

# AIRLIFT Dispatch

Vol. 42, No. 50

437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, December 19, 2003



*Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amy Perry*

## Air-tree

Master Sgt. Roberta Kithcart, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron Dining Facility manager, places an aircraft on an "Air Force" Christmas tree located in the base dining facility. South Carolina natives Vince and Nancy Massi temporarily loaned the tree and more than 100 Air Force-themed decorations on behalf of their son, Senior Airman John Massi, who is assigned to Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C. The tree will be on display until Dec. 29.

## WINTER FUN

CAFB gives holiday cheer to Charleston kids

Page 6

## FIRE

Team Charleston steps in to help airmen in need

Page 14

**Happy Holidays, Team Charleston! Enjoy Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 as down days!**

**Team Charleston: One family, one mission, one fight!**

## COMMENTARY

# Commander's Comments

By Col. Rowayne Schatz  
437AW vice commander

Season's Greetings, Charleston Warriors! I am excited to be here and look forward to joining Team Charleston in providing essential support to the global war on terrorism. I encourage each and every one of you to spend quality time with loved ones through the holiday season, and reflect on the important things in our lives.

The holidays are a time for rejuvenating and refocusing our minds to prepare for another year of hard work. As Charleston warriors, we accept the challenge of high operations tempo and continued successful mission accomplishment in 2004!

### AMC Award Winners

Congratulations to our newest award winners. **Tech. Sgt. Carlos Wade**, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, won Safety NCO of the Year award, and **Bruce Hall**, 437<sup>th</sup> Contracting Squadron, won the Outstanding Civilian in Contracting Award for GS-12 and above. The **Contracting Squadron** won the Outstanding Contracting Unit award. Charleston AFB also won the AMC Distinguished Flying Unit Safety Award.

### More winners

Congratulations also goes out to our other award winners. **Capt. Harmon Lewis**, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, received the academic excellence award, best thesis paper award and the first-ever C-17 Weapons Instructors Course Distinguished Graduate award at the Air Mobility Warfare Center. At the recent NCO Academy graduation, **Tech. Sgt. Richard Jennings**, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, earned the John L. Levitow award, and **Tech. Sgt. Will Brown**, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, earned the Distinguished Graduate award.

### Winter Wonderland

Thanks to **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Shaloma McGovern**, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs, for coordinating Operation Winter Wonderland and to the 80 volunteers who participated in this generous event on Dec. 13. It truly shows our commitment to surrounding communities when we take time out of our busy schedules to bring joy and love to underprivileged children, especially during the holiday season!

### Jingle Jog/Toys for Tots Run

Let's run into the holiday season with the Jingle Jog today in front of the Fitness Center. Please arrive at 11 a.m. so we can promptly

start the run at 11:30 a.m. We had a great showing at the Turkey Trot, and I encourage the same participation today!

### Holiday Safety

When buying gifts for children, follow the recommended age ranges on toy packages. Be careful of holiday gift wrapping, like bags, paper, ribbons or bows. They can pose suffocation and choking hazards to small children. If you buy board games, be careful with the toy parts. According to government regulations, children under age three should not be given parts less than 1.25 inches in diameter and 2.25 inches long. Have fun, but be safe!

Holiday travel is upon us as we look forward to visiting families and friends. It is important to remember to buckle up and drive carefully. If you are traveling long distances, take frequent breaks and do most of your driving during the day time.

Finally, if you plan to drink during the holidays, have a designated driver! Smart choices like designating a driver or calling a cab can prevent unnecessary mishaps. Be responsible and plan ahead.



Col. Rowayne Schatz, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander, began his duties Monday, and is scheduled to take over the wing Monday.

### Corrections

■ In the Dec. 12 edition of the *Airlift Dispatch*, in the list of Airman Leadership School graduates for Class 04-A, Senior Airman Alexander Puma, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, was not listed. He was a distinguished graduate and received the Academic Achievement Award.

The Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston AFB 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](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil).

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

## Dispatch

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### Deadlines

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Mail to: 437 AW PAI, 102 East Hill Blvd. Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154  
E-mail to: [dispatch@charleston.af.mil](mailto:dispatch@charleston.af.mil)

### Editorial staff

437 AW Commander: **Col. Brooks Bash**  
Chief, Public Affairs: **Maj. Linda Pepin**  
Chief, Internal Information: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bryan Lewis**  
Editor: **Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amy Perry**  
Staff writer: **Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stephanie Hammer**  
Photo support provided by 437 CS Visual Information:  
**Staff Sgt. Corey Clements**  
**Senior Airman Tyrone Pearsall**  
**Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jason Bailey**  
**Andre Bullard**

# Unsung heroes are all around us

By **Lt. Col. Daniel Flynn**  
437<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron

During World War I, Katie Gordon sent a letter to one of her three sons on his way to Europe. Her letter gives us a glimpse into one mother's reluctance to see a son go off to battle, yet exemplifies the pride for those who serve an honorable purpose.

"I keep thinking what a different world it will be to mothers; when you all come marching home again! And when you do come marching home, old fellow, bring me back the same boy I gave my country — true, clean, gentle and brave."

The heartfelt words of Mrs. Gordon, expressed during a time when many sons were sent to fight a war against an evil empire, represent the greatness of those left behind — the families who are willing to sacrifice for the good of our nation.

