. 2. This is your chance to affect someone's life through your charitable contributions. Our goal is 100 percent contact. The funds that you donate can directly benefit the base and its people or the victims of the World Trade Center attack. It is your choice! The CFC allows you to support international, national and local charities you care about. You can donate by completing a CFC pledge card and choosing payroll deduction or attaching a check. Your CFC key worker should be contacting you soon. Let's show others that we care. For more information, call 1st Lt. **Wade Cornelius**, base CFC coordinator, at 963-4723.



Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Summerville Speedway: Cumbie Chevrolet Bubba Chinner's Memorial Championship night Oct. 13, featuring NASCAR Super Trucks, NASCAR Late Models, plus 4 divisions of NASCAR Racing. For more information, call 871-8331.

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

Entertainment:

Theatre: The Old Village Playhouse presents "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," the classic Tennessee Williams play tonight and Saturday, 8 p.m., at 730 Coleman Blvd., Mount Pleasant. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13.50 for seniors and students. For more information, call 856-1579.

Concert: "Truth," a Christian vocal/instrumental group, performs tonight, 7 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, Goose Creek. The concert is free. For more information, call 553-0488.

Dinner theatre: The Flowertown Players present "Love Letters," with a full-course dinner and parking included tonight, 8 p.m., at the North Charleston Performing Arts Complex. Tickets cost \$17, and discounts are available for groups of four or more. For more information, call 745-1087.

Live music: Charr will be performing at Alice's Restaurant Saturday, 8-11p.m. There is a \$10 cover charge. Call 853-9366 for more information.

Concert: David "Fathead" Newman and the Keter Betts Trio perform jazz Sunday, 6 p.m., at Hilton Head Island Beach and Tennis Resort. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 842-4457.

Events:

Arts and crafts festival: Over 250 artists display pottery, wood, fine art, jewelry, stained glass, flags and more today-Saturday, 10a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at the North Charleston Convention Center. Admission is \$5 for adults or \$1 for children ages 6-12. Parking is free. For more information, call (888) 96-CRAFT.

Herbal folklore: Explore folklore about herbs used in old-fashioned remedies and recipes Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon, at Ravenel's Caw Caw Interpretive Center. The event costs \$5 for Charleston County residents and \$7.50 for nonresidents. For more information, call 795-4FUN.

Model airplane show: Jedburg Flyers are hosting their annual model airplane show Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m., at the Geodesic Dome, Landfill Road in Jedburg. Parking is \$2 per car. For more information, call 797-7740.

Art on the beach: Tour homes and artists studios on Sullivan's Island Sunday, 3-7 p.m. A reception will follow at Station 22. The event costs \$25, and proceeds benefit Creative Spark's scholarship fund. For more information or for tickets, call 881-3780.

Pumpkin patch: The Ambrose Family Farm pumpkin patch and corn maze is open through Oct. 31. The farm is open Mondays-Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., for school or scout groups, and Fridays, 3 p.m.-dark, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-dark and Sundays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., for the general public. The farm is located on Wadmalaw Island. For more information, call 559-9022.

Military Wedding Blitz: The New Covenant Wedding Chapel of Walterboro is sponsoring an event to raise funds to help relief efforts in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. For \$159 per couple, military members can get married Nov. 2, 3-11 p.m. Cost includes a reception and wedding-night hotel room. To make reservations or for more information, call 893-4019.

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

FEATURE

AIS element repairs parts 24-7, keeps C-17s flying

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

Stepping onto the flight deck of a C-17, one is awed by the number of buttons, switches, gadgets and TV-like screens packed into such a tiny space.

With so many different parts required for communication, navigation, guidance and control of the aircraft, some are bound to break.

The 437th Maintenance Squadron's Avionics Integrated Systems element is responsible for testing and repairing 43 different avionics parts, many of them exactly what one sees on the flight deck.

According to Tech. Sgt. Dean Jeavons, element chief, the shop repairs most parts by troubleshooting to find out which circuit card is causing the problem. Sometimes, depending on the part, maintainers in the shop will troubleshoot the circuit card to find which electrical component requires repair.

In the last fiscal year, the element tested about 1,600 line replaceable units, with an average turn-around time of 21 hours per part. Turn-around time monitors the amount of time between when the element receives the part and when the part is either returned to service or slated for repair at the depot level.

All told, the element had saved the Air Force \$39,947,213 in depot-level cost avoidance by July 31, with only four percent of all parts unable to be repaired at Charleston AFB.

Currently, the 10 active-duty maintainers in the element are working twelve-hour shifts, with 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week coverage.

