

DISPATCH



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Vol. 40, No. 40

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Oct. 12, 2001



Courtesy photo

Mission accomplished

A Charleston AFB C-17 returns to Germany after successfully delivering humanitarian daily rations over Afghanistan using the Tri-Wall Aerial Delivery System. This is the first operational TRIAD delivery from a C-17 aircraft.

Rations dropped by C-17s

The two Charleston AFB C-17 Globemaster III airlifters that airdropped about 35,000 Humanitarian Daily Rations into Afghanistan early Monday, marked the first U.S. military airdrop of humanitarian aid to the region, and the first time this particular type of airdrop has occurred operationally.

The mission, originating from Ramstein AB, Germany, was flown under combat conditions from a higher altitude than ever before, making for a "very dangerous mission," said Col. Bob Allardice, overall mission commander, during a press conference after the C-17s landed.

"This unprecedented mission to deliver aid to the Afghan people was both very

See RELIEF, page 12

P-47s land at CAFB; WW II reunion group gathers

Former pilots, maintainers reminisce about P-47 combat action

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

About 400 members of the 9th Air Force Association visited Charleston AFB Oct. 5 and Sunday, and reminisced about their days flying and maintaining the P-47 Thunderbolt, a fighter aircraft used mostly for air interdiction and bomber escorts during World War II.

The group held their annual convention in Charleston and arranged for two P-47s to land at the aero club. The aircraft also performed a couple of low passes for the group before they had lunch at the Charleston Club. Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, spoke with the association members during lunch and thanked them for their sacri-

fices and the great legacy they built.

Many of the association members were former P-47 pilots who had seen extensive combat action. Several cried as they recalled their experiences flying what they said was the best fighter, called "the Jug," with the most success in the war.

The P-47 had eight 50-caliber machine guns and could carry about 1,000 pounds of bombs. Each 50-caliber gun had about 300 rounds. It had a 2,000 horsepower, dual radial engine and was considered a large fighter for its time, weighing about 7 tons unloaded. It could also carry external fuel tanks. The P-47 had a reputation for being able to survive heavy flak.

Howard Gurley, 82, from Greensboro, N.C., saw a lot of combat action in the P-47.

"I was one of the original pilots from the 358th Fighter Group when it was formed in 1943," Gurley said. "I was on the first mission that supported the B-17s and 24s," he said. Gurley was 22 years old at the time.

He said the bomber escort mis-

sions transferred to the longer range P-51s. The P-47s assumed an air interdiction mission when transferred from 8th to 9th Air Force.

"I completed two tours and flew 141

See P-47, page 3



P-47 Thunderbolts visited Charleston AFB Oct. 5 for the 9th Air Force Association Annual Convention. About 400 former P-47 pilots and maintainers attended.

IN THE NEWS

Oktoberfest still on, scheduled for Oct. 19

By Master Sgt.
Dan Murphy
437 AW Public Affairs

The 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Junior Enlisted Block Party will be held Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the campus area between the dormitories and Gaylor Dining Facility.

Food, drink and entertainment will be provided free of charge for attendees E-6 and below. All others wishing to attend will be charged \$5.

"The first sergeants will be serving up a feast of bratwurst, hot dogs and potato chips," said Master Sgt. Matt Harless, 437th Airlift Wing career assistance advisor and event coordinator.

"Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be available, and a wristband will be provided for those 21 and older," Harless added.

Local radio stations and the band Big Black Building will be on hand to provide music and giveaways, according to Harless.

There will also be numerous door prizes available throughout the day.

All junior enlisted personnel are invited and will be excused from duty at 11 a.m., mission permitting, to attend the festivities. Oktoberfest will be an alternate duty location.

"Supervisors are encouraged to make plans to allow as many junior enlisted to attend," said Harless. "This is the wing's way to say we care about our junior troops."

Games such as volleyball, basketball and horseshoes will also be available said Harless.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Matt Harless at 963-8004.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Breaking the wall...breaking the wall

Contractors began demolition of the old Charleston Club Tuesday. The club was built in 1954. According to Willie May, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, the wooden building was plagued with a variety of problems, including termite infestation, asbestos, electrical, and heating and air conditioning problems. May said to rebuild or remodel the structure to current standards would involve tearing the building down almost completely anyway. The base has no specific plans for the site, so it will be reserved for future needs, according to Bill Werrell, 437 CES community planner. "We're running out of space," said Werrell.

Stop-Loss affects CAFB members: More than 382 people could be affected here by the decision to keep airmen on duty

Stop-Loss, which became effective Oct. 2, gives military service secretaries authority to keep people on active-duty who would normally be planning to retire or leave the service.

More than 11,000 people Air Force-wide have received approved separation or retirement dates between Oct. 2 and April 30, officials said. There are 926 officers and 4,593 enlisted people with approved retirement dates that are now held by Stop-Loss action; and 1,256 officers and 4,741 enlisted who have approved separation dates through the end of April.

At Charleston AFB, a total of 382 people may be affected, according to Master Sgt. Tonya Harris, 437th Mission Support Squadron superinten-

dent of personnel relocations.

Of those 382, 53 had retirement dates between Oct. 2 and April 30, 48 had separation dates and 281 have an ETS date falling in the time frame. Of those 281, some may choose to reenlist anyway, so they may or may not be affected by Stop-Loss.

