

Commander in chief visits CAFB, local area Monday



By Staff Sgt.
Jason Smith

437 AW Public Affairs

President George W. Bush visited the Charleston area Monday, landing and departing from Charleston AFB. More than 150 CAFB personnel were on the ground to greet the president when he landed. Many of them got the chance to shake Bush's hand as he greeted them before departing in his motorcade.

Airman 1st Class Latoya Johnson, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, said this was the first time she shook a president's hand.

"It was awesome," said Johnson. "I never thought I would have the opportunity to shake his hand. I'm still overwhelmed."

After leaving CAFB, the president spoke at West Ashley High School and the North Charleston Convention Center. Bush's motorcade returned to CAFB where he gave a final wave to media and spectators before departing for Washington D.C.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

President George W. Bush takes time out Monday to shake hands with Team Charleston personnel on the Charleston AFB flightline. Bush also spoke at West Ashley High School and the North Charleston Convention Center before departing the area.

Wing makes plans for reorganization: Squadrons' realignment under new groups not expected to impact mission

By Capt. Linda Pepin
437 AW Public Affairs

Planning for local implementation of the Air Force-wide combat wing reorganization to take place in the coming months is underway at Charleston AFB.

The reorganization, taking place at wings throughout the Air Force, will affect the existing 437th Operations Group, 437th Support Group, and 437th Logistics Group.

The reorganization was prompted by findings of the 1999 Chief of Staff Logistics Review, which highlighted the need to increase expeditionary capability and standardize operations across the Air Force. The changes are designed to allow commanders to better focus on the Air Force core competencies of operating air and space weapon systems, maintaining those systems, and enhancing mission support of expeditionary contingency-based forces.

"The Combat Wing Organization is

very similar to the organization that was in place between 1978 and 1991," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. John Jumper, in comments issued when the reorganization was announced. "It is the organization that brought us Mission Capable rates greater than 90 percent in Desert Storm, and it works."

Under the reorganization:

- 437 LG will be redesignated 437th Maintenance Group
- 437 SPTG will be redesignated 437th Mission Support Group
- The 437th Supply Squadron, 437th Transportation Squadron, and wing plans will realign into the 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- The 437 LRS will realign under the 437 MSG
- All flightline maintenance functions will realign under the 437 MXG
- The 437th Contracting Squadron and 437th Aerial Port Squadron realign under the 437 MSG

■ The Traffic Management Office realigns under the new 437 LRS

The Air Force set an Oct. 1 deadline for initial operational capability of the new structure.

While specific dates have yet to be finalized for local implementation, the 437th Airlift Wing is on track to conform to the new structure by the end of August or early September, according to Lt. Col. Vic Sowers, deputy commander 437 SPTG, and head of the reorganization planning group.

The planning group includes representatives from each of the affected squadrons and staff agencies, finance, civilian personnel, the local union (American Federation of Government Employees Local 1869), military personnel and manpower.

"There are a lot of issues surrounding this kind of change—things like changing out supply and equipment accounts, making new signs, and changing reporting officials—that still

have to be ironed out," Sowers said. "We're working in partnership with the union, and are working hard to limit the impact on both civilian and military people. Our working group includes experts from a wide variety of organizations to ensure we've thought out the implications of the change. We want to make this as seamless as possible."

The reorganization is not designed to change the number of manpower slots on base, and there is no funding for new construction to accompany the change.

"Our mission hasn't changed," said Maj. Doug Bugado, 437 SUPS commander, who will become the operations officer for the new 437 LRS. "We're still doing what we've always done, but we'll be wearing new hats and new patches. We really want to minimize the impact to our workers in the squadron so it doesn't impact what we do for the wing."

COMMENTARY

Base picnic offers fun activities

By Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

The base picnic begins today at 11:30 a.m. for our 437th Airlift Wing members and their families. On Saturday, a picnic will be held for the 315th Airlift Wing. The picnic will offer free food, live entertainment and many activities for kids. Free prizes will be given away during the day. The picnic will also provide an easy opportunity to play ATWIND game pieces in a relaxing, fun-filled environment.

Other events during the day include a Year of the Warrior Spirit 16-inch softball tournament behind the Fitness and Sports Center beginning at 1 p.m. and the tug-of-war finals competition at 9 a.m. by the Gaylor Dining Hall. You will also want to watch the colonels beat the chiefs in a softball tournament at 3 p.m. at the base softball field. Come out, and have some fun!

Congratulations to everyone for making Monday's visit by President George W. Bush a success. I was pleased the President took time out of his busy schedule to shake hands and thank airmen here for their hard work.

I received lots of positive feedback from the White House Advance Team and the Secret Service for our outstanding support. Congressman Henry Brown, who was part of the receiving party for the President, commented on how good the base looked. The efforts you put into making the base



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, shakes hands with President George W. Bush, who visited the base and local area Monday.

Military housing resident tries to beat heat without A/C

Q: The air conditioner in my base house has given me non-stop problems. It has become unbearable lately.

I have called housing maintenance numerous times. On some occasions, they've failed to show up after promising they would.

When they've tried to fix the unit, they can't for one reason or another. I was told it can't be fixed because it's one of the "new units," and our people aren't trained to fix them yet.

The heat has become unbearable for my wife,

my two small children and myself.

It was so bad, we were forced to stay in a motel for a few nights. Also, we are not getting reimbursed for our lodging expenses.

My problems with trying to get my air conditioner fixed have lasted weeks, and have cost me a great deal of stress and money.

I'm wondering what can be done to fix my air conditioner and also prevent other base families from going through the situation my family and I are going through now.

look good are always appreciated, especially when we have visitors.

One individual doing her part to make the base always look its best is Marsh Hill. You have probably seen her in a golf cart picking up debris. I met her recently and was impressed with her pride, positive attitude and obvious care in performing her daily duties. Please do your part in keeping our base looking its best.