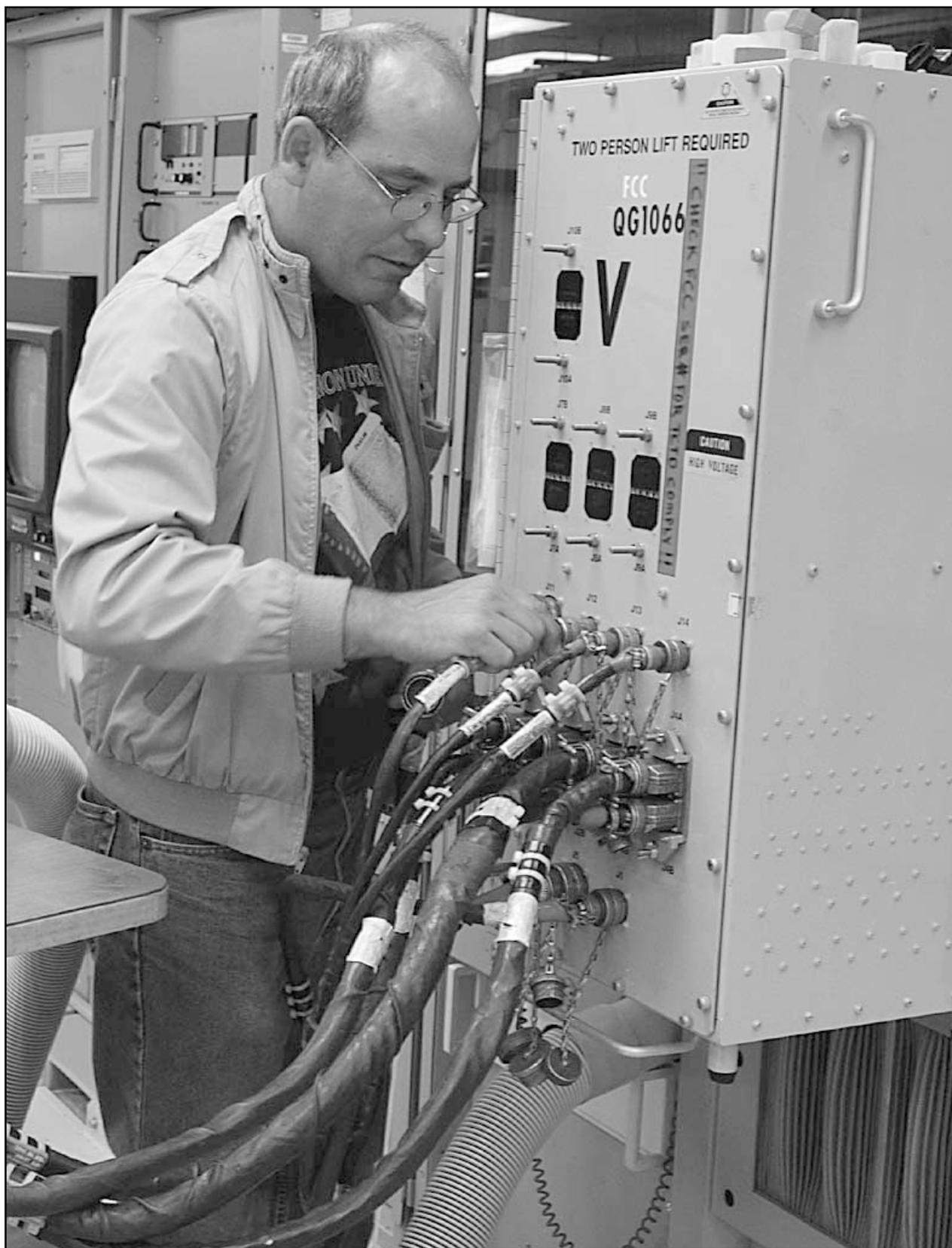
"It's tough covering 24-7 using only active-duty members," Jeavons said.

Members of the element are taking the change of hours in stride.

"It's kind of hard getting used to," said Airman 1st Class Candace Jones, AIS shop. "But it's what needs to be done."

Nine civilian employees, including two Air Reserve Technicians, make up the rest of the element.

From air data computers to global positioning system receivers to head-up display units, the AIS shop keeps CAFB's C-17s soaring.



Kevin McDermott, 315th Maintenance Squadron Avionics Integrated Systems Element, prepares to test a flight control computer. McDermott is an Air Reserve Technician and Reserve master sergeant.



Cannon plugs connect a flight control computer to an automated test station, which will run the part through a series of tests to detect any malfunctions.



Airman 1st Class Candace James, 437th Maintenance Squadron Avionics Integrated Systems Element, adjusts an oscilloscope while testing a public address system control.

Fire department prepares

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Grove
437 CES fire prevention flight

National Fire Prevention Week is always the week in which Oct. 9 falls.

Each year, a specific theme is chosen by the National Fire Protection Association and commemorated throughout the United States.

The non-profit NFPA, which has officially sponsored Fire Prevention Week since its inception, selected "Strike Out Fire" as this year's theme. Fire Prevention Week will span Oct. 7-13.

The roots of Fire Prevention Week are set in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred October 9, 1871, and sparked a proverbial fire throughout North America to further fire safety in the United States and Canada.

