



Keith Brown, a Mount Pleasant Mechanical technician, installs an overhead domestic water system on the new Commissary.

Almost open for business

New Commissary expected to be ready by Dec. 1

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

Charleston AFB is set to complete construction on the new Commissary by the end of 2002.

"By contract, the store is supposed to be open Dec. 1, 2002," said Dan Lail, technical inspector with 3-D International, the contract management group for the Defense Commissary Agency. "Due to unforeseen conditions and issues, we're looking at a two-month delay, but we are trying to make that up."

Lail said construction is well underway at the site.

"Once we got the steel structure up, we started with our masonry," said Lail. "In the last five weeks, it's really taken off. Seventy-five percent of the wall is up, and part of the roof is started. In three weeks, the roof and exterior should be finished.

"On a normal day, 60 people are working, but that will be doubled shortly," con-

tinued Lail. "As soon as the roof is on, the interior workers can come in."

Shortly after the exterior is finished, Lail said CAFB will get an idea of what the building will look like.

"As early as July, you should be able to see what the exterior looks like," said Lail. "If anyone is curious about the color pattern, (the Base Chapel) has the same pattern."

While the new Commissary is going up, part of the 1972 Commissary is coming down.

"We are removing 80 percent of the old warehouse," Lail said. "We are using that space to build the last quarter of the store. After the new Commissary goes up, we will demolish the old Commissary and build a new parking lot there," Lail continued.

Even with half of the current Commissary missing, Eddie Williams, CAFB's DeCA store director, said the Commissary's customers wouldn't suffer.

"During the construction,

we don't expect any problems with customers," Williams said. "To make up for missing warehouse space, we acquired a warehouse off base for storage," Williams continued. "We also have a building in the civil engineer complex to store equipment during this time span."

The new Commissary will sport all of the newest technology, said Lail.

"Everything will be brand new in the new Commissary," said Lail. "It's going to have state-of-the-art, computer-operated, energy efficient equipment; all of the good things of the 21st century.

"It will save nearly 40 percent of current energy costs," continued Lail.

The new Commissary will be double the size of the current Commissary and will have 29,700 square feet of sell space. The warehouse will not be as large," said Williams

"The current philosophy is truck to shelf," Williams said.

See COMMISSARY, page 8

'Family Matters': Taking care of spouses top priority

By Staff Sgt. Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Two Charleston AFB units are helping to ease the minds of their deployed personnel by making sure the family members left behind are taken care of.

The 437th Aerial Port Squadron and 437th Airlift Wing Legal Office differ greatly in size, but both have systems in place to care for the needs of deployed members' spouses.

"The aerial port helps to take care of its personnel by taking care of its deployed members' families," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Connor, 437 APS. "The port cares about families left behind, and we want to do whatever we can to make their lives easier."

Connor said the 437 APS is com-

prised of 10 different flights. In the event of a deployment, each flight is initially responsible for taking care of

its family members.

"Once someone deploys, their supervisor makes initial contact with

the family to see how things are going," said Connor. "If the lawn needs mowed or the shrubs need pruned, the supervisor will either take care of it or get a group together to take care of it. The important thing is to make sure it gets taken care of quickly so families know they're not alone."

While the first-line supervisor is the first to help, Connor said everyone in aerial port pitches in. More often than not, friends of the deployed member willingly lend a hand so supervisors rarely need to do anything but periodic checks on the family.

In the event neither a friend nor a supervisor has met the needs of a deployed member's family, Connor

See FAMILY, page 8

Family Readiness support programs

Car Care Because We Care – Let the Auto Skills Center provide free oil changes and minor maintenance.

E-mail – Use the FSC's computer free of charge to send and receive letters during deployments.

Free calling cards – Personnel may be eligible for a free \$20 calling card.

Give Parents a Break – Enjoy free child care one Saturday each month for five hours.

Heart Apart – Make a free 15-minute phone call to a deployed family member.

Operation READ – A deploying person can videotape books being read to their children prior to leaving.

Sip 'n Chat – Take part in dining, special events and trips at part of this support group for spouses of deployed family members.

Video phone – See a deployed family member while talking by using the FSC's video phone.

COMMENTARY

Team Charleston says goodbye to commanders

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

Charleston AFB experienced six changes of command and one assumption of command this week. I want to thank each of these commanders for their hard work, dedication and striving for excellence during their time here. CAFB has led the way during Operation Enduring Freedom because of the dedication they have shown and will continue to even with all these changes. We are sure going to miss all of you.

Our first commander isn't really leaving us, only changing squadrons. Lt. Col. Kevin Brewer, 437th Transportation Squadron, handed over the reins to Maj. Jerry Erginkara and then assumed duties as the commander for 437th Aerial Port Squadron replacing Col. Bob King, who is headed to Dover AFB, Del., to be a deputy group commander.

Lt. Col. Pete Hirneise, 17th Airlift Squadron, is off to a fellowship at the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, Calif., and was replaced by Lt. Col. Don Shaffer.

The 437th Supply Squadron said good-bye to Lt. Col. George Pierce who takes over as the deputy group commander for logistics at Scott AFB, Ill., and welcomed Maj. Harold Bugado.

The 437th Comptroller Squadron bid farewell to Maj. Patrice Solorzano who has moved to the Air Force budget office at the Pentagon and was replaced by Maj. Robert Blue.

We welcome the new 437th Services Squadron commander, Maj. Tracy O'Grady-Walsh, who assumed command this week.