Along those lines, I would appreciate everyone's vigilance in keeping the base looking its best for the visits by Gen. John Handy, commander in chief, U.S. Transportation Command, and commander, Air Mobility Command, Aug. 23-25, and Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, Aug. 29-30. Gen. Jumper will be flying in the 90th production model of the C-17. I am really looking forward to showing our senior commanders the pride of Charleston AFB and the importance of our mission.

We were also especially fortunate to have Gen. Lester Lyles, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, bring in the 89th production model of the C-17 and the 42nd aircraft to be assigned here Thursday. AFMC plays a major role in supporting the C-17. The visit gave Gen. Lyles a hands-on look at the C-17 and the Boeing production facility at Long Beach, Calif.

I have a great story to tell about a true American patriot. Shortly after the events of 9/11, we were looking for someone to clear about 90 acres of trees near our 9,000-foot runway on North Auxiliary Airfield. Our regulations require areas surrounding runways to be clear of any obstructions such as trees and stumps for safety reasons. The problem was we did not have enough money to cover the estimated \$150,000 in costs to clear the area.

Bob Hammond, owner of Hammond Construction Company in Moncks Corner, was a potential bidder, but offered to do the work for free when he found out we did not have enough money. He did this good deed out of the generosity of his heart because we needed the work done to continue our training mission.

To honor his generosity, we decided to name a drop zone after him at North AAF. We flew him to North AAF Thursday to participate in a special naming ceremony. He is a great American and just one of many examples where the community has rallied behind the base as we continue to wage the war on global terrorism.

I mentioned in a previous column about the need for us to stay fit and healthy. I believe fitness is very important to one's well being and would welcome the opportunity to participate in any squadron or group fitness activities you may have planned. Continue to take good care of yourselves and be safe, especially when off-duty and traveling.

A: I fully understand your disappointment with the performance of your air conditioning unit during this hot weather. The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron has been working diligently to correct the problems with your system. I'm told they have now reached an interim solution that provides your family

comfortable cooling while they work with the contractor to develop a long-term fix for the problem. If you encounter further problems, I encourage you to contact the 437 CE Chief of Operations, Maj. Brian Murphy, at 963-5012. He is ready to assist.

-- Col. Brooks Bash
437AW commander

About the paper

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ActionLine

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.



IN THE NEWS

CAFB colonel describes experiences with Predator unit

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

America's patrolling of the no-fly zone over Iraq gained a significant boost when the remotely-piloted Predator aircraft deployed to Southwest Asia in December 2000.

Predators can locate, identify and help destroy threats quickly using their advanced sensors and are often more effective than fighter aircraft, according to Col. Tim Lewis, 437th Operations Group deputy commander for special operations.

Lewis spoke about many of his personal experiences as a Predator unit commander in Southwest Asia during the quarterly Air Force Association luncheon July 25.

The Predator is maintained and operated by the 11th, 15th and 17th Reconnaissance Squadrons, Indian Springs Air Field, Nev. The Predator provides deployable, long endurance,

near-real-time reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition.

The RQ-1A/B Predator is a system, not just aircraft, according to Lewis. An operational system consists of four aircraft (with sensors), a ground control station, a Predator Primary Satellite Link and 63 personnel for continuous 24 hour operations. The basic crew for the Predator is one pilot and two sensor operators.

"The Predator system gives us an incredible capability, and it is also inexpensive," Lewis explained in his opening remarks. "Some enduring fundamentals are included in the Predator that will never change regardless of how advanced the technology. We are not going to whack at something until we are sure we can reduce collateral damage. Number two is systems always fail and mistakes happen. I learned that while I was out there with the Predator."

MQ-1A/B Predators carry the Multispectral Targeting System with inherent AGM-114 Hellfire missile targeting capability, and integrates electro-optical, infrared, laser designator and laser illuminator into a single sensor package. The aircraft carry and employ two laser-guided, 100-pound Hellfire anti-tank missiles with MTS.

"The hellfire missiles gave us a Predator with fangs on it," Lewis said.

The Predator isn't an

easy aircraft to fly, according to Lewis.

"I did not like flying it as an airplane," he said. "It was hard as heck to take off and land. It was more fun to fly the sensor than the airplane."

"It is a lot like one of your computer games," Lewis continued. "The difference is it is a real airplane. One of the problems with flying the Predator is that you only have a two-dimensional picture, and it is not like flying a (flight) simulator. You can't feel the wind gusts."

"When you get that gust, you've got to really know what it is doing to the airplane."

Weather can take a toll on the Predator, according to Lewis.

"Icing really hurts this airplane," Lewis said. "We lost a number of these aircraft over in Kosovo. They did modify the leading edges with little pinholes that ooze out a deicing fluid. It is a lot like flying a Cessna 172 because it does not have on-board radar."

At times, pilots become so involved in the remote flying of the aircraft it almost feels real.

"Sometimes when you are flying and you are getting shot at, you'll actually duck," Lewis said of the pilot in the ground control station. He added that they mission-planned just like a regular aircraft and usually had crew swap outs after four-six hours.

"We were having problems with the fighters finding targets, and we started to get into the laser designated mode," Lewis said. "Although tested in Kosovo, they asked us to

come up with the tactics. We wanted to laze the targets so the fighters could drop (bombs) on them."

"The Predator is revolutionizing the way we do warfare," he continued. "While I was there, I was reading an article that they were doing a test where they wanted to find the target, acquire it, do a collateral damage assessment, know exactly where it was, send it off, get approval from the national command authority to hit the target and they were going to do it in 30 minutes."

Lewis was ahead of the game.

"I sent the article off to my boss and said we just did that last night," Lewis said. "We found a target that could not be found with overhead imagery, flew over it and got the coordinates, did a collateral damage assessment, called the CINC (commander in chief) for approval and we whacked it. That's as good as it gets."

The Predators advanced systems don't always please everyone.

"The fighter guys, when they missed, would always go back and say 'We got it,'" Lewis said. "They hated the Predator because we could tell if they really hit it or not. We can gather a lot of intelligence about what the bad guys are doing. You could immediately let them know if they need to do a reattack."