The Great Chicago Fire ravaged the city, killing more than 300 people, leaving 100,000 homeless and destroying more than 17,000 structures over 2,000 acres in 27 hours.



Chicago quickly rebuilt, and within a couple of years, residents began celebrating their successful restoration to memorialize the anniversary of the fire with festivities.

Intending to observe the Chicago Fire's anniversary with a more serious commemoration, the Fire Marshals Association of North America, the oldest membership section of the NFPA, decided the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, Oct. 9, 1911, should be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire protection. This was expanded to Fire Prevention Week in 1922.

The NFPA continues today to make National Fire Prevention Week a priority and counts on the participation and efforts of tens of thousands of fire and safety professionals, emergency volunteers and other individuals working to reduce the risk of fire and the toll it takes.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, call the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department at 963-3777.

Fire Prevention Week Events

- *All week-Variou s fire drills around the base*
- *Tuesday, 9 a.m.-Thirty children from Family Day Care will visit the fire station*
- *Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.-Fire truck display at Sullivan's Island Fire Department, 2050 Middle St.*
- *Thursday, 9-10 a.m.-Sparky and a fire truck will show up at the Child Development Center*
- *Thursday, 3:30-4:30 p.m.-Sparky and a fire truck will visit the Charleston AFB Youth Center*
- *Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.-A fire truck display at the BX parking lot with a parade through housing beginning at 3:30 p.m. (for parade route information, call the fire department at 963-3777)*
- *Oct. 12, 7-9 p.m.-Truck display at St. John's Fire Department, 2575 Main Rd., St. John's Island*



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 963-8041.

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

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

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



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

Today, 7:30 p.m.

"American Outlaws" – Colin Farrel

As Confederate soldiers in the Civil War, the James boys and their cousins, the Youngers, became expert killers who were able to live off the land for long periods of time and practiced in attacking their enemies supply lines. The gang would later use these skills gained in the war against railroads and banks. **(PG-13) 95 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.

"The Princess Diaries" – Julie Andrews

Teenager Mia Thermopolis is thrown for a loop when she learns the astonishing news that she's a real-life princess. She must make the biggest decision of her life: to remain with her family or leave everything behind to accept the royal responsibilities that come with being the Princess of Genovia. **(G) 111 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"American Pie 2" – Jason Biggs

The summer after their first year at college, the boys rent a beach house and vow to make this the best summer ever. As it turns out, they discover that times change and people change, but in the end it's all about sticking together. **(R) 105 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Lovegod back again this year

By the Swami
Pigskin Prognosticator

Chuck "Lovegod" Navitsky has been in the back of the Swami's mind since last season. After a nice win in week three, the Swami remembers why. Lovegod actually tried to beat the Swami, without success, last season. Lovegod's 10-4 record tied him with five other players, but his tiebreaker score was only one point off, earning him the win.

While Lovegod may walk away with some prizes from the 437th Services Squadron this week, he won't taste victory again this year.

Tasting victory once in a while can be encouraging. However, defeat is not a new flavor to Mark Mohrmann, the week-three cellar dweller. Mohrmann's impressive 4-10 record earned him a spot on the wall of shame.

Speaking of poor performances, did anyone watch the Dallas game?

There were some real surprises this week around the NFL. The Patriots beat the Colts, the Ravens beat the Broncos and Gerard Warren beat Mark Brunell's head.

Although Warren wasn't penalized on the field, the Swami expects him to notice some money missing from his next check.

The Swami had the unpleasant misfortune of watching the Panther's game. The Swami understands Southerners are slow, but he had no idea they couldn't even plant grass. If it weren't for Mohrmann's pathetic performance, the Swami would've named the Carolina field crew honorary losers of the week.

The Steelers finally found a team they could beat. Their win over the Bills was their first and, unfortunately, probably their last win of the season. Kordell Stewart's numbers were those of a Superbowl contender. He was 15 of 22 for 107 yards. Look out Kurt Warner. Your job may be in jeopardy.

The Swami would like to thank Terry Gabbert for his comments this week. Gabbert wrote, "The Swami is the most knowledgeable football picker in the history of the world. Whenever I'm in doubt, I turn to the Swami. The Swami is a hit with the ladies too!"

Fear the mullet, baby!

Week Five

Name/Phone #: _____

Comments: _____



"You can not pick more games than the Swami and his mullet."

--The Swami

Sunday, Oct. 14

Arizona @ **Chicago**

Baltimore @ **Green Bay**

Cleveland @ **Cincinnati**

Detroit @ **Minnesota**

New Orleans @ Carolina

New York Giants @ **St. Louis**

Pittsburgh @ **Kansas City**

San Diego @ New England

San Francisco @ Atlanta

Tampa Bay @ **Tennessee**

Miami @ **New York Jets**

Denver @ Seattle

Oakland @ **Indianapolis**

Monday, Oct. 15

Washington @ Dallas

Monday night total points: _____

Swami's Monday night points: **4 (not a misprint)**

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, Oct. 12, 4 p.m.