Today, as in wars of yesteryear, the fathers, mothers, husbands, wives and children of those sent to war stand as pillars of strength, continuing a long-standing tradition of unselfish service to our country. For these unsung heroes are the beacons of sacrifice, courage and service who overcome the adversity of separation, yet understand their support is critical to the success of our men and women who wage war to defend freedom. They willingly accept their measure of service won't be a parade or medal but instead, the pride of being part of something bigger than them-

## worth repeating

"If you are looking for an unsung hero, just look to your left and right ... they are all around us."



—Lt. Col. Daniel Flynn  
437<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron commander

selves; a higher calling. Each has his or her personal story to tell.

While it might not include scenes of living in tents, or flying into combat zones, or even running for cover from gunfire; it does include the inherent hardships of carrying on life without the spirit of a wholeness, an intangible concept difficult to define, but necessary for a family. These unsung heroes persevere through the storms of difficulty, displaying a tenacious strength of will, relieving their warriors of worry so they can stay focused on their mission.

What is it that makes our families who stay behind so willing and quick to sacrifice their needs for a greater good, living a life most would renounce or reject? I would argue it is their strength of character. It is their deep belief that advancing the cause of freedom and protection of America is an honorable purpose and knowing their role as part of the military family serves that purpose. Their

strength of character shows that none of us acting alone can achieve success, and that it is impossible to carry the heavy burdens of responsibility without their help and support.

The character of these unsung heroes is personified every day through common actions many take for granted. It is seen on the flightline by a wife and children as her husband and their father departs to unknown lands for unknown periods of time. She stands as a symbol of strength for her children, reassuring them that all is well, although her tear-filled eyes secretly hide her fear of separation, but display her pride for his sacrifice. It is seen as a husband kneels with his children in prayer at bedtime while answering young eyes inquiring why mommy isn't there. It is seen when there is a knock on the door and when a concerned group delivers food, advice and prayer in an effort to share the burden of sacrifice.

Finally, it is seen by those who endure the ultimate sacrifice, never forgetting, but never failing to be faithful in supporting the price of freedom. Each shares in a common thread of hope and faith for his family, displaying an unrivaled courage many will never understand.

Perhaps Walt Whitman sums it up best: "It takes struggles in life to make strength; it takes fight for principles to make fortitude; it takes crisis to give courage and singleness of purpose to reach an objective." If you are looking for an unsung hero, just look to your left and right ... they are all around us.

## Charleston chat

### What are your plans for the 2004 holiday season?



"We celebrate Chanuka with the lighting of the menorah by saying blessings."

— Capt. Caryn Kirkpatrick  
437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group



"I celebrate with my family with a traditional meal and watch my children open all their gifts."

— Tech. Sgt. Caroline Deal  
437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



"We attend church services and celebrate with family and friends."

— Ted Beaver  
437<sup>th</sup> Operation Support Squadron



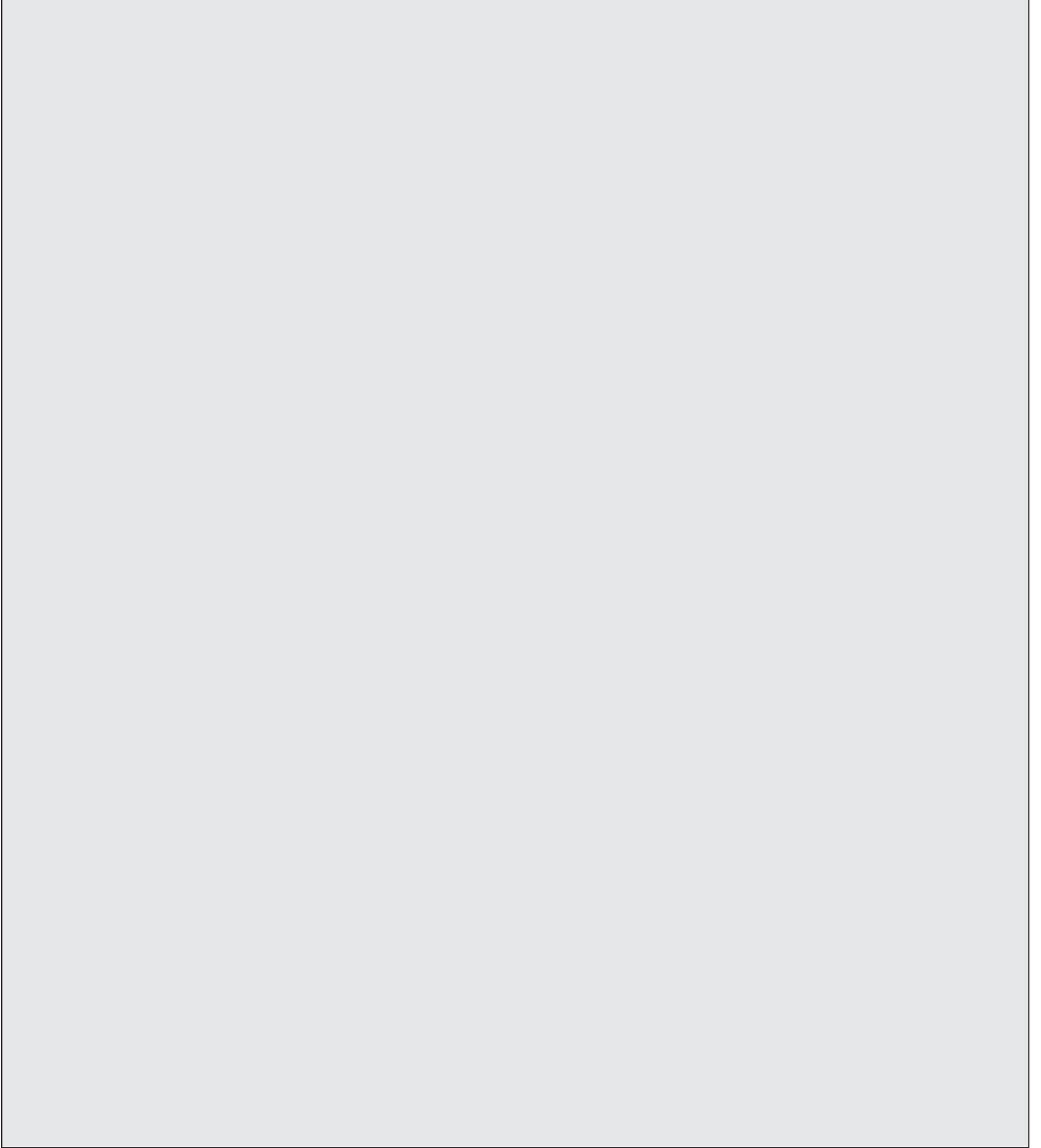
"I am going to celebrate the season with my husband, who is usually deployed."