Our last change of command is today. Lt. Col. Herb Phillips, 437th Maintenance Squadron, who is also headed to the Air Staff at the Pentagon, will pass the guidon to Maj. William Rupp.

Thanks again for all you do and if you see any of the new commanders, be sure to welcome them to Charleston.

A big event on the horizon is the Air Force Ball, which will be held Sept. 7 at the Charleston Convention Center. It will be a night to remember with a live band, dancing, babysitting service, free transportation from the base and seating for 1,000. The tickets will go on sale mid-July and will go fast, so be sure to get one right away. Please support the fundraisers to help lower the ticket prices and allow more of our members to attend.

Thanks to the Air Force Association for the substantial donation after their recent golf tournament. This should be a fun event and if you would like to volunteer to help out or have a suggestion, contact Capt. Bill Reynolds at 963-6173 or Kathy Knichel at 963-5644.

The recent Major Acci-

dent Response Exercise was a tremendous learning event for our Crisis Action Team, Disaster Control Group, Security Forces, first responders and everyone else who participated. The challenging exercise transitioned from an on-base major accident, to an accident with hazardous material into one with a weapon of mass destruction. Thanks to Maj. Daren Baker and Master Sgt. Dave Hunt, 437th Airlift Wing Inspector General Office, for writing such a complicated exercise to test Team Charleston. This will ensure we stand ready to respond.

Congratulations to our newest master and technical sergeants. Charleston did well with 62 new senior NCOs for a promotion rate of 35 percent. We also had 130 technical sergeants make the grade for a promotion rate of 29 percent. Getting promoted is a great thing and with it comes increased responsibility. Shake their hand and don't forget a word of encouragement to those who weren't promoted this year.

Today ended the semi-annual wing self-inspection period. Hopefully we all did a thorough job completing the checklists. Identifying any problems now will ensure a successful Unit Compliance Inspection in January. Keep up the great effort.

Tomorrow marks the second annual Retiree Appreciation Day and Information Fair held at the Charleston Club starting at 8 a.m. Opening remarks at 8:45 a.m. will be by Col. Brooks Bash, 437th AW commander, who will introduce the guest speaker Rep. Henry Brown, R-S.C. There will be informative briefings about Space Available Flights, Social Security and 437 SVS. Tables will be set up with information from TRICARE, Family Support Center and finance, to name a few. We will also provide transportation to a C-17 static display from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. This should be very informative for our many retirees in the local area and to show them Team Charleston cares.

Thanks to retired Army Col. Raymond Borelli, retiree activities program director, and everyone who helped for assuring this part of our military family is not forgotten.

Next week we will be hosting a number of Senate Staffers from Washington, D.C. This is our chance to show them the great work we do. They will be treated to an up-close look at a C-17, receive a mission brief, fly the C-17 simulator and tour the base.

On June 21, we had our annual Wing Staff Picnic at Wannamaker Park. Great food and fun was had by all, despite the rain. We used the occasion as a fundraiser to help out our booster club by paying to smash a pie in the face of someone. I'm happy to report it was a success as I am still trying to remove the whipped cream from my face.

With the holiday weekend coming soon, keep safety in the forefront of your activities. Have a great weekend.

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.



Major promotions

The Central Line, Judge Advocate General, Nurse Corps, Medical Service Corps and Biomedical Sciences Corps major selection boards selected 2,175 officers for promotion to major.

The major's board, which convened Feb. 19-March 1, considered 3,090 captains for promotion.

According to an AFPC news release, some officers

were given the opportunity to have their records reviewed by the regularly scheduled May 6 special selection board. Due to Stop Loss, there was concern some eligible officers may have not understood their options for a promotion board.

For the entire list of major promotees, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/offprom.

The following Charleston AFB captains were selected for promotion to major:

Jonathan Bakonyi, 437th Communications Squadron; Brent Buss, 14th Airlift Squadron; Michael Cook, 14 AS; Robert Cook, 17th Airlift Squadron; James Copher, 17 AS; David Dye, 15th Airlift Squadron; Nathan Gary, 17 AS; John Gurrieri, 437th Operations Support Squadron; Curtis Johnson, 17 AS; John Lamontagne, 437th Airlift Wing; Tina Luichinger, 437th Medical Group; Michael Maguire, 437 OSS; Steven Moore, 437 AW; David Newman, 437 MDG; William Schellenberger, 17 AS; William Spangenthal, 15 AS; Matthew Stahl, 437 OSS; Joseph Trechter, 1st Combat Camera Squadron; and Jason Wolf, 437 OSS.

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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IN THE NEWS

North Field onboard with new AMC requirements

By Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

North Auxiliary Air Field Runway 05/23 (Assault Runway) underwent changes recently to meet new Air Mobility Command training requirements.

"(On June 6), AMC directed us to train our night vision goggle (pilots) on a 90-foot-wide runway before they could be certified to deploy," said Maj. Tom Griffin, 437th Operations Support Squadron director of operations.

Griffin said there were two options available by which to meet the new AMC requirements at North Field.

"We have the long runway, which is 150 feet wide by 8,000 feet long," said Griffin. "We had the option of

placing temporary infrared lights closer together to make it 90-feet wide or use the Assault Runway which is 90 feet wide by 3,500 feet long.

"What we decided to do to make the training more realistic was to use the assault runway, which is already 90 feet wide," Griffin continued. "To do that, we had to extend the runway to allow for adequate aircraft roll-out safety distance during night vision goggle operations."

The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Horizontal Section was briefed on the new training requirement and the changes that would have to be made to the assault runway.