The Predator air vehicle is 27 feet in length and has a 49-foot wingspan. The system operates at an altitude of 25,000 feet and at a range of 400 nautical miles. The endurance of the air vehicle is more than 40 hours and the cruise speed is over 70 knots.



Air Force photo

The RQ-1 Predator is a medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle system. The Predator is a system, not just an aircraft. The fully operational system consists of four air vehicles (with sensors), a ground control station, a Predator primary satellite link communication suite and 63 people.

Wheel and tire shop meets increased production demands

By Airman 1st Class
Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Maintenance Squadron Maintenance Flight Wheel and Tire shop is the supply hub for all C-17 wheel and tire requirements east of the Mississippi River, and throughout Europe and Southwest Asia.

The Wheel and Tire shop puts new tires, or skins, on the wheels. Shop personnel are also responsible for rebuilding tires, and receiving and sending out wheels.

Tech. Sgt. John Tollison, 437 MXS Wheel and Tire shop NCOIC, said the shop currently sends more than 90 percent of its wheel and tire supply to overseas locations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"With the war going on, our production has increased three-fold," said Tollison.

Before OEF launched in October, the shop was putting out 100-150 wheels each month, Tollison said. Since then, production increased to 350-450 each month.

Tollison said he expects the number to increase to 160 a week, or more than 600 per month.

The shop is being tasked to produce more wheels because C-17s are landing on substandard runways, Tollison said. Factors that cause extra wear and tear on the tires include the landing surface, aircraft weight and runway length. Current taskings have most aircraft facing these factors on a regular basis.

After flightline crews bring tires that don't meet current mission demands into the wheel and tire shop personnel swing into action.

"When we get a wheel in, we check for the depot dates

(every two-three years wheels have to be sent in for inspection), and if it's time, we send the wheels to depot for an overhaul," said Staff Sgt. Cody Cole, 437 MXS Wheel and Tire shop floor supervisor.

If the tire is serviceable at that point, the shop removes the bearings and breaks the beads. Beads seal the tires to the wheel so air doesn't leak. The wheels and tires are then put into an assembly line.

After removing the nuts and bolts on the wheel, it comes apart in two pieces. The shop puts the wheels into the washer to scrub them clean.

"We make sure it's clean, and then we call the non-destructive inspectors," said Cole. "They check the wheel for cracks. If there are no cracks, the wheel becomes serviceable."

After the wheel has been

cleared, it's time to put it back together, said Cole.

"Now the wheel is serviceable, and we can mount the new, serviceable tire and install serviceable bolts, washers and nuts," said Cole.

The Wheel and Tire shop fills the tires with nitrogen, because nitrogen is nonflammable, then gives the tire a minimal 12-hour leak check. If there is no problem, bearings are replaced, and the tire is ready to go.

The lengthy process of cleaning, inspecting and replacing the wheel and tires requires at least four workers for a batch, and two personnel per wheel, said Cole. A batch usually consists of 30-40 wheels and takes anywhere from 3-4 hours to complete.

The Wheel and Tire shop is only responsible for washing and inspecting the wheels, said Tollison. If there are any problems, the

shop sends the tires to a designated contractor for repair.

If the tires are not operational, the shop sends the tires to the manufacturer for reskinning, Tollison said. Michelin recaps them once. If the tire falls out of standards after reskinning, it is condemned.

"After the tires are condemned, HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials) picks them up to sell them off to companies," said Tollison. "They (the companies) either shred them to use as material for playgrounds or leave them intact to tie them to tugboats to use them as bumpers. There are a number of uses they can get out of them."

The continuous effort of the 437 MXS Wheel and Tire shop keep the C-17s in the air and flying high during wartime and non-wartime conditions.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron Gator Flight is set to host a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Henry Warden Aug. 21, 3:30 p.m., at the Community Education Center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Leonard McIver at 963-5508.

Around the base

Road Closure: The intersection of Hill Boulevard and Davis Drive will close today, 8 a.m., and reopen Saturday, 7 p.m., for the annual base picnic.

AAHC: The African American Heritage Committee is slated to have a meeting today and Aug. 21, 11:30 a.m., at the Wings Bar in the Charleston Club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Denise Bellamy at 963-2262 or Tech. Sgt. Steven Beasley at 963-5082.

Closing: The Charleston AFB Clinic will close Aug. 9, noon, for the remainder of the day. For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, call the CAFB Clinic at 963-6790.

Honor guard: The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard is making a recruiting trip to Charleston AFB Aug. 12. Their goal is to attract and interest NCOs and senior NCOs for career-broadening opportunities with the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard. The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team will accompany the recruiting team and will perform outside the Gaylor Dining Facility at noon. The recruiting team briefings are set for Aug. 12, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., at the Base Theater.

Luncheon: A going-away luncheon for Lt. Col. Rafael Diaz, 437th Aero-medical Dental Squadron commander, is set for Aug. 13, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The cost for club members is \$9, and the cost for non-members is \$12. RSVP to 963-6289 by Wednesday to attend. For more information, call 1st Lt. Raymond Lewis at 963-7279.

Chief's Group: The Charleston AFB Chief's Group is set to have their monthly meeting Aug. 15, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from Heritage Trust will address the group, and lunch will be provided. All chief master sergeants

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Airman 1st Class Lora Hawker 437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

Airman 1st Class Lora Hawker, 437th Aero-medical Dental Squadron Deily Dental Clinic technician, works with a general dentist, assisting him with different dental procedures.

"I enjoy working with Dr. (Capt. Gary) Walsh, (437 ADOS general dentist), because his procedures are fast paced," Hawker said. "I'm a busy person, and I like to be kept busy."

The Casey, Ill., native has been stationed at Charleston AFB since Jan. 2002.

"I like CAFB because of the (dental) staff," Hawker said. "They are very friendly and helpful."