Those numbers may include some who are exempt from Stop-Loss as previously announced.

"So far, the attitude of the callers is impressive — we're not hearing from a lot of angry people," said Master Sgt. Mike Potter, AFPC superintendent of retirements. "People are concerned, but not angry."

Harris said the reaction of personnel at CAFB varies.

"We've gotten mixed reactions," Harris said. "With the economy faltering, people are pulling their retirement or separation papers and reenlisting anyway. Every situation is different."

AFPC's separations branch primary role is to assist and advise major commands' personnel staffs and military personnel flights in the execution of the Stop-Loss program, said Lt. Col. Rich Binger,

AFPC separations branch chief.

"But we are also here to help those affected by Stop-Loss," he said. "We will work hand-in-hand with the (military personnel flight) retirements and separations sections to help people get the answers they need."

Local personnel flights will continue processing retirements and separations actions and are the first place to turn for those with Stop-Loss questions, Binger said.

At first, people in every Air Force specialty code are prevented from leaving active duty in this Stop-Loss action, Binger said.

During the first 30 days, major command, personnel officials and career field managers are matching warfighting needs with the possibility that some career field Stop-Loss restrictions could be lifted.

"But, obviously, operational needs will be the first priority," Binger said.

Harris said she's been telling everyone to hold tight until the critical AFSC listing is released. She said it could be released anytime after Oct. 21, but may be later, depending on Air Force needs.

Waiver applications are also being accepted and will be evaluated individually by MAJCOM commanders, according to officials.

Some of those already far enough along in the process of leaving the Air Force are being allowed to outprocess.

"We learned a lot from our Kosovo Stop Loss effort," said Lt. Col. Michael Maloney, AFPC retirements and sepa-

rations division chief. "We've tried, this time, to address a lot of the issues that came up last time right up front."

Although all new departures from the Air Force are on hold, there are exemptions for people serving an overseas unaccompanied assignment where the tour length is 15 months or less and who will retire or separate upon tour completion.

Other categories of people exempt are those undergoing involuntary discharge, or mandatory separation or retirement because of disabilities or hardships, officials said.

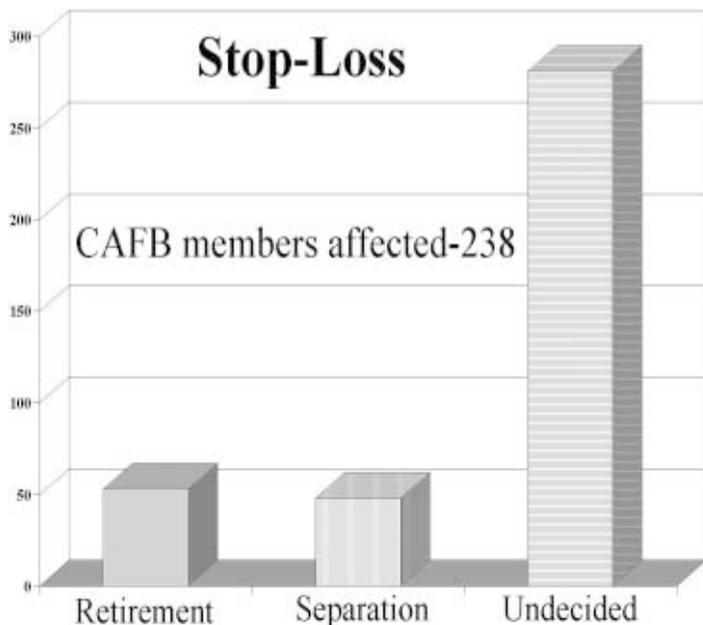
So far, Stop-Loss will not affect promotions, permanent change-of-station moves or training class schedules, officials said.

"Every effort will be made to ensure that once Stop-Loss ends, everyone has the flexibility in making the transition to civilian life," Maloney said.

This is the first time this emergency authority has been implemented since the air war over Kosovo.

"We're just asking people to be patient," said Harris. "The first time we get any more information, we will send it out."

Based on the numerous calls received thus far, the Stop-Loss control center staff has put together a frequently asked questions Web page on the AFPC Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. (AFPC News Service. Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter, 437AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)



CDC mentors local child care program

Pairing with Harvest Baptist benefits both centers

By Staff Sgt.
Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB's Child Development Center is teaming up with a local daycare to mentor it through the national accreditation process.

Through a program coordinated by the Trident United Way and sponsored by Bank of America, the CDC was paired with Harvest Baptist Church, according to Debbie Ross, CDC director.

The CDC is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and has been for 10 years, according to Ross. She said helping Harvest Baptist with their accreditation will be mutually beneficial.

"Harvest Baptist is on Dorchester Road," Ross said. "Because of its close proximity to base, once they become accredited it will be a wonderful site to refer people to."

The National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of NAEYC, administers the program, according to the NAEYC Web site. The accreditation system is a

national, voluntary, professionally sponsored program to raise the quality of all preschools, kindergartens, child care centers, and school-age child care programs. As of summer 2001, 7,600 programs serving more than 685,000 children had achieved accreditation. Another 8,300 programs were in the process.

According to the site, accreditation is a three-step process. The first step is self-study. During this phase, program personnel and parents conduct a self-study, determining how well the program meets NAEYC criteria. They also make needed improvements and report compliance the criteria on the program description form provided by NAEYC.