On June 10, the 437 CES troops mobilized their equipment, and headed for North Field. By the end of the day, the team had made repairs to a closed taxiway at the end of the

assault runway increasing the runway from 3,500 feet to 5,000 feet and installed five tie-down positions for night vision goggle lights.

The runway was available for night vision training by June 11. The wing flew its first night vision goggle training missions on the new assault runway June 13.

C-17 pilots are already trained to land on a 90-foot runway in daylight, but due to a new operational requirement, NVG pilots had to be trained also.

"It's definitely more challenging," said Maj. Dave Siegrist, 437th Operations Group director of staff. "We were originally training (NVG) on a 150-foot runway, but the operational requirement changed. It's now 90 feet, and we wanted to train our crews to ensure aircraft safety,

aircrew safety and user safety. Hence ensuring 'getting the stuff to the fight.' The 90 feet will better ensure our young crews are trained for combat."

Pilots use North Field Runway to train for airdrop, touch and go and assault landing, said Siegrist. Assault landing means pilots have to fly more precisely and touch down in a certain zone.

"Assault landing is landing within 3,500 feet (landing within half the normal length)," Siegrist said. "Currently, all C-17 crews are trained to do them."

Griffin said the new NVG training is an entire Team Charleston effort.

"In addition to the active duty, the 315th Airlift Wing is also contributing to our NVG capability, both at home and on the road," said Griffin.

AMC in Air and Space Expeditionary Force

By Cynthia Bauer
AMC Public Affairs

Air Mobility Command has joined all Air Force major commands in a commitment to the Air and Space Expeditionary Force process.

"AMC is committed to ensuring the Air Force meets its ongoing deployment requirements and the new requirements posed by the Global War on Terrorism," said Lt. Gen. John Baker, AMC vice commander. "We are also committed to the AEF concept, which is to provide greater stability for our airmen and their families, which

is vital to Air Force quality of life."

The general said it's no secret the deployment system has been stressed since 9/11 as the Air Force increased support to combatant commanders in the war on terrorism. This new challenge has strained, but not broken, the expeditionary plan.

The AEF structure helped in developing a cyclic rotation plan that recognized the Air Force could be involved in a major effort such as the global war on terrorism. The structure also helped to objectively identify stressed

career fields that need the most attention. The result of this new global challenge has been felt by airmen in these stressed career fields in several ways, their AEF pair has been deployed sooner than planned, or in some cases those deployed have had to stay longer.

Baker said he and other major command vice commanders met last month with Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Robert Foglesong. He said the vice chief of staff, the Air Force chief of staff, and the secretary of the Air Force are concerned about several issues facing AEF.

More AFSCs released

Air Force personnel officials announced the release of most Air Force specialty codes from Stop-Loss, a Defense Department program designed to retain members of the armed forces beyond established dates of separation or retirement.

This announcement comes as a result of the latest review of AFSCs by the major commands, Air Staff, Air Reserve Component, Secretariat and the Air Force Personnel Center, and applies across the board to both active-duty and Air Reserve Component members, said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon.

The officer career fields remaining on Stop-Loss restrictions are 11S, 12S and 31P.

The enlisted career fields remaining on Stop-Loss restrictions are 1A1X0, 1A1X1, 1C0X0, 1C0X1, 1C0X2, 1C1X0, 1C1X1, 1N0X0, 1N0X1, 1T2X0, 1T2X1, 2F0X0, 2F0X1, 3P0X0 and 3P0X1.

The latest release allows 258 Charleston AFB members to separate between July 1 and Dec. 1, according to Senior Airman Demetria Holman, 437th Mission Support Squadron retirements and separation journeyman. Those retiring with the latest release can pick a date between July 1 and Jan. 1.

Active-duty and ARC members who are deployed in support of ongoing operations or are either voluntarily

or involuntarily on active duty to support ongoing operations will not be released until they return from their deployments or they are demobilized.

"Since Stop-Loss was first implemented, the Air Force's exit plans have called for a gradual drawdown of the number of affected AFSCs," Middleton said. "We have tried to release as many AFSCs as possible after each review."

Stop-Loss was not used as a manning tool, Middleton said. The determining factor was the Air Force's ability to maintain sufficient forces.

Stop-Loss waivers have been and still are available, and may be granted based on specific circumstances. Holman said to complete a waiver, a staff summary sheet, a letter stating the reasons for release and a wing commander's checklist is required.

Holman said the Air Staff will review the remaining AFSCs every 60 days.

"We understand that many people and their families have had to put their plans on hold since Stop-Loss was first implemented," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. "I just want everyone to know that the Air Force and this nation are grateful for your service and the sacrifices you have made to keep us safe from evil."

(AFPN. Staff Sgt. Jason Smith, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Dog gets shot

Army Pfc. Morgan Bryant, Charleston AFB veterinary technician, gives Midnight a rabies shot while her owner, Patty Menges, keeps her calm. All dogs should have a current rabies shots.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Senior Master Sgt. Karl Nichols today, 8 a.m., at the base flag pole. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Garrou at 963-5015.

Retirement: The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Pierce Lawson Wednesday, 1 p.m., at the Community Education Center. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Carla Sharman at 963-4947.

Day off: July 5 has been designated a minimum manning day for active-duty military members. Civilian employees who choose not to work will be authorized liberal leave, subject to their supervisor's approval.