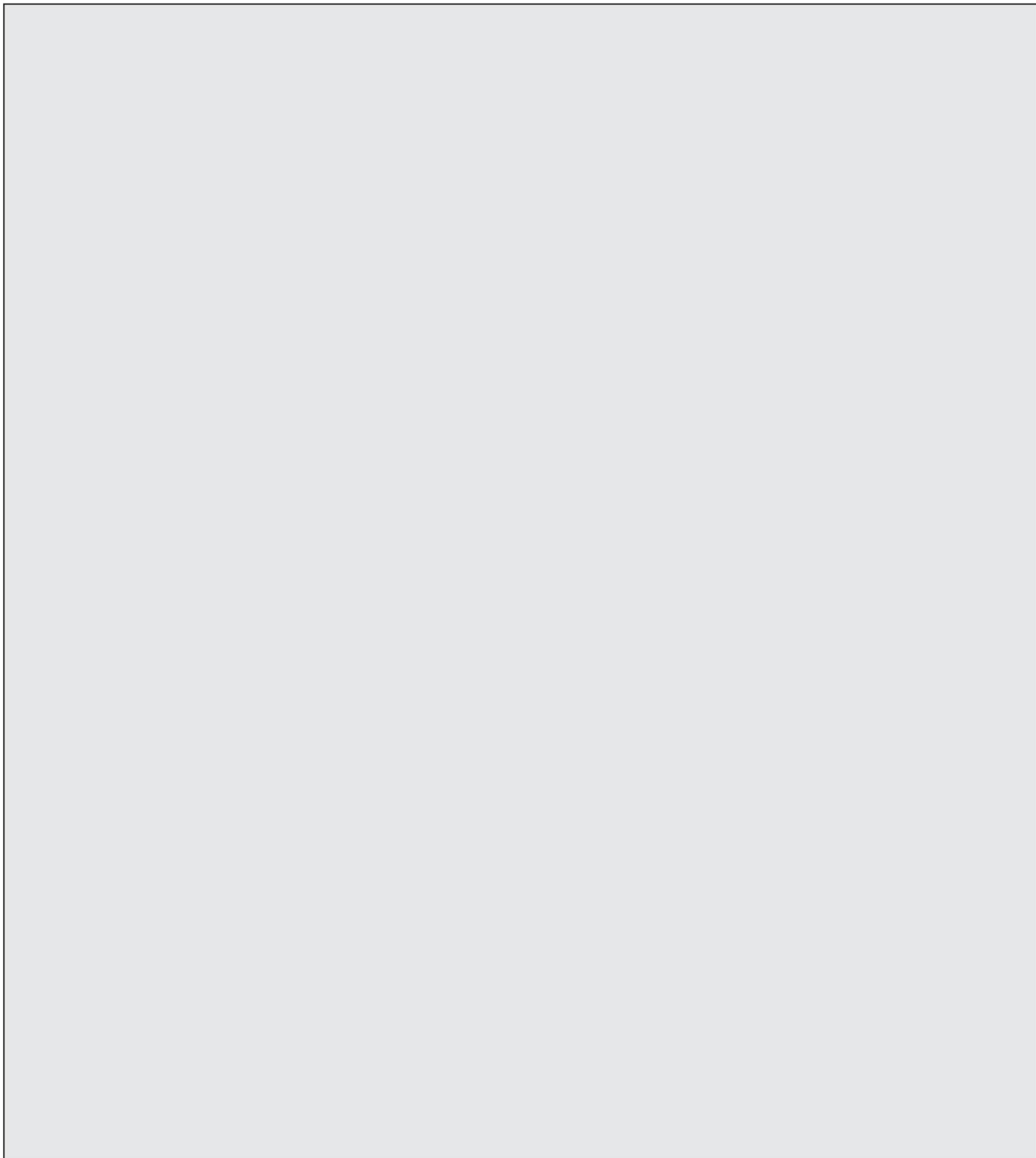
—Senior Airman Ana Costales  
437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



"I make it a point to get the family together for quality time."

— Staff Sgt. Lori Metcalf  
437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron





## NEWS

# Op Winter Wonderland makes kids holidays brighter



By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Shaloma McGovern  
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston airmen teamed up with local Marines to give more than 150 underprivileged children from Charleston and Berkeley county department of social services a Christmas party they will never forget.

The airmen and Marine volunteers spent several hours Saturday distributing gifts donated by Toys for Tots and organizing crafts and games for the Charleston community.

They set up and decorated a maintenance hangar prior to the children arriving for the event.