The next step is validation. Trained validators make an on-site visit to verify the accuracy of the program description.

A three-person commission makes the accreditation decision, which is the final step. The commission considers the validated program description and makes the decision based on pro-

fessional judgment, according to the NAEYC site.

To help Harvest Baptist through the process, the CDC staff will spend time training and sharing ideas, according to Ross. The Harvest Baptist staff will shadow the CDC staff and look over the program at the center to gain insight.

"The staff-to-staff interaction is important," Ross said. "We believe strongly in hands-on training. It gives the (Harvest Baptist) staff a chance to interact with professionals who have been there and gives us a chance to share with them some of the trials and errors to save them some heartache."

Ross said she and her staff are really excited about the mentoring process.

"It helps encourage both staffs to work together toward a common goal and once again validates the importance of early childhood education," Ross said. "Accreditation is important because every child deserves quality child care. That's their beginning. The more programs we can help get accredited, the better it is for children."

Combined Federal Campaign

Small contributions from paychecks go a long way to help needy people and families in S.C., nationwide, worldwide

By 2nd Lt. Jill Maynard
437 LGT

On a typical morning, most Team Charleston members get out of bed, take a shower, dress, eat breakfast and drive to work.

Now imagine not being able to get out of bed without help, not finding the way to the shower, not having breakfast to eat or the ability to drive to work.

Every morning most people get up and hardly ever stop to think, "what if I couldn't do one of these things?" There are millions of people out there who are missing something many take for granted every day.

There is something the Charleston AFB community can do. On average, a cup of coffee or one soda a day costs around \$.85, which adds up to \$25.50 a month. For the same price of that cup of coffee or soda, anyone can help fight for a cure for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS, muscular dystrophy or diabetes.

That same money could provide funding to build a road, feed a village, or build a house for a family to get a new start after a natural disaster.

The Combined Federal Campaign runs from Oct. 1-Nov. 1. A small donation of \$5 a month can make a huge difference. The money goes to the organization of the individual's choice. For example, one can choose the American Red Cross, which almost on a daily basis supports the American military with plane tickets to visit very ill parents and blood for life saving surgeries.

There are various funds to help with the current disaster in New York, conservation organizations, local charities in Charleston, or even the U.S. Olympic teams.

Contact the unit CFC coordinator or 1st Lt. Wade Cornelius at 963-4723 for more information.

P-47

continued from page 1

missions in the P-47," said Gurley. "We escorted some of the smaller bombers, but most of our missions were low level with air interdiction as our primary mission. Most of us were trying to isolate Normandy and flew out of Southern England the day after D-day. Our mission was to escort the gliders and the C-47s."

Gurley saw firsthand the survivability of the P-47 in combat.

"When you're coming down at 300 mph, we've had a few pilots cut a path through the woods with chunks of wood lodged underneath," Gurley said. "A German fighter had shot up one of our pilots with 218 rounds and ran out of ammunition on him.

"I know I was claimed as being shot down a couple of times and had been jumped by Me-109s who shot off about 5 feet of my right wing tip and had put a 20 mm burst in the cowling of my engine and radio compartments," Gurley continued. "Some of the ammunition in the wing had gone off too. I had no flaps, no airspeed indicator, so it took me a couple of passes to get on the ground in France.

"Unlike the bomber force, we had no set limit on combat missions before you were rotated back," he added. "I came home after 90 missions and then went back again. When I returned for the second time, I knew it

was not going to be any fun."

Out of his original group of pilots in the 358 FG, only five survived. Gurley was all set to join the campaign in the Pacific flying P-47Ns, which had a longer range. The war ended before he went.

Dominic Coppolino from Bristol, R.I., also fondly remembers the P-47. "Our job was to take out anything that moved on the ground," he said. "We cut up German tanks, trains, motorcycles, you name it ... if it moved, we shot it up."

Neil Melton, one of the owners of

the P-47s that visited CAFB, flew in his immaculately restored P-47 at no cost for the group.

"It is one of the easiest warbirds to fly," said Melton. "This is my favorite."

Melton owns about 12 other aircraft, but said keeping these old aircraft flying is a labor of love. Airframe parts are hard to find for the P-47 and have to be remanufactured. His aircraft is painted in the Mediterranean scheme of the 57th Fighter Group in 1944.

"I have done air shows and reunions with this aircraft," he added.



Neil Melton flies his P-47s over the Charleston AFB flightline Oct. 5.

Melton is in the process of creating the Tennessee Museum of Aviation in Sevierville, Tenn., to display this aircraft and many others. He added that only 12 flyable P-47s remain from the original 15,600 built.

John Shoffner, who keeps his P-47 in the same hangar with Melton's, restored his P-47 to look like one delivered from the factory to the Air Force.

"I've owned this aircraft since 1995," Shoffner said. "I bought the parts from a friend, and it took about 4 years to complete the aircraft."

Shoffner owns 10-12 aircraft. He has about 5,000 flight hours and has been flying since age 17.

"I became interested in warbirds about 10 years ago, and the T-28 was my first one," Shoffner said. "For a WW II fighter, this is the best one that was ever built because of its durability, what it did in the war effort and the love that these pilots show for this aircraft when it comes around. You do not see that level of attachment in every fighter group. This airplane, without dispute, did help win the war effort.