Farewell: Say "goodbye" to Chief Master Sgt. Harvey Hampton, 437th Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant, at a barbecue July 16, 6 p.m., at the Nose Dock. The cost is \$5 for E-1 through E-4, \$7 for E-5 and E-6, and \$10 for E-7 and above. RSVP by July 9 by calling Senior Master Sgt. Matt Harless at 963-8004 or Tech Sgt. Geri Shaffer at 963-5493.

SNCO: There will be a senior NCO induction ceremony July 18, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The dress is semi-formal for military members and

business attire for civilians. The cost is \$18 for club members and \$21 for non-members.

Around the base

Fair: There is a Retiree Appreciation Day and Information Fair Saturday, 8 a.m., at the Charleston Club. The guest speaker will be Rep. Henry Brown. A variety of informational booths will be available. For more information, call the Retiree Activities Program Office at 963-2228.

Closing: The Consignment Shop will close for a summer break today, 2 p.m. The store will reopen Aug. 1. Once it reopens, the shop will resume normal hours; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday 6-8 p.m.; and the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop is located in Bldg. 203 on Graves Avenue.

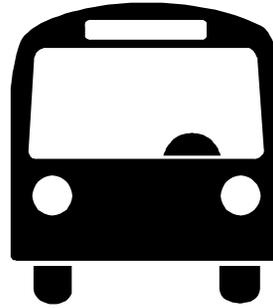
Closing: The 437th Military Personnel Flight, Civilian Personnel Flight, Community Education Center and Family Support Center will close at 11 a.m., today, for a squadron function. For more information, call 963-4510.

Car seats: The Base Clinic is sponsoring a Car Seat Check-Up Tuesday, 4-6 p.m., at Babies 'R Us on Rivers Avenue. Trained technicians will check seat for recalls and correct installation. For more information,

call Tech. Sgt. Janet Clayton at 963-6024, or Trident Area Safe Kids at 792-5327.

Free rides: The Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority is offering free bus

rides to veterans all day Thursday. In addition, any veteran taking the bus to the July 4 Salute to Independence, noon, at Marion Square, will receive a free flag.



Closing: The base housing office will be closed Thursday and July 5. For emergencies, call the fire department at 963-3777.

Parenting: The Base Clinic is offering a free, six-session parenting class. Classes will start July 9 and run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for six consecutive Tuesdays. To register, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6503.

CCOC: Registration for the City Colleges of Chicago Term I runs July 10-Aug. 8. A variety of classes will be offered. For more information, call 552-5959.

Workshop: The Life Skills Support Center is presenting the Build-

ing Your Self-Confidence Workshop, July 10, noon, at the Family Support Center. The workshop will teach methods of developing confidence. To register, call Airman 1st Class Tonita Edney at 963-6852.

Vendor day: The 437th Contracting Squadron is sponsoring the Fourth Annual Purchase Card Vendor Day July 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Various small businesses from the area will have their products on display.

AAHC: The African American Heritage Council is holding a membership drive during June and July. The council will meet July 12 and 24, 11:30 a.m., in the Wings Bar at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Denese Bellamy at 963-2262 or Tech. Sgt. Steven Beasley at 963-5082.

UOP: A representative from the University of Phoenix Online Campus will be available July 15, 11 a.m., at the Community Education Center. Anyone interested in learning about the UOP Online program is welcome. For more information, call 963-4575 or 1-800-366-9699, ext. 6455.

Civilian jobs: The Palace Acquire Intern Program open season for outstanding scholars is July 15-Aug. 2. Students with at least a 3.45 grade point average who are looking for a government job can apply through the program during this time. For more information, go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cp/recruit.

Family Support Center

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

Home Buying Workshop: July 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: July 3, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and July 17, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Educational Opportunities Counseling: July 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Deployment for Children and Parents: July 10, 1-2:30 p.m.

Newcomers Tour: July 11 and 18, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

Investing A-Z Part I: July 12, 1-4 p.m.

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

Car Buying Workshop: July 16, 1-3 p.m.

Investing A-Z Part II: July 19, 8-11 a.m.

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

Positive Attitude: July 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

Smooth Move Workshop: July 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 Warrior of the Week

Airman 1st Class Brandy Skooflas 437th Security Forces Squadron

Airman 1st Class Brandy Skooflas is an installation entry controller for the 437th Security Forces Squadron.

Day-to-day, Skooflas works at one of Charleston AFB's gates or on the flightline. While she enjoys homeland security work, Skooflas said deployments are her favorite part of the security forces career field.

"I deployed Sept. 21 for 45 days, and then again in January for 35 days," said Skooflas. "I like the experience and learning all the things that go into building a base. To me, one of the most beautiful sites is seeing a base built up; taking an area where there was nothing and putting up an operational base."

Loving the job is important to Skooflas, and she said being a security forces member makes her happy.

"When I wake up, I'm excited about going to work," Skooflas said. "Being happy to go to work is a great feeling."

Off duty, Skooflas said she's working to finish her Career Development Course material so she can take her end-of-course test. She's also preparing to start taking college courses in her free time. She hopes to earn her Community College of the Air Force degree and then start working toward a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Skooflas, who has been in the Air Force for almost two years, is married to Senior Airman James Skooflas, a crew chief for the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron. The Pittsburgh natives have two dogs and enjoy the time they get to spend together. During football season, they are fanatics about watching, or going to when possible, Steeler games.

"I love all the Pittsburgh teams," said Skooflas. "Steelers, Penguins, Pirates ... I bleed black and gold."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Smith

CAFB taking care of busy parents

Many Air Force people are working longer hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Those who have to work beyond the normal duty day can rely on the Air Force to ensure the youngest members of their families have adequate care.