"We have spent the last three months planning this event," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Shawn Stermer, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron and Operation Winter Wonderland assistant coordinator. "We received overwhelming support from the base and local community for this event. It is a great privilege to be able to make this season brighter for so many children."

The children were able to meet Santa and receive a gift donated by Toys for Tots, decorate ornaments, snow flakes, cookies and gingerbread houses. Other events included a jumping castle, story time and decorating the Christmas tree.

*Photos by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jason Bailey*

Santa's helper, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mike King, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, listens carefully to one of the children at Operation Winter Wonderland. OWW was set up to give the Charleston area Department of Social Services' children Christmas.



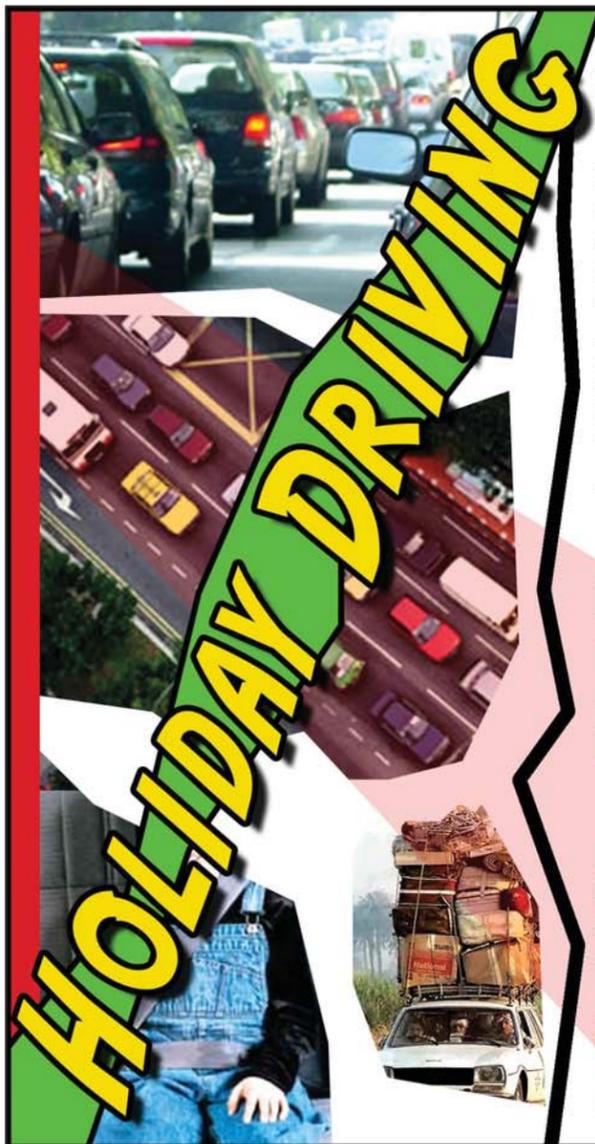
Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Erika Wagner, 437<sup>th</sup> Comptroller Squadron, gives a child a candy cane at Operation Winter Wonderland.



Second Lt. Sean Heup, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, helps a child decorate cookies.



Master Sgt. Elizabeth Rullmann, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, peeks at the jumping castle Saturday at Winter Wonderland.



# HOLIDAY DRIVING

Driving during the holidays doesn't have to be stressful or dangerous. By planning ahead, packing and preparing properly, and allowing plenty of time for long trips you can help ensure your safety on the road.

**Vehicle Preparation and Packing.** Have your vehicle checked before traveling. Many garages offer safety checks for tire tread and pressure, lights, brakes, cooling systems and other components. Make sure everything is securely stowed when you pack your vehicle. Even small objects can become dangerous missiles in the event of a sudden stop or a crash. If you're towing a trailer or caravan, load heavy objects evenly over all of the axles.

**Buckle Up.** Too many family holidays are marred by tragedy when a crash occurs and people aren't properly restrained. It's the driver's responsibility to make sure that all passengers are wearing safety belts. The law requires children to be restrained in approved child seats suitable to their size and weight.

There are some simple ways to avoid fatigue and improve your alertness:

- plenty of sleep before your journey
- try to drive at times of the day when you are normally awake
- plan for rest breaks every couple of hours
- get out of your vehicle and take a short walk or do some other exercise to get your blood flowing and improve alertness
- if you feel tired, take a short nap (less than 40 minutes)
- if possible, share the driving
- cool air will keep you more alert and will help avoid frustration and stress, which is a major cause of fatigue. Make sure your air conditioning is set to the "fresh air" mode

**Share the Road.** Traffic volumes increase significantly during the holidays. You will have to share the road with other cars, as well as heavy trucks, buses, campervans and vehicles towing boats or caravans. Keep a safe following distance between yourself and the vehicle in front of you. This gives you a safe stopping distance should the vehicle in front of you stop suddenly.

**Keep your Cool.** Driving can be a frustrating experience at the best of times. Add in busy roads and stifling heat and your patience can evaporate very quickly. For safety's sake don't let that happen.

Be courteous – let others merge into traffic and use your indicators before turning or changing lanes.