Since Hawker enjoys staying busy, she said she enjoys being in a town where there's so much to do.

Hawker said she attends different church functions, including the CAFB Chapel's Truth Project, and her own church's events.

"When I got here, a co-worker asked me if I wanted to go to the Truth Project, and I've attended ever since," Hawker said.

Time spent outdoors is what Hawker said she enjoys the most. She likes to sight-see, camp and hike.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

and chief master sergeant-selects are invited.

Luncheon: A Women's Equality Day Luncheon is scheduled for Aug. 26, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Cost is \$9 for members and \$11 for non-members. For more information, or for tickets, call 963-6757 or 963-6959.

CLEP class: A math preparatory College Level Examination Program is scheduled for Aug. 26-28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Community Education Center. Students who successfully complete the math CLEP class will be administered the CLEP General Mathematics exam Aug. 29. Successful completion of this test meets the Community College of the Air Force requirement for mathematics. This class will be offered to Air Force personnel assigned to Charleston AFB as the purpose is to meet CCAF requirements. Other personnel are welcome on a space-available basis.

Personnel who want to take this class must sign up in person. All personnel must confirm their seat no later than 3:30 p.m., Aug. 23, by calling 963-4575. Seats not confirmed will be opened to the waiting list.

Survey: Naval Hospital Charleston is exploring the expansion of computer technology in an effort to improve service to patients. Anyone receiving healthcare at the Naval Hospital or Naval Weapons Station can assist in this process by responding to an electronic survey, online at www.nhchasn.med.navy.mil. For patients without computer access, the survey will be available at the Naval Hospital in the pharmacy area during the next few weeks.

Embry-Riddle: Fall class registration for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University runs now-Monday. For more information, call 767-8912.

CCC: Term I registration for City Colleges of Chicago runs now-Thursday. For more information, call 552-5959.

Webster: The Charleston Campus of Webster University is now registering for its next semester which starts Aug. 12. Classes meet once a week in the evening or on Saturday during each nine-week term. For more information, call 572-2675.

Overpricing: The Zero Overpricing Program's goal is to eliminate overpricing incidents where the Air

Force pays more for an item than its worth. Monetary awards are also available through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program when an overpricing incident is identified and approved. To report an incident where an item's price isn't fair or reasonable, call the Wing Zero Overpricing Monitor at 963-4826.

Family Support Center

Pre-deployment Briefing: Daily, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Interview Techniques: Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon.

Junior Smooth Move: Tuesday, 6-7 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and Aug. 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

TAP 3-Day Workshop: Aug. 13-5, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Educational Opportunities Counseling: Aug. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Troops-to-Teachers: Aug. 19, 10-11 a.m.

Job Search Basics: Aug. 20, 9 a.m.-noon.

Marriage Enrichment Part I: Aug. 22, 6-8 p.m.

Resume II: Aug. 27, 9-10:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Smooth Move: Aug. 29, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Marriage Enrichment II: Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m.

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

Minnesota Air National Guard announces openings

The 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, Duluth, Minn., is looking for personnel to fill positions.

The unit has openings in the following Air Force Specialty Codes:

2A6X1A, 2A7X2, 2E1X3, 2E2X1, 2E6X3, 2W0X1, 2W1X1, 3A0X1, 3E0X1, 3E4X1, 3E8X1, 3E9X1,

3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4D0X1, 4T0X1, and 4A2X1 for enlisted members, and 42E3, 44M3, 44Y3, 46N3 and 47G3 for officers.

This list of vacancies was last updated and released Wednesday.

For more information about these jobs, contact Tech. Sgt. Paul Raj, DSN 825-7244 or toll free at (800) 831-7027.

CAFB updates military family housing playgrounds

Story and photo by
Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB is bringing all of the military family housing playgrounds up to standard.



Andrew Morrison, Mosteller Design and Construction, pulls weeds out of the mulch at a base housing playground.

"Air Mobility Command's goal is to have all playgrounds up to the (American Society for Testing and Materials) playground standard," said Troy Draughn, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Housing Facility Section chief. "CAFB's goal is to eventually have 13 playgrounds which are maintained to meet the standard. We have 10 total on base that we are bringing up to standard."

The ASTM standard for playgrounds ensures there are no hazardous or sharp materials in the fall zone, according to Draughn. The fall zone marks any place a child can potentially fall off the equipment.

"Right now, there are five playgrounds that meet the standard," said Draughn, "the playgrounds on West Jackson Drive, East Jackson Drive and Frick Avenue, Bellamy Circle and North O'Neal Avenue, Colorado Avenue and Idaho Avenue. By the middle of September, all existing playgrounds are scheduled to meet the

standard."

Draughn said the biggest problem area is the fall zone. There is a special mixture of mulch used to create a safe fall zone. The mixture creates a cushioned area for the children to fall. However, Draughn said, grass has grown from the ground into the mulch, making the area unsafe. Workers had to remove all of the grass from the playgrounds.

The borders on the playground fall zones are being changed from wood to plastic to avoid deteriorating wood, said Draughn. Plastic is more durable than wood and lasts longer.

Another change to the playgrounds is a new rating system, said Draughn.

"The playgrounds will have one of two ratings," said Draughn. "One rating is toddler, for ages 2-5, and the other rating is school, which is for children ages 6-12. The toddler playgrounds will have smaller equipment than the school-age playgrounds. There will be signs that tell the clas-

sifications. A few of the playgrounds will have both classifications."

Draughn said making CAFB's playgrounds safe is important.

"We're doing it to make it safe for the kids to play," said Draughn. "That's the ultimate goal."

Draughn said even though the equipment is safe, adult or parental supervision is the most important thing.

"You've still got to have adult supervision," said Draughn. "Kids are going to do what they are going to do. Adult supervision is a must."

Tech. Sgt. Gerald Bloss, 437 CES Simplified Acquisition of Base Engineering Requirements element NCOIC, said the goal of the new playgrounds was to let parents know the equipment is safe.