"The P-51 Mustangs get more credit and came around toward the latter part of the war," Shoffner continued. "I heard stories today about pilots who flew these aircraft back with two or three cylinders shot off and some with holes in the wing the size of people."

NEWS BRIEFS

Around the base

Base yard sale: The base-wide yard sale scheduled for Saturday is cancelled. For more information, call 963-3294.

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

Chiefs' Group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold their monthly meeting Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. All chiefs and chief-selects are eligible to attend.

OSA: The Officers' Spouses' Association welcomes Debby White, "The Doll Lady," Oct. 23, 6 p.m., at the Charleston club. The meeting will include a lasagna dinner, and porcelain dolls and stained glass art. The cost is \$12 for club members and \$15 for nonmembers. For reservations, last names A-M, call 875-2505, last names N-Z, 807-7379, by Oct. 21.

Dental Assisting: The 437th Dental Flight is now accepting applications for the next Red Cross Dental Assisting class, which begins Nov. 13. The program includes an academic phase as well as hands-on dental assisting training, where the student will be taught how to assist in general dentistry procedures. Some duties include preparing a dental treatment room to treat patients; taking and recording vital signs; preparing dental materials for use; passing instruments and medications for restoring teeth; assisting in cleaning and sterilizing dental instruments; and some administrative tasks. The program lasts 6-7 months, with 40-hour class weeks. Some benefits include a certificate of training; obtaining a marketable skill; certification in CPR; and exposure to a wide variety of dental specialty procedures. Applications are available at the Daily Dental Clinic, on the second floor of the Medical Group facility. The deadline for application is Oct. 25. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ramirez at 963-6847.

Fish fry: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group is holding its annual fish fry Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Base Picnic Grounds. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance from any chief. Tickets will also be available at the picnic grounds.

TSP: If an individual elects the Career Status Bonus/REDUX retirement option and wants to put a portion of their CSB into the Thrift Savings Plan, the member needs to understand if they elect and receive the CSB prior to Jan. 1, 2002, they will not be able to put any of their CSB into

TSP. This is because the individual must be contributing a portion of their base pay to TSP prior to putting any bonus into the program. Although the open season to elect to contribute to the plan runs from October-January, the money contribution required will not begin until January.

NCO retraining: Air Force officials have announced the start of the fiscal 2002 NCO Retraining Program. During fiscal 2002, staff, technical and master sergeants will have the opportunity to retrain from Air Force Specialty Codes with NCO overages to AFSCs with NCO shortages. A listing of retraining-out and retraining-in AFSCs is available at the 437th Military Personnel Flight, Personnel Employment, Room 207. For more information, call Senior Airman Leslie Melencion at 963-4567.

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.

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 insurance on all pets. 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 have increased to \$56 each, and the fees for DANTES exams have 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 re-

quired. 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.

Family Support Center

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

TAP 3-Day Workshop: Tuesday-Thursday, 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.

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

Charleston Profile

Airman 1st Class Dwayne Norman
437th Comptroller Squadron

Airman 1st Class Dwayne Norman is a customer service representative with the 437th Comptroller Squadron.

His duties include answering customer's questions and helping them solve their military or travel pay problems.

In addition to his work at the 437 CPTS, the Charleston native is a member of the Base Honor Guard.

Recently, Norman was visiting the honor guard office while on leave. Tech Sgt. William Wright, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron dormitory manager, came to the office with a problem: a member of his family had passed away and wasn't going to receive military honors because no one could make it to the funeral. Norman said he volunteered to fold the flag and present it to the family.

"It's pretty important to me to render military honors to former servicemembers," Norman said. "My father and his father were both in the military, and I hope someone does the same thing for them."

Helping people is important to Norman.

"The best thing about my job, the Air Force and the honor guard is I get to help people and see the immediate impact you can make on an individual's life," Norman said.

As far as the future, Norman said he hopes to finish his degree in physical therapy and apply for a commission.

When not rendering honors, serving customers or studying, Norman said he works out and tries to relax.

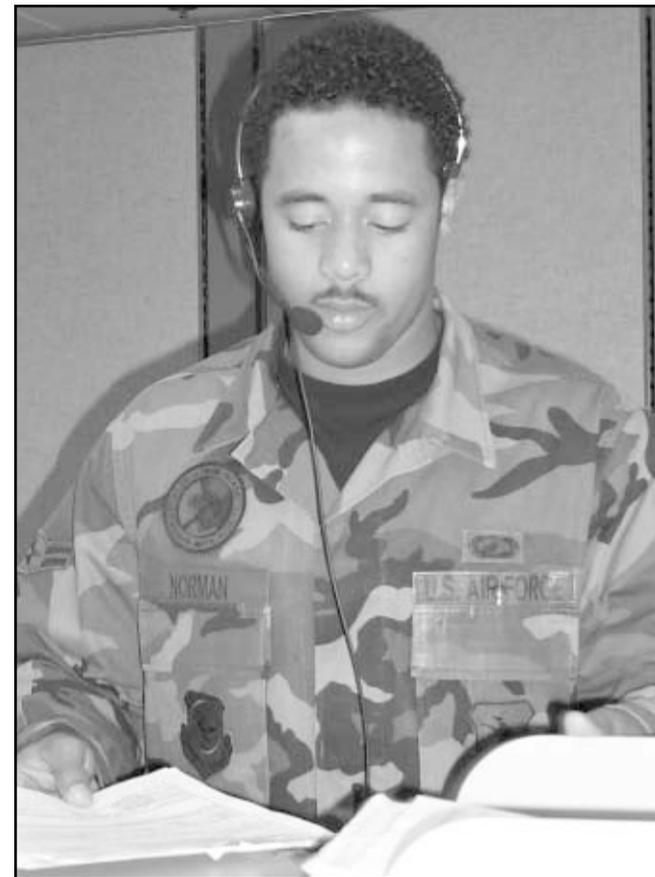


Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

COMMENTARY

Team Charleston in the national spotlight again

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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Deadlines