Care is available for Charleston AFB parents who need care beyond their usual requirements. This care is provided free of charge in contracted family child care homes on base.

"The Air Force Family Child Care program plays a significant role in supporting mission readiness and increasing the retention rate of airmen," said Beverly Houston, Air Force Services at the Pentagon. "One of the hallmarks of the FCC system is its ability to tailor care to the unique needs of the children and their families. With people working longer hours during these times of increased ops tempo and unstable shifts, a definite need arose to provide quality childcare for these families."

The CAFB FCC program is pre-

pared to assist families affected by increased operations.

"CAFB has two contracted child care providers who are available outside normal working hours, seven days a week," said Sherian Vickers, CAFB FCC Coordinator. "They are certified and licensed, and also offer regular daycare services."

To be eligible, at least one parent must be active-duty military (Air Force Reserve or Guard on active duty) or Department of Defense civilian employee.

Vickers said the popularity of the FCC program is evidence of Team Charleston's increased ops tempo.

"The program has definitely seen an increase in use

since September," said Vickers.

"If a child is on base, then our extended hour providers will pick him up," Vickers continued. "Otherwise, it is the parent's responsibility to drop off his child."

For more information about the program, call Vickers at 767-2134.

(AMCNS. Jennifer Turner, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)

- Obtain letter from supervisor stating that work extends beyond the standard 40-hour work week or may experience temporary shift changes
- Identify anticipated needs for Extended Child Care to the FCC coordinator
- Arrange an interview with the FCC coordinator or their designee to discuss childcare needs, provider qualification and program procedures
- Pick up required forms from the FCC Coordinator's office, Child Development Center or FCC Home if these are not already on file at the CDC, School Age Program, or another FCC home
- Visit the homes of the care provider where your child may receive care with your child
- Contact the FCC coordinator in case of short-notice requirements during the week to make a reservation for the days and times care is needed; contact the specially designated FCC provider for short notice care on weekends

FAMILY

continued from page 1

said the first sergeant will get involved.

"The first sergeant is the final step in the process," Connor said. "Once the shirt is notified that a family needs something, he will get in touch with the respective flight commander. In turn, the flight will send another member to the house and make sure things are squared away."

A much smaller unit than aerial port, the 437 AW Legal Office, has a less formal system in place for taking care of its families.

"We don't have a need for a formal system," said Master Sgt. Kenneth King, 437 AW Legal Office. "We have less than 20 people working in our office. We make sure we take care of each other."

King said generally, enlisted members help with the families of deployed enlisted members, and officers do the same for each other. That doesn't necessarily mean an enlisted member won't help

the family of a deployed officer.

"Someone in the office will take care of what needs done," King said. "We all work too close with each other to not care for each other. Besides that, it's the right thing to do."

While individual units handle certain needs families have, other needs are met by the Family Support Center. The center has numerous support programs in place to make the time away a little smoother.

Master Sgt. Ken Gilmore, Family Support Center Family Readiness, named programs such as the Sip 'n Chat, Car Care Because We Care and Hearts Apart, as ways the FSC is helping ease deployment time.

Even if the FSC doesn't have a specific program to meet a person's needs, Gilmore said they have a great referral system for just about anything a family member could need.

For more information about any of the FSC's programs, call 963-4406.

Around the Air Force news briefs

New department targets terrorism

Preventing future terrorist attacks will be the No. 1 priority of the new Department of Homeland Security proposed by President Bush.

White House Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge outlined the goals of the proposed new cabinet department during testimony today before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. He said the current patchwork of activities related to homeland security would transform as members of a single, integrated department. **(AFPS)**

Air Force seeks civilians with skills

The Air Force offers excellent pay, great travel opportunities and outstanding benefits for individuals who possess certain skills and want to be a part of its civilian work force.

"As a civilian in the Air Force, you

are afforded exciting opportunities to excel through personal and professional growth," said Hong Miller, Recruitment Unit and Pacific Air Forces Command operations chief. Go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil for more information. **(AFPC)**

AEF cycles remain unchanged

The air and space expeditionary force concept was a major topic of discussion at the recent Corona meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., most notably on the lengths and numbers of existing AEF deployments.

Bottom line — the current AEF deployment alignment will remain the same, said the special assistant to the vice chief of staff for AEFs. This means 10 AEFs divided into five pairs, with 90-day temporary duty assignments for a 15-month total cycle length. **(AFPN)**

COMMISSARY

continued from page 1

"Food is restocked daily, so it is as fresh as possible."

Williams said there will be many modern additions to the new Commissary.

"There should be a deli and bakery combination, and a bistro in the front of the store," Williams said. "Bank of America will continue to have a place in the store."

Construction will be done on the areas around the Commissary site also, said Williams.

"This year we will do construction on North O'Neal avenue behind the

store," Williams said. "We will also do construction on the road by the shoppette to make a new entrance to the Commissary."

If anyone has questions, Williams said there are many avenues to get answers.

"The wing stand-up and the Commissary focus groups get updates about the Commissary progress on a regular basis," said Williams.

Lail said anyone with construction questions can also contact him.

"Send any questions through your first sergeant or the focus groups to get quicker answers," said Lail. "I always have an open door policy for questions."