"The goal was to give parents peace of mind (about their children's safety)," said Bloss. "We can provide the equipment and area, but the parents still have to be around."

437 MDG explains appointment guidelines, proper procedures

To decrease waiting times and increase satisfaction, the 437th Medical Group has implemented several guidelines and procedures.

Regular appointments:

To keep up exceptional care, especially in light of increased operational tempo, the 437th Medical Group asks that all patients with routine and non-emergency needs call 963-6880 for an appointment. This procedure allows the staff to provide quality care for other patients who have scheduled appointments. "Walk-in" requests for health care divert the staff's attention from patients with scheduled appointments. This should also dramatically decrease the waiting times for all patients.

Emergency care:

Patients who have a critical condition or emergency that threatens life, limb or eyesight, should call 911 or go straight to the nearest emergency department. The patient should call his or her Primary Care Manager within 24 hours for authorization at 963-6790 for Family Practice or 963-6923 for Flight Medicine.

Non-emergency care:

If a patient has a non-emergency condition requiring evaluation the same day or within 24 hours, he or she

should call central appointments, the PCM Team Nurse or Flight Medicine Team for assistance. For many minor illnesses and injuries, it is not necessary to be seen by a health care provider. A patient can treat colds, flu, sprains, etc at home by consulting the *Take Care of Yourself* and *Take Care of Your Child* books, or by calling the PCM Team Nurse for advice.

Active-duty care:

The 437th Medical Group provides 'sick call' for active duty members by appointment only to improve the timeliness and efficiency of health care needed and reduce lost duty time. For non-flying personnel, it is not usually necessary to see a health care provider for minor illnesses. Supervisors are encouraged to send their members home to rest and perform self-care.

Medication refills:

Medication refills can be called in to the pharmacy at 963-6833 and will be ready for pick up in two duty days if called in by 5 p.m. A patient can arrange most medication renewals (if no refills are left) over the phone by contacting his or her PCM Team or Flight Medicine Team during duty hours.

(Information for this article was provided by the 437 MDG.)

Base picnic slated for today, Saturday

The 437th Services Squadron is scheduled to host Charleston AFB's annual picnic today and Saturday in the area behind the Fitness and Sports Center.

In addition to 437 SVS activities and Around the World in Ninety Days action, the picnic will also feature several special Year of the Warrior Spirit events.

The first YOWS event is the final round of tug-of-war, scheduled to take place at the sand pits near the Gaylor Dining Facility at 9 a.m.

The picnic kicks off at 11:30 a.m., with free lunch catered by the Charleston Club.

The YOWS 16-inch softball tournament begins at 1 p.m. at the fields behind the fitness center.

Also scheduled are free movies at the Base Theater. "Scooby Doo" plays today at 2 p.m., and "Hey Arnold" is scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m.

To wrap the day up, CAFB's chiefs will take on the colonels today in a softball game at 3 p.m.

Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott Reed, 1 CTCS

Lift off

Air Force One takes to the air Monday afternoon, carrying President George W. Bush out of the Lowcountry and back to Washington, D.C. Bush visited Charleston AFB and the local area, taking time to shake hands and meet CAFB personnel on the flightline.

Team Charleston's senior NCOs show selectees how it's done

Three-day professional development course aims at preparing master sergeant-selects for new role

By Airman 1st Class
Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

Master sergeant-selects at Charleston AFB learned what it means to wear the sixth stripe during a program here July 16-18.

The Top 3 hosted the Senior NCO Professional Development Seminar to prepare potential SNCOs for what their futures hold.

The seminar culminated in an induction ceremony July 18.

"Basically, it's a three-day orientation course for our master sergeant promotees," said Senior Master Sgt. Susan Barnes, 437th Logistics Support Squadron Logistics Operations Flight superintendent and Top 3 president.

"When the line numbers for master comes out, the

Top 3 sends a welcome letter, and it's the command chief that mandates everyone to attend our orientation," she explained.

The Senior NCO PDS is an annual program that bases localize and design how they see fit, said Barnes.

Charleston's version of the Senior NCO PDS started last year.

Barnes said the Top 3 took the critiques from last year and tweaked the program to make it better.

"The program is an opportunity for senior NCOs to advise the new senior NCOs," said Barnes. "We know there's a large gap from technical sergeant to master sergeant."

"At the end of the course, our new senior NCOs will have a renewed focus on the mission and the people who

accomplish it; a sobering understanding of their new challenges, responsibilities and expectations; and a complete set of resources to successfully meet those challenges," Barnes added.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Lotito, 437th Services Squadron Military Flight Dining Facility manager, is set to be promoted in September.

"The panels with the first shirts, commanders and airmen were very informational," said Lotito. "To get their view points of what they expect of the senior NCOs was helpful. The information you gain from it can be used in different ways to help airmen and junior NCOs."

The Top 3 also extends invitations to units supported by CAFB.

Tech. Sgt. Tim Burke, a

rapid prototype programmer from the Air Force Combat Climatology Center in Asheville, N.C., is part of a group of three from the AFCCC who were selected for master sergeant.

"I'm finding out stuff I never knew," said Burke. "It's very informational, very entertaining and very enlightening to find out things that are available to me."

Burke said he expects what he learned to come in handy when he is a senior NCO.

"It'll help when I'm in charge of troops because I'll know what services are available," Burke said. "It gives me a better base of information to be a better supervisor."

After the three days of panels and presentations by base personnel, the master

sergeant-selects' next step was the induction ceremony. Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Robinson, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, was the guest speaker. Fifty-nine technical sergeants were officially inducted.

The Top 3 offers other programs to assist NCOs climbing the ranks. Other than the annual SNCO PDS, the group also offers the quarterly NCO PDS for staff sergeants and technical sergeants.

The group also gives scholarships three times a year for the first six enlisted ranks and holds a basewide picnic for enlisted members called Oktoberfest.

To pay for the help the Top 3 gives out, members set up different fundraisers such as the Top 3 Steak-out and the Top 3 Golf Tournament.