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

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By Brig. Gen.
Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

Charleston AFB took the national limelight when our deployed aircrews airdropped about 35,000 Humanitarian Daily Rations into Afghanistan early Monday. Since then, we have done several more airdrops. Our mission commander has been seen on national television. Once again, Team Charleston has risen to the challenge in a high visibility and important mission for our nation.

Following the flight, the overall mission commander described the flight into Afghanistan as unprecedented. The 6,500-mile roundtrip flight took 24 hours and required dropping relief supplies, under combat conditions, from a higher altitude than done before. Charleston AFB made history with the first airdrop of humanitarian aid in the region. The success of the mission can be attributed in part to the great training programs that we have here. This is why we train so hard. We are leading the way again!

It was my honor to recognize the great work our base honor guard does everyday at staff meeting this week. The honor guard members are our true ambassadors for the wing and are often called upon on short notice to support funerals or ceremonies. They are always sharp. Without a doubt, they touch every organization on this base in one way or another. I receive numerous unsolicited comments about their pride, professionalism and passion.

I was pleased to induct six new honor guard mem-

bers. They are Senior Airman **Chad Sharpe**, 437th Transportation Squadron; Airman 1st Class **Matthew Weaver**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class **Chad Rowlett**, 437th Maintenance Squadron; Staff Sgt. **Curtis Jamison**, 437th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class **Jeffrey Hansberry**, 437 MXS; and Airman 1st Class **Jacob Kayl**, 437th Supply Squadron.

Today, Col. **Karl Young**, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, will represent the wing as we dedicate our newest C-17, P-75, the "Spirit of Connecticut." The naming ceremony will include Gen. Tony Robertson, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, as one of the guest speakers. The C-17s' engines are produced at the Pratt and Whitney plant in Connecticut.

You may have heard some rumors about Oktoberfest being cancelled for our airmen. The bottom line is that we will have Oktoberfest as planned on Oct. 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the dormitory campus area between Bldgs. 473 and 466. It's free for airmen E-6 and below. All others pay \$5. There will be plenty of food and refreshments, door prizes, games and a live band. It is our chance to say thank you for all your hard work. As mission requirements allow, please come out and join the fun.

We have come to a crossroads where I have made the decision to host a



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Charleston AFB's newest C-17, P-75, will be officially dedicated the "Spirit of Connecticut" today in a ceremony in Connecticut. Pratt and Whitney, manufacturer of the C-17's engines, is based in Connecticut.

Team Charleston Holiday Ball Nov. 30 in place of the previously scheduled Air Force Ball. This event will allow those who cannot attend squadron events to have at least one event they can participate in.

We are working the details now, but please mark your calendar for the big event. We will make it a truly first-class occasion. The project officer will be Capt. **Warren Wright**, Military Equal Opportunity Office, and his committee will have further details soon. They will honor all previously purchased Air Force Ball tickets.

The Combined Federal Campaign is underway, and we need your help to meet our goal. Although we may have gotten off to a slow start because of our on-going operations, I know we will reach deep into our pockets. It has never been a better time to give to those who are less fortunate or the charity of your choice. Your key worker should have already been in touch and I ask everyone to give the gift of life to those in need. CFC is the large umbrella program that you can use to make a difference in someone's life.

Today, I will be attending a meeting sponsored by the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce that marks the start of the Military Relations Committee dedicated to the welfare of our people. It has been awhile since the chamber had such a committee and it serves as a good example of their increased support

of our people. The Military Relations Committee will enhance the relationships between the business community and the military. It is a great sign, and I'm looking forward to working with this committee.

I know I thanked some folks last week about my pin-on ceremony, but I wanted to say thanks again for everyone's support. It has really meant a lot to my family. A special thanks to Capt. **Steve Moore**, Maj. **Scott DeThomas** and **Kathy Knichel** and the entire Protocol staff for their support. Additionally, a very special thanks to Senior Airman **Ashok Kori**, Senior Airman **Samuel DeMaggio** and Chief Master Sgt. **Robert Langston** for the marvelous honor guard salute.

It was my honor to host about 300 members of the 9th Air Force Association last week for lunch in our club. I thanked them for their sacrifices in combat during World War II and for the great legacy that they left for our people. Many of them spent time looking at a pair of P-47s that flew into the aero club. Several were bona fide heroes. The group also expressed their appreciation for everything that you do for our country. They were proud of our military today and were confident that we are up to the challenges before us. I agree, and it is easy to understand why we are the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet. You make me proud!

Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581 or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.





Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Summerville Speedway: Cumbie Chevrolet Bubba Chinner's Memorial Championship night Saturday, 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 call the Information, Tickets and Tours Program at 963-5271.