Combat Camera Photo of the Week

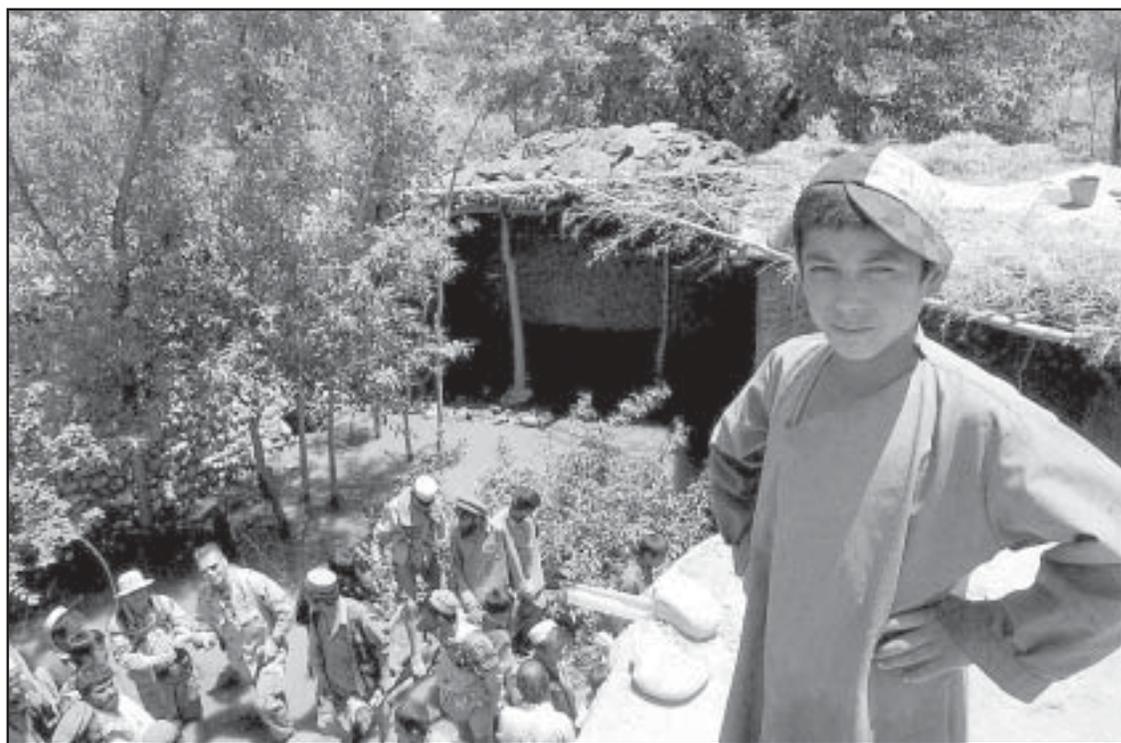


Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky A. Bloom, 1 CTCS

On top of the flood

An Afghani boy poses for the camera above a compound while U.S. Army soldiers from the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, Knoxville, Tenn., talk with local Afghans about flooding of the Panther River on June 2. This was in the Sayate District outside of Bagram AB, Afghanistan, where 489 CAB personnel, along with locals and translators, surveyed the damage done to crops and houses by the river. The area will be considered for disaster relief.

FEATURE

'Bad boys,' are you going to run?

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

"Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha goin' do when they come for you?"

Well, if it's Charleston AFB, and the 437th Security Forces Squadron's military working dogs are chasing after the person, they better not run.

"Our MWDs provide narcotic and explosive detection, as well as law enforcement capabilities," said Staff Sgt. Toby McKnight, 437 SFS MWD trainer. "We have explosive and narcotic dogs. Each dog has their own separate role."

Similar to Air Force enlisted members, MWDs must also go through basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, said McKnight.

"All of the MWDs that are acquired by the Department of Defense must go through initial training at Lackland," said McKnight. "Lackland buys the dogs as early as when they are six months to one year old. There's no prerequisite, they just find dogs with outstanding potential and capabilities."

"Once they are certified at Lackland, they are sent to their base," continued McKnight. "My job as a trainer is to cater that dog's abilities to CAFB's operational needs."

Currently, seven dogs find their safe haven in the K-9 kennel. CAFB's breeds run from Dutch shepherds to German shepherds to Belgium malinois. There's even a yellow Labrador retriever in the mix.

MWDs get deployed with their handlers and one CAFB MWD is currently deployed to Southwest Asia, said McKnight.

"Overseas, they have the same role with detecting narcotics and explosives," continued McKnight.

The opportunities for different jobs are endless.

"We also provide explosive detection for the Secret Service," McKnight said. "A handler just got back from a Secret Service mission when the president was at Columbia, S.C. We go whenever they call."

The CAFB MWDs have even been involved in some of the world's crucial events.

"On 9/11, Bingki and his handler, Staff Sgt. Scott Shafer (437 SFS MDW handler), were on a Secret Service mission in one of the World Trade Center towers (Bldg. 7) in New York City," said McKnight. "They stayed there to assist at the towers."

"A few years ago, two handlers and their dogs were in Athens, Greece, when the riots broke out," continued

McKnight.

Training is a vital part of the K-9 unit, said McKnight.

"We're trained in almost every building on base," said McKnight. "This limits variables with the dog team. The dog knows where he is going to perform."

The MWDs also train with the local community canines, such as Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Summerville Police Department, Dorchester County Sheriff's Office and Charleston City Police Department.

"The biggest thing going on now is training with the local K-9 teams," said McKnight. "We do community training, and we benefit from the experiences. We do patrol work and work on apprehending suspects, both cooperative and uncooperative ones."

"We set up training aids, such as real explosives, and task the dogs to find them," continued McKnight. "We also train them with narcotics. Dogs are tasked

to find them within the training area."

McKnight said working with the local police departments and sheriffs' offices pays off.