Guard units take over 437 APS during Patriot Partner

Story and photo by
Jennifer Turner
437 AW Public Affairs

Five Air National Guard units have taken over the 437th Aerial Port Squadron as part of Patriot Partner, July 21-Aug. 3.

Guard personnel from the 123 APS Louisville, Ky. (Lead Unit), 135 APS Baltimore, Md., 137 APS Oklahoma City, 152 APS Reno, Nev., and 156 APS Carolina, Puerto Rico, have integrated with the 437 APS and taken over its operations, according to Tech. Sgt. Billy Williams, 437 APS Reserve coordinator.

"Patriot Partner is an exercise designed to simulate wartime conditions and involves the take over of an aerial port's operations by National Guard members and reservists," said Chief Master Sgt. Tim Downs, 123 APS and superintendent of the National Guard 703rd Consolidated Aerial Port Squadron. "Every strategic aerial port hosts a Patriot Partner."

Although Charleston AFB has hosted Patriot Partner for more than two decades, this year's program is unique. The 703 CAPS is the first all-Guard Patriot Partner in the nation, according to Maj. Doug Rose, 123 APS and 703rd CAPS commander.

"We have 144 personnel deployed from five ANG units providing round-the-clock support for a vital strategic port," said Rose. "I have been thoroughly impressed by the professionalism, skill level and attitude of each of the members of the 703rd that I have met to date."

The Guard units mirror active duty daily activities and provide 24-

hour coverage seven days a week, with three daily eight-hour shifts.

During Patriot Partner, approximately 75-80 percent of 437 APS's activities will be handled exclusively by guardsmen, Downs said. As a result, active duty personnel gain valuable free time for training or leave.

"We are glad to have the Guard units since they are very proficient and provide leave and training opportunities for active-duty personnel," said Williams.

"Many active-duty personnel receive training in first aid, chemical warfare and weapons," he continued. "Much of this training occurs on base. Other personnel are allowed to take leave. However, training takes priority over leave."

"Patriot Partner also frees active-duty members who are usually assigned to the swing shift and cannot complete training offered only during the day," Williams added.

Patriot Partner offers benefits to participating Guard units as well. The program allows Guardsmen to practice operation protocol and learn new procedures.

"Patriot Partner provides the senior staff management of Guard units with wartime simulation training," said Downs. "The 703 CAPS has taken over CAFB's flight line operations, which include passenger and fleet services."

Guard units also take advantage of the opportunity to train with un-

familiar equipment.

"We have been able to train with a Tunner loader, operational software and oversized cargo that aren't available at our home bases," said 1st Lt. Kevin Thornberry, 123 APS and officer in charge of air freight for the 703 CAPS.

Ultimately, Patriot Partner allows guardsmen to train with other Guard units and active-duty personnel and achieve complete work-force integration.

"The Air Force considers the Reserve and Guards as a total force component," Rose said.

"Distinctions are rarely made these days between the active duty, Reserve and Guard," continued Rose. "All the gaining commander



Airman 1st Class Billy Curtis, 437th Aerial Port Squadron (left), Tech. Sgt. Reggie Baker, 135 APS (center) and Airman 1st Class Mike Haywood, 137 APS, show the teamwork of Patriot Partner by working together to accomplish the mission.

cares is that he has a fully qualified group of aerial porters who can safely and effectively run his cargo, fleet, passenger and ATOC (Air Terminal Operations Center) operations. Patriot Partner offers us a unique opportunity to further refine the skills we will need when we are called to duty anywhere in the world."

Both active-duty and Guard personnel realize the value of cooperative training programs such as Patriot Partner.

"Patriot Partner is based on mutual benefit," said 1st Lt. Jeff Vincent 123 APS and 703 CAPS Air Terminal Operations Center OIC. "The 437 APS personnel get a break and the guardsmen get crucial training."

PMEL earns high marks during assessment

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Maintenance Squadron's Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory recently achieved high marks during a certification inspection.

Charleston AFB's PMEL underwent its Air Force Metrology and Calibration Program Laboratory Evaluation May 13-20, according to Master Sgt. William Seabreeze, 437 MXS Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Flight superintendent. This was the lab's first evaluation under the newly revised AFMETCAL audit criteria.

Seabreeze said upon conclusion of the audit, inspectors noted the lab exceeded all measurement audit areas and clearly demonstrated the ability to perform accurate measurements.

"Inspectors were most impressed with the personnel training and technicians' ability to flawlessly perform numerous complex measurements," Seabreeze said. "During the Measurement Capability Assessment portion of the audit, PMEL received 'zero product nonconformities.' This was particularly noteworthy, considering 25 percent of the items selected were calibrated by apprentice techni-

cians."

For the lab's outstanding efforts, PMEL received on-the-spot AFMETCAL Audit Certification, according to Seabreeze.

The objective of the certification program is to assess each PMEL's capability to perform measurements that are accurate, uniform, reliable and traceable through the Air Force Primary Standards Laboratory to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, according to Master Sgt. Robert Adrian, laboratory chief. Each PMEL is assessed approximately every 24 months.

There are three stages in the certification process: pre-assessment, on-site assessment and certification review.

The pre-assessment stage involves reviewing the PMEL quality system documentation to assess its compliance with Technical Order 00-20-14 and other Air Force directives, according to Staff Sgt. David Polmanteer, PMEL quality assurance. This stage requires the lab to submit its quality manual, master inventory data, previous 12 months of quality program data, copies of critical nonconformity worksheets, trend analysis based on quality program findings and other crucial information.

Following the pre-assessment,

AFMETCAL visits PMEL for the on-site assessment, according to Seabreeze.

"During the on-site assessment, the team performed a follow-up on any questions that were raised during the pre-assessment," Seabreeze said. "They verified that we are doing the things we said in our quality manual and performed the MCA (Measurement Capability Assessment).