Entertainment:

Live music: Maceo Parker plays tonight, 10 p.m., at the Music Farm. Tickets are \$18. For more information, call 722-8904.

Theatre: The Actors' Theatre of South Carolina presents its Fall Shakespeare Festival, featuring "King Lear," and "Twelfth Night." "King Lear" will be performed tonight, Saturday and Oct. 18-20, 8 p.m., and Sunday and Oct. 21, 2 p.m., at the Historic Garden Theatre. "Twelfth Night" will be performed Saturday and Oct. 20, 2 p.m., and Sunday and Oct. 21, 7 p.m., also at the Historic Garden Theatre. Tickets for both shows are free for active-duty military members with an ID card. For "King Lear", tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$15 for students. "Twelfth Night" tickets are \$10 for adults and seniors, and \$7 for students. For tickets, call the Gaillard Auditorium at 577-7400.

Concert: The Charleston Symphony Orchestra presents Masterworks Saturday, 8 p.m., at Gaillard Auditorium. For more information, call 554-6060.

Live music: Wavefest, the annual rock show sponsored by 96 Wave, is Sunday, 1:30 p.m., at Joe Riley Stadium. 311, Long Beach Dub Allstars, Puddle of Mudd, Saliva, Seven Channels and Pete Yorn are scheduled to

appear. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 the day of the show. Tickets are available at all Suncom locations, all Cats Music locations, Joe Riley Stadium box office and at www.1.etix.com.

Events:

Party at the Point: Live music by Chairman of the Board, and food and drink tents are the highlights of tonight's Party at the Point, 5-9 p.m., at the Charleston Harbor Hilton at Patriot's Point. The event is \$5, and parking is free. For more information, call 884-2543.

Second Saturday: A Call of the Wild event, with pony rides, exotic birds, birds of prey, turtles, a petting zoo, crafts and more, takes place Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Charleston Museum. For more information, call 722-2996.

Oktoberfest: The annual festival, featuring a live German band, health fair, antiques and collectibles sale, used book sale, silent auction and German and American food, is scheduled for Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at St. Theresa Church, Summerville. For more information, call 875-5002.

Pumpkin patch: The Ambrose Family Farm pumpkin patch 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. The wedding blitz, scheduled for Nov. 2, 3-11 p.m., in Summerville offers military couples a chance to have a "real" wedding. The cost is \$159 per couple, \$20 per guest, and includes a 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

Family Child Care program lets parent stay home with child, earn extra money

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

Many people dream of owning their own business, setting their own hours and working for themselves. For some Charleston AFB spouses, the dream became reality when they became part of the Family Child Care program.

Family Child Care is care provided for a child in a home other than his own by an adult other than the child's parent, according to an FCC pamphlet. Anyone living in base housing who provides day care for more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis is required to be licensed with the FCC program.

Licensing involves several steps, according to Sherian Vickers, FCC coordinator. Spouses and dependents of active-duty and retired military members, reservists or DOD employees living on base or within a 10-mile radius of base are eligible to attend the three-day licensing class.

According to Vickers, various base agencies are represented during the class, including speakers from Family Advocacy, the 437th Medical Group, the base fire department and Public Health. In addition to the speakers, Vickers and the FCC staff, including a curriculum specialist, teach the class.

Following completion of the course, FCC applicants undergo a back-

ground screening conducted by the 437 MDG, Family Advocacy, the 437th Behavioral Sciences Flight, housing, the 437th Security Forces Squadron and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, according to Vickers. The candidate must also receive a letter of recommendation from the sponsor's first sergeant.

Vickers said she also performs an inspection of the home, outlining requirements, and a home interview with the candidate and spouse. The spouse needs to be part of the decision-making process because running a business from home requires the support of the whole family, Vickers said.

All of these measures are necessary to assure parents of the quality of FCC providers, said Vickers.

"Parents don't have to worry because they know the Air Force checks providers very well," Vickers said.

Once a license is granted, the provider continues through training modules to upgrade the license from provisional, the first level, to accredited, the highest level, according to Vickers.

"The quality of care at each level is the same, but as the level of licensing increases, the provider becomes more knowledgeable about early child development," said Vickers.

The provisional license is issued for the first three months of participation in the FCC program, according to Vickers. The three months serve as a probationary and learning period.

"Basically, the provider learns what's expected and what to expect," Vickers said.

The next level of licensing is a standard license. The main focus of a standard license holder is health and safety issues, according to Vickers. Providers also work on their training modules during this time. There are 15 modules in all as part of the training process.

Developmental licenses are the next level. The focus of providers with this level of licensing is the development of learning activities suited for different age levels, according to Vickers.

After completing training modules and gaining valuable



Family Child Care provider Suki Helmer takes time to read to Isaac Jennings (left), 3, son of Staff Sgt. James Jennings, 437th Supply Squadron, and his wife, Audrela; Madison Helmer (center), 1, daughter of Suki and Staff Sgt. Chad Helmer, 437th Operations Support Squadron; and Jada Bolden, 3, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Steven Bolden, 437 SUPS, and his wife, Tara.

experience, the National Family Child Care Association may accredit the provider. The professionalism of providers with this level of licensing increases as they are involved in a national network of providers, Vickers said.

"They're being recognized by an outside agency, not just the Air Force, for providing quality care," Vickers said.

Though the licensing process may appear daunting, Vickers said there are many benefits to providing childcare from home.