"We are gaining valuable experience in the police aspect and expanding the abilities of the K-9 team," said McKnight.

Training in different areas adds to the K-9 unit's experience.

"We train on base and off base," McKnight said. "It's very beneficial to train off base with the local police because the dogs are exposed to new environments."

The handlers work with the dog to keep

Team Charleston safe, said Shafer.

"As a handler, I utilize the dog to protect government resources, personnel and property," Shafer said.

Obedience is a critical aspect of the handler's relationship with the dog.

"The biggest work is obedience," said Shafer. "To the dogs, work looks like a game. You have to spend lots of time with them and must find whatever

the dog likes to make it happy and to get him to perform. If the dog has fun, you'll progress leaps and bounds in training."

MWD handlers are seasoned security forces members, said McKnight.

"The Air Force requires workers to work in the field prior to submitting an application to be a K-9 handler," said McKnight. "All security forces members must have experience prior to working with a dog."

As a crucial element of the security forces team, the MWDs earn their keep by protecting Team Charleston.

"To the dogs, work looks like a game. You have to spend lots of time with them and must find whatever the dog likes to make it happy and to get him to perform. If the dog has fun, you'll progress leaps and bounds in training."

-- Staff Sgt. Scott Shafer
437 SFS MWD handler



Staff Sgt. Toby McKnight, 437th Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer, guides Ringo over the ramp. The ramp is part of the obedience course at the 437 SFS MWD kennels.



Ringo, a military working dog, completes the crawl tunnels at the kennel.



Staff Sgt. Scott Shafer, 437th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, allows Bingki to play with his favorite toy for accomplishing taskings.

COMMENTARY

Lessons to be learned from senior airman who gave life

By Senior Airman Jerry Yarrington
437 TRANS

You are sitting in a room with your comrades in arms. Look to the left and right of you. Are you willing to give your life so that these men may live?

I am going to tell you about a man, Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, who exemplified the Air Force core value service before self, including the circumstances that he was involved in, and how and why he is a hero. It is easy to practice the Air Force core value service before self in the day-to-day situations that we operate in. However, it is a true test of an Airman's belief in this core value when he is thrown into a situation that you and I could not imagine.

The first thing an airman asks when going into a potentially dangerous situation is "how bad is it out there." This is a basic survival question. We humans have a split second to decide in that fateful moment whether to fight or flee. Cunningham could not fathom the latter. A pararescueman for just over one

year, he was at the top of his game both physically and mentally. His first look at war, Cunningham was part of an elite Air Force unit that provides combat search and rescue. He had been in Afghanistan for just a month. However, this fact did not deter Cunningham from performing his mission to the utmost of his ability.

According to Brig. Gen. John Rosa Jr., "A two-helicopter team had been ferrying in reconnaissance troops south of the town of Gardez when one was hit by enemy fire."

Notification that a group of soldiers were pinned down by heavy machine-gun and rocket fire on a mountain slope soon reached the search and rescue unit. Assistance was dispatched to the scene immediately. Unfortunately, the helicopter that was sent in to assist was shot down.

Cunningham and crew were called to duty. They knew that there was a good chance that they would be shot down as well. They went anyway.

Cunningham and fellow special forces members boarded an MH-

47 Chinook helicopter and headed for the Afghan mountains. Maj. Vincent Savino, Cunningham's commander at Moody AFB, Ga., said, "They went in under heavy machine-gun fire. The helicopter was hit and crash-landed."

Despite the crash, Cunningham did not lose sight of his mission, as a pararescueman, to save lives.

"Cunningham immediately provided medical treatment to the injured, and over the next several hours he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as he moved the injured Americans to safer locations," said Savino.

These selfless acts define what it is to be a hero. This man, Jason Cunningham, who bleeds the same as you and I, repeatedly put his own life in grave danger in order to save the lives of his brothers in arms. Not only did Cunningham die for his country and his brothers in arms while performing beyond the duty of a pararescueman, but he also would not have changed a thing about that fateful day.

According to his father, Larry Cunningham, "Jason died doing

what he liked to do, save lives."

Cunningham's entire life revolved around saving lives. He was quoted in Airman's magazine in the October 2000 issue as saying, "I didn't want to kill people . . . I wanted to save them."

The need to save lives is what makes Cunningham such a great loss to the human race, to the U.S. Air Force, and to the pararescuemen that survive him. It is rare that an airman is so dedicated to doing his job that he does not hesitate to give his life so that others may live. The actions that Cunningham demonstrated while under intense circumstances and in the face of great severe consequences exceed the Air Force's definition of service before self. Cunningham's willingness to lay his life on the line exhibits a unique, real-world example of service before self in action.

The next time you are in a room full of your comrades in arms look around the room and ask yourself if you are willing to make the same sacrifice for these men that Cunningham made for his brothers in arms.

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. 217 (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.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

***"The New Guy"* – DJ Quall**

After a few years of being the uncool kid, Gill, a high school student, gets himself expelled and ends up in prison. While in prison, his cellmate gives him some tips on remaking his image so he can start over at a new school. **(PG-13) 88 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

***"About a Boy"* – Hugh Grant**

Will, a 36-year-old London playboy, seeks out relationships with single mothers because he thinks they're more desperate to find a man. All his plans go out the window because he becomes emotionally attached to a woman's 12-year-old son. **(PG-13) 101 minutes**

July 5, 7:30 p.m.