"To perform the MCA, assessment team members selected items based on our master inventory data and assigned technicians," Seabreeze continued. "The selected items and the certifying technician performed the calibration under observation. If a defect had been found, more items with the same part number, certified by the same technician, would have been selected. The idea is to investigate the processes and gather objective evidence before concluding a problem exists."

Seabreeze said the ultimate goal of the MCA is to establish "confidence in competence."

Other areas audited during the on-site assessment include compliance with quality program requirements, and with facility and environmental requirements, according to Seabreeze.

"During the facility and environ-

mental control system assessment, the team assessed our facility, looking for the ability to perform the accurate transfer of precision measurements," Seabreeze said. "They looked for obvious facility deficiencies while performing the MCA and any effect of facility problems as they observed precise measurements."

Upon completion of the on-site assessment, all evaluations are reviewed by a panel of evaluators for accuracy and to maintain consistency, according to Seabreeze. Ultimately, the certification decision rests with the AFMETCAL commander.

CAFB's PMEL has a far-reaching mission.

"The equipment we support touches every organization on Charleston AFB, tenant units including the Coast Guard, Navy and National Guard, as well as other geographically separated units in locations from the Caribbean to Central and South America," Seabreeze said. "We are currently the Air Force depot support location for night vision goggle test sets, East Coast support location for portable balance units, and we provide lateral support across the command (Air Mobility Command) for high-voltage calibration measurement."

Around the Air Force

AEF: While Air Force leaders remain committed to the current air and space expeditionary force constructed of three-month deployments in a 15-month window, about 10 to 15 percent of the deployed force will be gone longer, which is based upon current requirements, Air Force officials said. Extended tour lengths are becoming necessary to fill shortfalls in certain stressed career fields caused, in part, by demobilizing Reserve and Guard forces and releasing most Air Force specialties from Stop-Loss to meet end-strength requirements. The Air Force has begun to identify the stressed career fields that could be affected by longer tour lengths. The initial specialties include: security forces, office of special investigations, civil engineers, fire fighters, intelligence, transportation, explosive ordnance disposal, combat control, command post, fuels, liquid fuels, communications, air command and warning, air battle managers, pilots and enlisted aircrews. (AFPN)

Mobilization: This week the Army and Marine Corps announced increases of re-

servists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization by 480 and four, respectively. The Air Force and Navy announce decreases of their reservists on active duty by 968 and 456. The net collective result is 940 fewer reservists than last week. Total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 34,916; Naval Reserve, 7,328; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 35,075; Marine Corps Reserve, 3,869; and the Coast Guard Reserve 1,327. (AFN)

Contest: Artists, architects, sculptors and students from 43 states, a dozen prestigious academic institutions and two-dozen countries are interested in designing the Pentagon Memorial. The Army Corps of Engineers in Baltimore released requirements and procedures recently for the first stage of the competition to select an artistic concept for the memorial to be built near the impact site on the Pentagon grounds. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 11. (AFN)



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Ships ahoy!

Members of the public were invited to view U.S. Coast Guard Eagle at the State Ports Authority Passenger Terminal, located in downtown Charleston, July 23-24. The 295-foot sailing training ship, built in 1936 by the Germans, is manned by about 230 Coast Guard academy cadets, officers and enlisted members. Home ported at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., the summer training deployment takes the ship and its crew to ports of call all over the globe. While sailing, cadets and officer candidates train in the basics of leadership, seamanship and character.

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 in Bldg. 216 (old Chapel).

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: David Sirull at 571-3264.

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, 2 p.m.

"Scooby-Doo" – Matthew Lillard, Freddie Prinze, Jr.

This first-ever live-action adaptation of the beloved and long-running animated series catches up with Scooby-Doo and the Mystery, Inc., gang as they meddle their way into a bonafide mystery that leads them into murky and possibly supernatural waters. **(PG) 87 minutes**

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Juwanna Mann" – Vivica Fox

When a male ball player gets booted out of professional basketball, he wants so much to return to the game that he disguises himself as a female all-star and joins the Women's Basketball League. **(PG-13) 91 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m.

"Hey Arnold" – Animated

Arnold is up against a powerful industrialist who invades the city and buys everything in sight so he can knock it down and erect a huge "mall-plex." Can Arnold and his best friend find the document that can stop the bulldozers? **(PG) 76 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Windtalkers" – Nicholas Cage

FEATURE

Although it's not just a 'cop thing,' 437 SFS leads charge in force protection efforts

By Airman Stephanie Hammer
437 AW Public Affairs

Ten months and 15 days ago, the twin towers of New York crumbled to the ground in one of the most serious terrorist attacks on the United States. Even though it hasn't been a year since that tragic day, have members of Charleston AFB already forgotten what it means to let their guard down?

Recent events have made it clear that terrorism is at work almost everywhere and force protection is a crucial part of the Air Force mission. It requires the awareness and understanding of all base personnel, families and the community to keep CAFB safe.

"Only 10 months into (combating terrorism), and people have a tendency to forget about what has happened, and force protection is a great reminder of what could possibly happen again," said Maj. Kevin Stegall, 315th Security Forces Squadron commander.

"Terrorists are looking for lack of judgment in protection, and if one sees an avenue, he'll take it," said Stegall. "By slacking off, we're giving terrorists the advantage."

Force protection is made up of six programs: electronic systems security, flight line security, resource protection, information security, anti-terrorism protection and industrial security, most of which work together closely to keep the personnel and resources at CAFB safe.

However, terrorism cannot be prevented with the intervention of only a few groups of people. Almost everyone needs to get involved, according to Tech. Sgt. Timothy Moore, 437th Security Forces Squadron anti-terrorism program manager.

"(The military) needs to get back in the safety mindset," said Moore. "They need to continue to be aware of what's going on around them, and report any suspicious activity."

Force protection also receives help from other sources as well, such as the office of special investigations, explosive ordnance disposal, civil engineering readiness, medical group and the fire department, said Moore.