"One of the big benefits is they can stay home with their children while still earning extra money," Vickers said. "They can set their own hours and fees and provide playmates for their own children."

Plus, unlike other business ventures, there's very little money involved to start, said Vickers.

"The Air Force provides a lending program to provide everything needed to start," Vickers said.

The lending program provides car seats, shelves, outdoor play equipment, toys, sleeping mats, high chairs, resource books, safety equipment and much more at no cost to the provider, said Vickers.

Providers also receive reimbursement from the USDA for the children's meals and snacks.

Once a provider is licensed and has the necessary tools to begin, they're not left alone to face the challenge of childcare, according to Vickers.

"We have a good networking system between providers," Vickers said. "They call each other for ideas and suggestions, and also for support."

The FCC program also has in place a mentoring program, where a new provider is paired with a pro-

vider who has completed the training modules and is experienced, said Vickers.

With all of the advantages of working at home, few people at AFB choose to provide care. There are currently 12 people licensed through the program, according to Vickers.

"A few years ago, there were about 30 providers on base," Vickers said. Those providers either PCS'd or quit, and the numbers never built back up.

Of those who choose to provide care at home, many seem very satisfied with the choice.

"I get paid to go on field trips," said Suki Helmer, wife of Staff Sgt. Chad Helmer, 437th Operations Support Squadron. "I take the kids out and watch them have fun, and I get to spend time with my child."

Helmer said in the year she's been providing care, she's taken the children on field trips to the South Carolina Aquarium, Summerville Castle Park, and Cypress Gardens, to name a few.

"It's all wonderful, all around," said Helmer.

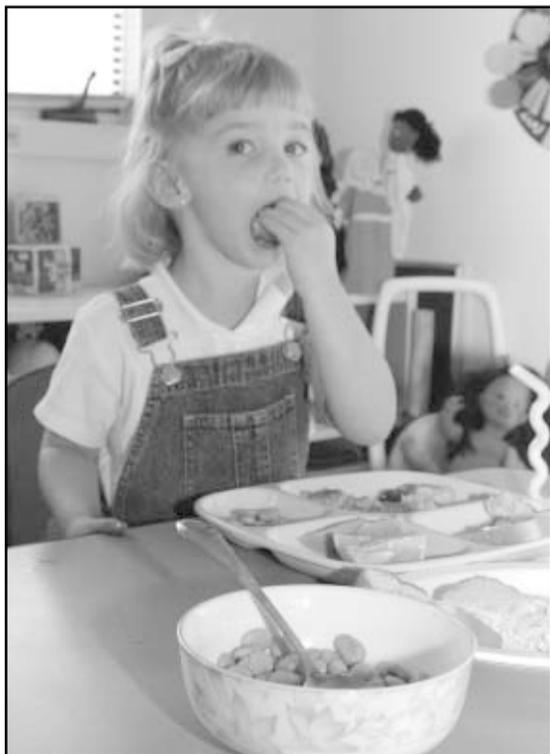
Another provider also praised the opportunity to stay home and work.

"The best part is staying home with Sera," said Shannon Hale, wife of Staff Sgt. Stephen Hale, 437th Operations Support Squadron. "I take the kids all over Charleston for activities, plus Sera has a playmate."

Hale also provides care for children before and after school.

"The older kids are a lot of fun," Hale said.

The next three-day licensing class is scheduled for Tuesday-Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information about the FCC program, contact Vickers at 767-2134.



Mariah McClain, 3, daughter of Senior Airman Chris McClain, 437th Operations Support Squadron, and his wife Tina, eats a nutritious lunch at Family Child Care provider Shannon Hale's house.

RELIEF

continued from page 1

difficult and challenging,” Allardice told approximately 50 European, U.S. and international media braving a steady rain. “This airdrop mission was the first installment of President Bush’s \$320 million aid package for the people of Afghanistan.”

The C-17s parked in front of the press conference area, and the jubilant crews congratulated each other as they exited the aircraft.

The C-17 aircrews flew more than 6,500 miles round trip and refueled multiple times during the 22-hour mission to drop the food rations over eastern and northern Afghanistan. Their airdrop came hours after the U.S. and allied forces bombed terrorist targets inside the country.

Due to operational security concerns, the airborne mission commander could not be identified, but he did speak to the assembled media about the rigors involved with the mission.

“This mission required intensive planning, preparation and coordination,” he said. “The success of a demanding and dangerous mission like this is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our crews and the people who support them.”

Approaching the drop zone, the C-17s were depressurized and their cargo doors opened, according to Allardice. At the precise time, the pilots pulled the aircraft nose up about seven degrees and the loadmasters

released the specially constructed container delivery systems containing the rations. The containers, called the Tri-Wall Air Delivery System, were tied to a static line that tightened and flipped the containers over once they were clear of the aircraft. Once the containers opened, the pre-packaged food rations were disbursed and spread over the drop zone.

“We determined our drop zones taking into account where the people who needed the aid are located, potential threats in the area and existing wind conditions to maximize accuracy to the best of our ability,” Allardice said. “Our goal was to get the aid to the right people, without putting them at undue risk.”

Each of the 2,200-calorie ready-to-eat food rations provides an entire day’s nutritional requirement for one person. Each packet contains two main vegetarian meals based heavily on lentils and beans or rice. It also has complementary items such as bread, a fruit bar, a fortified biscuit, peanut butter and spices.