Graphic by Sean Erbe

## Christmas and New Year's holiday hours

■ **Charleston Club:** pizza and Lowcountry Car only Monday through Jan. 2, closed Wednesday through Dec. 26, open for New Year's Eve party at 5 p.m. Dec. 31 and closed Jan. 1

■ **Child Development Center and Youth Center:** closed Thursday, Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2

■ **Dining facility:** open 11 a.m - 2 p.m., 4 - 6 p.m. Thursday

■ **Fitness & Sport Center:** open 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, closed Dec. 25, open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 26, open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31 and open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 1

■ **Golf:** closed Thursday

■ **Starlifter Lanes Bowling Alley:** open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, closed

Thursday, open 1 to 10 p.m. Dec. 26, open 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Dec. 31, and closed Jan. 1

■ **Youth Center:** open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, closed Thursday, closed Dec. 26, closed Jan. 1 and Jan. 2

■ **Outdoor Recreation:** closed Wednesday through Dec. 28, closed Dec. 31 through Jan. 4

■ **Civil Engineer Squadron:** Fire department and standby personnel only

■ **Mission Support Squadron:** closed Thursday, Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2, call 412-5646 for emergencies

■ **Logistics Readiness Squadron:** closed Thursday, Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2 except for aircraft parts store, vehicle dispatch, fuels management, and truck

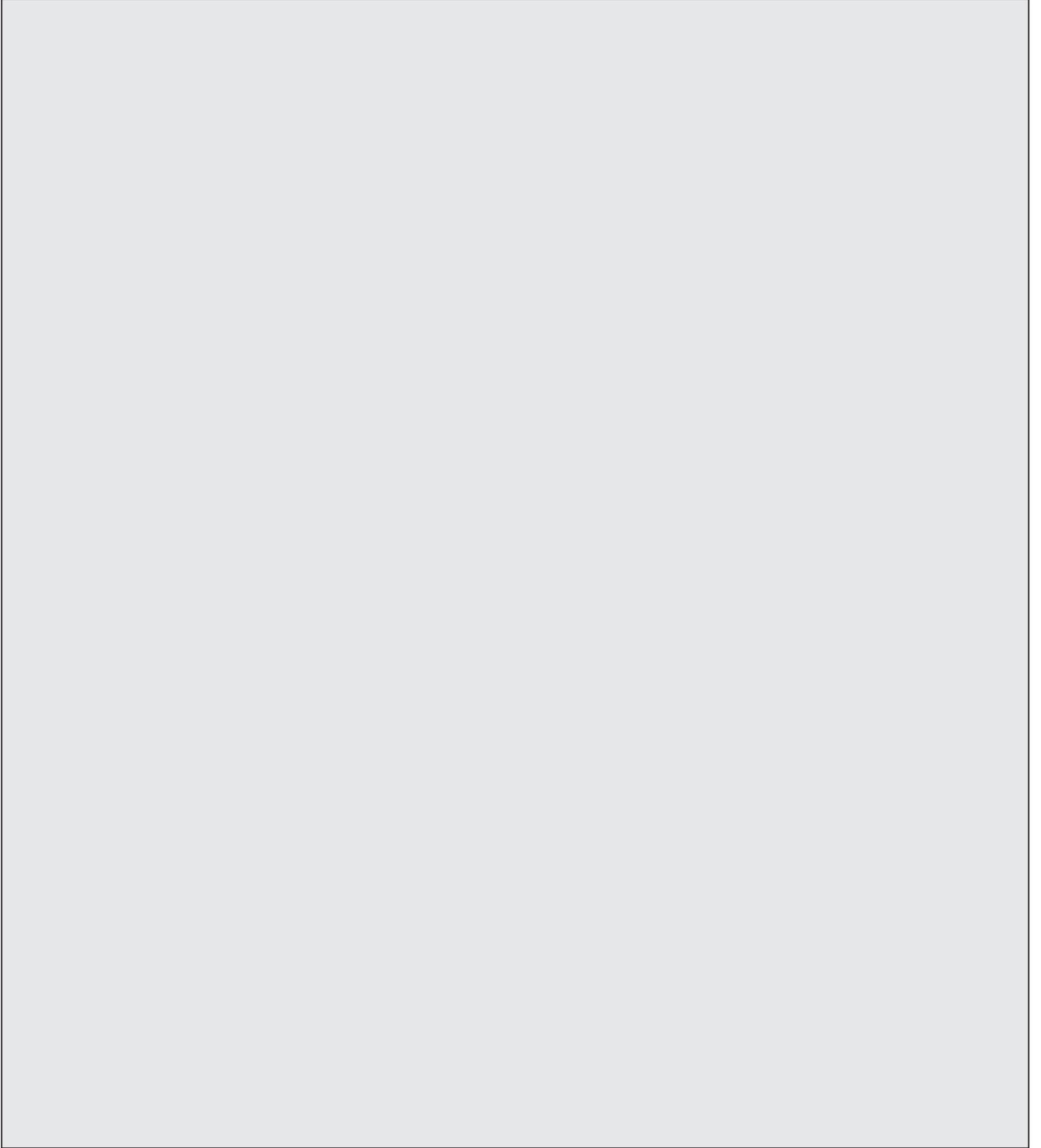
dock. For mobility bag emergencies, call 296-8751. For Ravenal travel emergencies, call 297-6413. Individual Equipment Issue will be open Tuesday and Wednesday for emergencies only, call 963-4899, and will be closed Thursday and Dec. 26.