"It's important for people to recognize suspicious activity and pack-

ages and report them immediately so that EOD can respond in a fast and effective manner to dispose of a potential problem before it becomes a major predicament," said Senior Airman Jeffrey Barnett, 437 EOD journeyman.

"The bottom line is to continue to be security conscious," said Moore. "It's not just a cop thing. (Base personnel and family members) are the eyes and ears of the base. We're just the reactionaries. The threat is still alive and well, and it doesn't matter how small it is, we need to go and investigate any suspicious activity."

Lately, there has been a jump in the number of people who are annoyed at the security measures taken by force protection programs to include base alarm systems, according to Staff Sgt. Michelle Funk, 437 SFS electronic security systems manager.

"In the long run, the alarms tie in (to force protection) by keeping people and resources on base secure," said Funk. "The base needs to take alarm activations seriously because there's still a (terrorism) threat out there."

Although the base is back to Force Protection Condition Alpha, terrorism should still be on the forefront of the minds of CAFB members.

"I deal with people," said Moore. "My (anti-terrorism) program is about awareness for the base populous. Security checks need to be made very visible to the public and need to be made randomly."

"A terrorist is a coward and goes for the soft targets," continued Moore. "If you're truly random and unpredictable, it makes you a hard target."

Protecting personnel is not the only key to maintaining an operational Air Force.

"Protecting information is just as important as protecting people,"

How to report suspicious activity

To report suspicious activity, call the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at 963-4611 or the 437th Security Forces Squadron at 963-3600.

Give the following information:

- Name
- Address
- License plate number
- Make, model and color of vehicle
- Description of persons (height, weight, sex, race, age, clothing, etc.)
- Any scars, marks or tattoos
- As much specific information as possible about the suspicious activity



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Smith

Patrolling the fence line that surrounds the base, Tech. Sgt. Timothy Moore, 437th Security Forces Squadron anti-terrorism program manager, looks for signs of tampering. "Chances are 99 percent that anything I might find won't be a threat, but you never know," said Moore.

said Tech. Sgt. Brian Hilliker, 437 SFS information security program manager. "A big problem a lot of people have is e-mail and releasing too much information on Web sites such as Yahoo or Hotmail. The wrong information in the wrong hands can be used to hurt people, which can hurt the Air Force in return."

Protecting information comes down to knowing who can gain access to that information.

"Personnel security relies on the right amount of information being released to authorized personnel only," said Staff Sgt. Michael Kennedy, 437 SFS personnel security program manager. "We make sure that authorized personnel only get the access they need, no more and no less."

Information to be protected can include a wide range of areas.

"There's a lot of gray area out there that we have to look at," said 2nd Lt. Greg Holmgren, 437 SFS Office of Special

Investigations anti-terrorism manager, "everything from building and personnel security to even losing an identification card. It's important to remember to do the little things like remove decals from your vehicle before selling it."

"Everyone needs to keep their eyes and ears open," continued Holmgren. "It's everyone's responsibility."

More than just base personnel are affected by force protection.

"Families are important, too," said Moore. "The biggest threats are to the base as a whole."

"We do go into housing a lot more now and crime across the board is down," continued Moore. "For example, domestic violence and DUIs are down 50 percent, while stolen property is down 80 percent."

As the dreadful events of Sept. 11 move further away, it becomes more important to remember the significance of keeping security in mind at all times, both on and off base. With everyone's help, most repeat attacks of terrorism can be detected and prevented before they're ever carried out.

Fitness & Sports



Jason Grasty, APS 2, rears back to knock the ball out of the field before catcher Jamey Elms, AGS, can get his hands on it.

Softball season coming to an end



Brian Rogers, AGS, points base runner Dan Smalls to home to pull in a run.



Carl Travis, SUP 2, gets the out seconds before Ken Blackman, Flyers/OSS, reaches first.

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
 437 AW Public Affairs

The 2002 Charleston AFB Intramural Softball Season ended Thursday, with playoffs set right around the corner.

Tuesday, the No. 1 team, Flyers/OSS, played the No. 12 team, SUP 2. The Flyers/OSS, who beat SUP 2, didn't give SUP 2 a chance to make a single run, beating them 11-0.

"It feels great," said Damian Fox, Flyers/OSS coach. "We were consistent with our players throughout the season."

The consistency came from the combination with OSS, Fox said. He attributes their season to their hitters.

"We're 11 batters deep, and we have two-three players we can bring off the bench any time to get a hit or a homerun," Fox said. "We're strong both offensively and defensively."

Also Tuesday night, the No. 8 team, AGS, beat the No. 13 team, APS 2, 22-9.

"(Tuesday's) game felt good," said Mark Montrose, AGS coach. "We started the season strong, but lost several players to deployments half-way through the season, and that hurt us. It felt good to win the way we did."

The CAFB softball playoffs start Monday, with the top four teams in the final standings receiving a bye.

Flyers/OSS was predetermined as the No. 1 team of the intramural season by the softball officials, and will receive a bye during the first round of games. The Flyers/OSS coach has no doubt their team will come out on top.

"What can I tell you, we're going to win," said Fox. "I predict it'll be between CS/SVS, APS 1, SUP 1 and of course the Flyers/OSS. In the finals, I think the Flyers/OSS will come out on top."

As the No. 8 team as of Tuesday, AGS is set to play Monday, the first night of playoffs.

"I think we made it to the playoffs based on how strong we started the season," said Montrose.

Montrose predicts there will be an upset in the finals.

"While the Flyers are probably the strongest team going into the playoffs, SUP 1 has very good bats and stands to do well," Montrose said. "(373 TRS/DET 5) would be my surprise pick."

With the season's stats erased in the playoffs, any of the top 12 teams have a chance to bring glory back to their squadrons. Playoff games start Monday at 5:30 p.m. on both fields.



(L-R) Rick Carreno, Flyers/OSS left outfielder, Ken Blackman, Flyers/OSS second baseman, Brian Buscher, center outfielder, and Chris Schmidt, right outfielder, scramble for the ball