***"Enough"* – Jennifer Lopez**

Slim, an abused woman, discovers that Mitch, the dream man she married, wasn't who she thought he was. She and Grace, her daughter, try to escape, but he pursues relentlessly. She decides that there's only one way out of the marriage. **(PG-13) 115 minutes**

July 6, 7:30 p.m.

***"Insomnia"* – Al Pacino**

Fitness & Sports

Hurricanes win way into third-spot tie with 5-4 victory

By Staff Sgt. Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston AFB Hurricanes ice hockey team skated to a 5-4 victory over T.R. Mulligan's Gladiators Sunday at the Carolina Ice Palace.

With the victory, the Hurricanes move into a tie with the Gladiators for third place overall in the league.

The game had all the makings of a scrum due to the check-style game the two teams played in their last meeting. When the teams met May 19, five players were ejected, and a suspension was handed out.

Prior to Sunday's game, Karl Nichols, Hurricanes player/coach, sold his team on the concept of not retaliating when fouled by the opponents. Nichols said the man advantage they would receive for the other team's penalties would have a greater payoff than the personal satisfaction of retribution.

The Hurricanes followed their coach's advice.

At the end of the game, the Hurricanes had six penalty minutes, as compared to 21 against the Gladiators.

Jonathan Connor, Hurricane's captain, reminded the team to play smart just before taking the ice.

"Let's play clean hockey," said Connor in the locker room. "We took some stupid penalties that really hurt us last time. If someone hits you, take it for the team. Get up, brush it off, and get yourself a goal with the man advantage."

The Gladiators drew first blood in the game, and went ahead 1-0 early in the first period. It didn't take Hurricane's back-up net minder Mike Helm long to dig in, as he held the Gladiators scoreless from early in the first until late into the third.

While Helm was doing his best Patrick Roy imitation in net, the Hurricane's offense was lighting up the scoreboard. John Matecki led the team with two goals. Also scoring were



Brian Jones, 22, and Rob McCormick, 24, prepare to battle for a face off.

Connor, Nichols and Brian Jones.

With about six minutes left in the third, the Gladiators started sending their defensemen to the net with their forwards, creating a barrage of pucks in front of Helm. Within a three-minute timeframe, the Gladiators knocked in three shots to bring the game within one.

The Hurricanes called a timeout to regroup. Nichols fired up the troops and got the 'Canes first line ready to hold off the Gladiators non-stop attack.

"What is wrong out there," screamed Nichols. "Air Force, get your heads in the game. You're better than this. Dig deep. Play like we're down by two. Take it to these guys like you want to win. Let's finish this thing now!"

The time out worked as the 'Canes held off the Gladiators and even managed to create a scoring opportunity or two of their own.

The win puts the Air Force team in a position no one but the players thought they would be in; a spot for a playoff birth. The top three teams in the league will make the playoffs at the end of the season, and with five games left, the 'Canes are tied for the third spot.

"This is a team that has improved immensely," said Nichols. "We're passing well, getting our fundamentals down and above all, working hard. I expect us to be the team to beat as the season draws to a close."

The Hurricanes next game is Sunday, 9:45 p.m., at the Carolina Ice Palace against the league-leading Saints. Admission is free.



Photos by Master Sgt. Dan Murphy

The referee signals "goal" after John Matecki, 68, put the puck past Gladiators goalie Nate Gottsch.

HAWC offers healthy programs for CAFB: From quitting smoking to losing weight, HAWC has ways to help

By Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

The Health and Wellness Center is available to make Team Charleston healthy.

"We offer a wide variety of classes from weight loss to diabetes to fitness and more," said Capt. Williams Reynolds, HAWC commander.

One course offered at the HAWC targets smokers who want to kick the habit.

Tobacco Cessation is a five-week program to help people quit smoking.

"In 2001, we put through 166 students and the quit rate was 29.6 percent, nearly 20 percentage points over the national average,"

Reynolds said. "We have a very good quit rate and we've been working on our program to get higher quit rates. We offer Zyban (a pill to reduce cravings) and nicotine replacement therapy."

The HAWC offers two different weight-loss programs.

"Sensible Weigh is mandatory for all members on the weight and

Tobacco Cessation: Five weeks, Tuesdays, noon, or Thursdays, 5 p.m., 25 students maximum

Sensible Weigh: Four weeks, Tuesdays, 9 a.m., two hours long, open to everyone

LEARN: 16 weeks, Wednesdays, noon, or Mondays, 6 p.m., (canceled during summer), open to everyone

Cholesterol Class: Fourth Wednesday of the month, 9-11 a.m., open to everyone

Fitness 101: Call 963-4007 for class dates and times

Resistance Training: Third Thursday of the month, 1:30-3:30 p.m., open to everyone

Relaxation room: Open during duty hours, first come, first serve, stay in 30 minutes or 15 if someone is waiting

body fat management program, but anyone can attend the course," said Reynolds.

"The other program is the Lifestyle, Exercise, Attitudes, Relationships and Nutrition, or LEARN, Program," Reynolds continued. "It's 16 weeks long, but people are not required to

come to all 16 classes." The HAWC can also help lower cholesterol.

"The cholesterol class is a one-time class that teaches cholesterol reduction techniques and exercise tips," Reynolds said.

The HAWC also offers two classes aimed at improving fitness habits for all Team Charleston members.

The HAWC also offers stress management techniques.

"One way to reduce stress is to spend time in our relaxation room," Reynolds said.

The HAWC promotes health for all Team Charleston.

"The main focus of the HAWC is to help people make lifestyle choices that will benefit them and their families," said Reynolds.

For more information, or to sign up, call the HAWC at 963-4007.