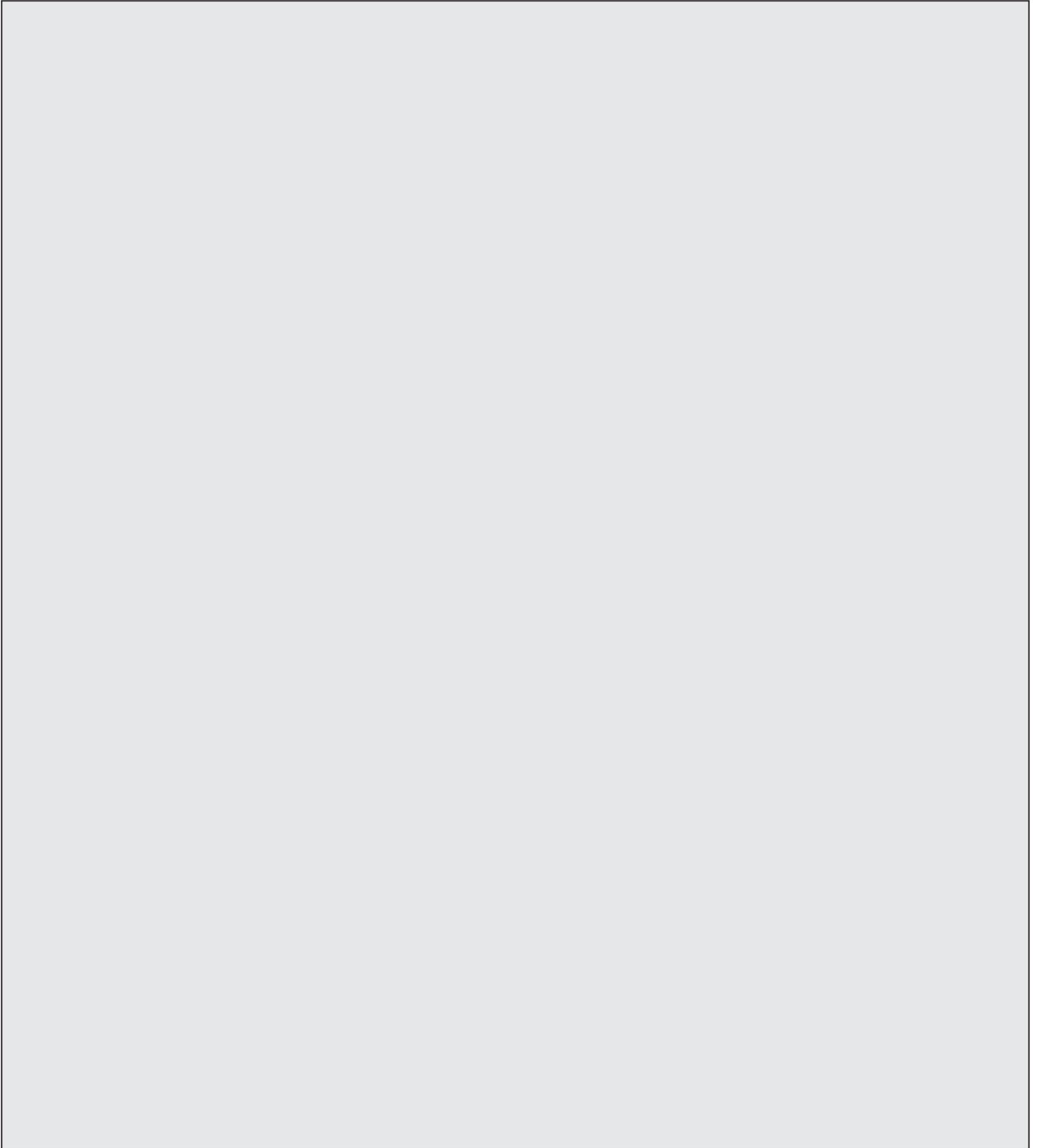
■ **Medical Clinic:** closed Thursday, Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2

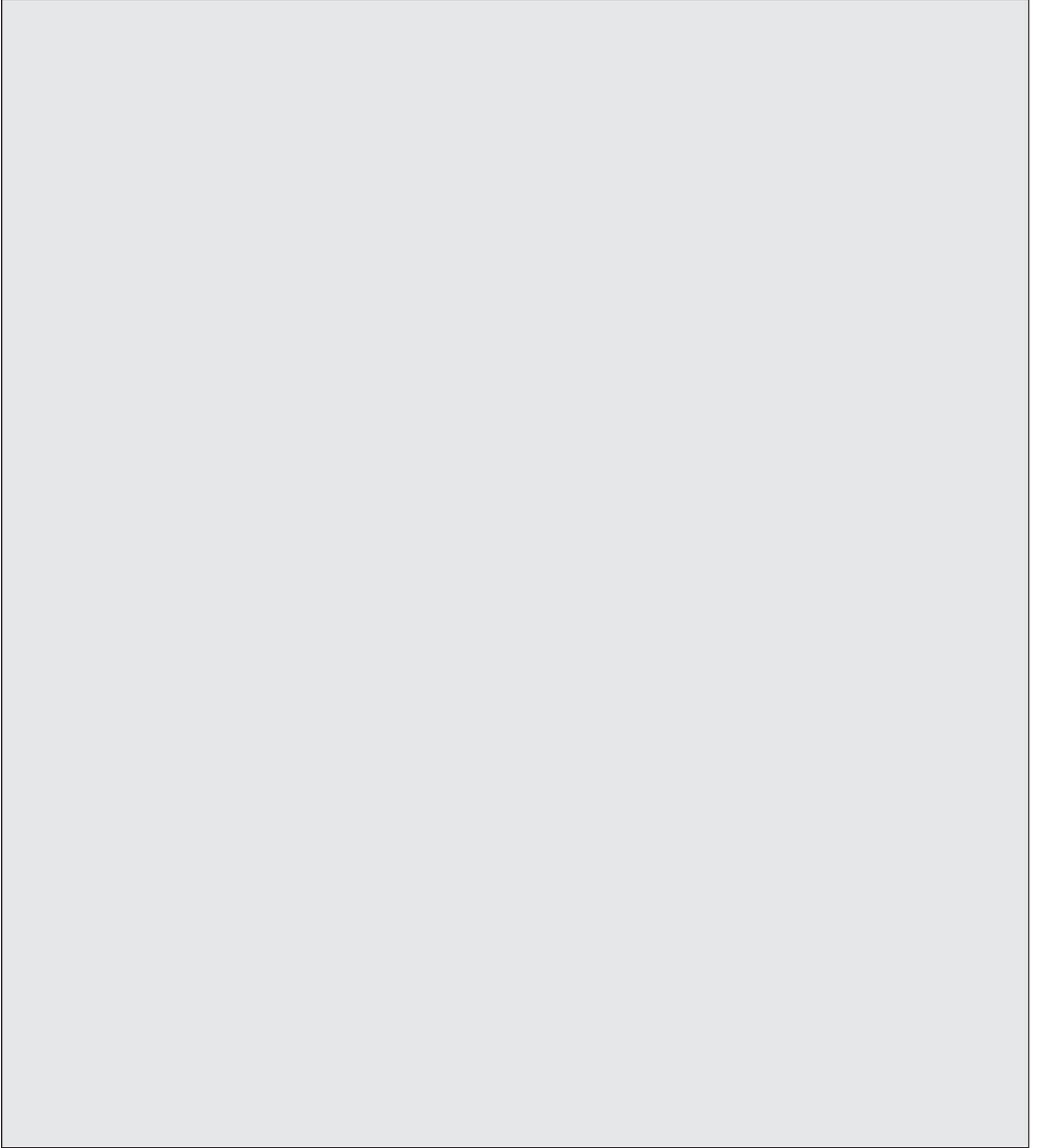
■ **Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID:** closed Thursday, Dec. 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2, call 963-3600 for emergencies