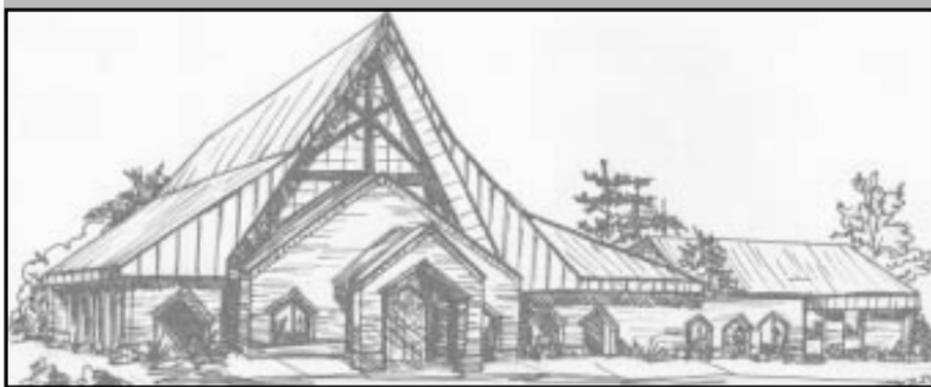
“One meal provides enough nutrition for an entire day for one person, but needs to be supplemented with liquids,” said Capt. Dana Whelan, a registered dietician with the 86th Medical Group, Ramstein AB. “The meals are a good source of protein, fortified with vitamins and minerals and are appropriate for someone in a poor state of nutrition.” (AMCNS)



Photo by Master Sgt. John Snow

Crew members from two Charleston AFB C-17s celebrate after returning to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, following a Monday humanitarian airdrop mission. The aircraft are supporting relief missions associated with Operation Enduring Freedom.

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.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Captain Corelli's Mandolin" – Nicolas Cage

In 1941 during World War II and the Italian occupation of Greece, a love begins uneasily between Italian Captain Corelli and Greek villager Pelagia. The violent realities of warfare threaten the tender connection that has grown between Antonio and Pelagia. **(R) 129 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Rat Race" – Whoopi Goldberg

In Las Vegas, six people participate in a human rat race. Two million dollars is in a duffel bag in a locker in Silver City, N.M., 700 miles away. The first one there keeps it all. What they don't know is that their every move is being tracked by gambling-crazed high rollers. **(PG-13) 112 minutes**

Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

"Rock Star" – Mark Wahlberg

Based on a true story, an office supplies salesman moonlights as a musician in a tribute band. His life is changed forever when he is chosen out of the blue to replace the lead singer of his all-time favorite band, Steel Dragon. **(R) 104 minutes**

Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.

"The Musketeer" – Justin Chambers

Fitness & Sports

Swami gave chance to win

By the Swami
Pigskin Prognosticator

The Swami decided to make some bogus picks this week to allow someone else a chance to win. As always, the Swami was successful.

Ron Desautels was able to feel victory for the first time in his life because the Swami allowed it. Desautels had first place all by himself with an impressive 12-2 record. The 437th Services Squadron has some great prizes for Desautels.

Even the Swami's fake picks couldn't help Barron Williams. His 5-9 record tied him with Sheryl Sande for the worst record this week. If nothing else, Williams is a successful loser as he beat out Sande for the worst tie-breaker score. The Swami recommends staying away from both of these people. As you should've learned from the movie "The Natural," losing is a disease.

This week's most boring game was definitely the Rams at the Lions. The Swami was so bored, he started looking for re-runs of "Dawson's Creek" just to pass time.

The "Cowgirls" were allowed to score 21 points in a match against the Raiders. While the "Girls" still lost, the Swami was happy to see Oakland give their real players a week off so the practice squad could play in a regular season game this year. Way to give everyone some TV time Oakland!

The Swami is confident about the "Girls" losing to Washington. He is so confident, if the "Girls" win, the Swami will appear naked in next week's *Airlift Dispatch*.

There's a Thursday night game scheduled for Oct. 18. The folks at the *Airlift Dispatch* need your losing picks in by 4 p.m. that day if you want credit for the game.

Watch next week for season rankings so far. It's a great opportunity for you to see how bad the Swami is kicking your sorry butt.

The Swami would like to thank Terry Gabbert for his comments. The Swami thinks Gabbert was trying to insult him, but his writing and spelling skills were so poor, the Swami couldn't understand. The Swami is impressed with Gabbert's motivation to learn to write at such an old age. Keep up the good work!

Week Six

Name/Phone #: _____

Comments: _____

Thursday, Oct. 18

Buffalo @ **Jacksonville**

Sunday, Oct. 21

Atlanta @ **New Orleans**

Baltimore @ **Cleveland**

Carolina @ Washington

Chicago @ Cincinnati

New England @ **Indianapolis**

Pittsburgh @ **Tampa Bay**

St. Louis @ **New York Jets**

Tennessee @ Detroit

Denver @ San Diego

Kansas City @ **Arizona**

Dallas @ **Oakland**

Green Bay @ Minnesota

Monday, Oct. 22

Philadelphia @ **New York Giants**

Monday night total points: _____

Swami's Monday night points: 51

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 Thursday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m.



"Hey ladies! It's OK to dream about the Swami at night."

--The Swami