■ **Base Exchange:** open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, closed Thursday, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Jan. 2

■ **Commissary:** closed Thursday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 1







## AROUND THE AIR FORCE

### Senior NCO PFE changes with feedback

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas**—Master sergeants and senior master sergeants studying for promotion in 2005 will have a combined study reference because of feedback to the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron.

The consolidation of the Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide and Supervisory Examination Study Guide into one reference is the result of an ongoing feedback process from the field squadron officials maintain. The feedback is encouraged to keep the guides accurate, understandable and relevant to day-to-day operations.

Another significant change adopted is a new chapter devoted to effective studying. Studying tips previously were included in the communications chapter at the very end of the PFE and were often overlooked. In the 2005 edition, that topic will be introduced in Chapter 1.

Since updating the guide is a never-ending process, people in the field can submit feedback to the professional development team at any time. Ideas and suggestions that come after publication are incorporated into the next edition.

To provide feedback, suggestions or changes to the PFE, people can e-mail [pfesg@randolph.af.mil](mailto:pfesg@randolph.af.mil). For more information about the squadron, visit <https://www.omsq.af.mil>. **(Air Education and Training Command News Service)**

### Survivors will receive extra money

**RANDOLPH AFB, Texas**—Congress is making death and taxes a little bit less painful by giving extra money to families of deceased airmen.

Families of almost 500 airmen who died on active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, are receiving an additional \$6,000 beyond the death benefits they originally received. They will also be reimbursed for taxes already paid on those benefits.

According to the new law, families of all servicemembers who die on active duty will now receive \$12,000 tax free, regardless of the

circumstance of the death. Commonly called the "death gratuity," it had been set at \$6,000 since 1991. Half of that amount was previously taxable.

Families are first notified of an airman's death through the information each airman records on the virtual record of emergency data. The record can be updated online from work or home via the virtual Military Personnel Flight at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/). **(Air Force Personnel Center News Service)**

### CLEP reintroduces 14 paper tests

**WASHINGTON**—The College Level Examination Program, a popular route for many servicemembers seeking degrees, will introduce 14 new paper tests in April.

Subjects such as social science, history, sociology, psychology, humanities, college algebra and mathematics will be reintroduced in pa-

per form, according to the DANTES Web site. The test material will be based on computer versions of CLEP exams being administered at national test centers located on college and university campuses.

CLEP tests offer servicemembers a chance to earn up to 30 semester hours credit toward a bachelor's degree. The exams, widely accepted by colleges and universities, cover material taught in most college freshman and sophomore courses.

For more information about CLEP tests and the nearest national test center, visit [www.collegeboard.com/clep/](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep/) or go to [www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/examinations/CLEP.htm](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/examinations/CLEP.htm). **(Air Force Print News)**

### Officials target military pay increases

**WASHINGTON**—Military personnel will see their basic pay more in line with their civilian counterparts in the private sector in 2004 thanks to an increased pay and

benefits compensation package.

The 2004 military pay and benefits plan provides a 3.7-percent across-the-board pay increase. It also targets pay increases for non-commissioned officers and warrant officers, some as high as 6.25 percent for senior-enlisted servicemembers.

Servicemembers will also see increases in housing allowance pay and special incentive pay.

The average basic pay raise, which is equal to a little more than 4 percent, helps to close the gap between military pay and civilian pay.

Another area of increased pay will be special and incentive pay, such as imminent danger pay and family separation pay.

Other new measures in the 2004 compensation package allow services to offer incentive pay to get officers to extend overseas tours.

Beginning in 2004, veterans will receive an increased portion of the "off-set" to their retirement pay. **(Air Force Print News)**

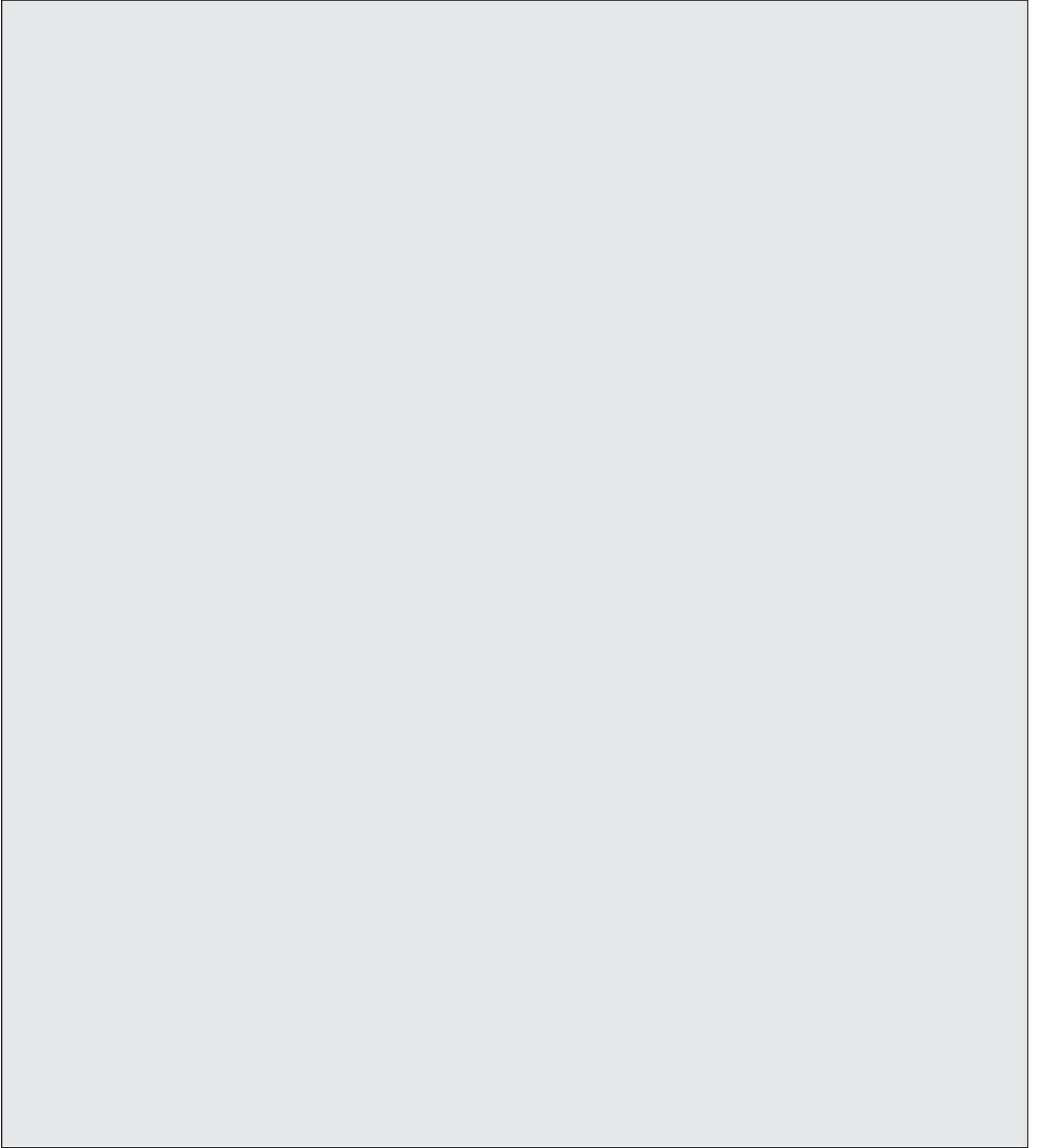
## Photo of the Week



Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Vanessa LaBoy

### A Nighthawk in Raptor's clothing

An F-117 Nighthawk sits in its hangar after being repainted. The aircraft, owned by the 53<sup>rd</sup> Test and Evaluation Group's Det. 1 at Holloman AFB, N.M., was repainted gray as part of a test to determine whether the F-117 can have a role in daytime combat operations. Usually painted black, the stealth fighters are normally used for night missions.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Around the base

**Christmas Play:** The chapel is hosting "Christmas as Camp K" at 5 p.m. Sunday at the base chapel.

**Base party:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing leadership is inviting Team Charleston to the Holiday Circle of Cheer from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday at Arnold Circle in base housing. For more information, call Diana Chancey at 963-3201.

**Catholic events:** Children's Mass will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Caroling will be on 10:30 p.m. Wednesday and midnight mass will be at 11 p.m. Wednesday.

**Protestant events:** A candle lighting service is set for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the base chapel.

**Pioneer Bible Club:** The Protestant Base Chapel is starting a Pioneer Bible Club for children aged 3-10. To volunteer or sign-up children, call the base chapel at 963-2536.

**Closure:** The commissary will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 in observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

**Immunization Clinic:** All active duty military must receive a flu shot by Dec. 31. The immunization clinic will be open through the

## Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bryan Lewis

### Senior Airman Kimberly Langley 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron

Senior Airman Kimberly Langley is a customer service representative in the 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron. She is responsible for in-processing preparation, issuing ID cards, informing customers about the virtual record of emergency data and assisting with the deployment processing line.

The South Carolina native joined the Air Force to serve her country and has been in for four years. She enjoys being able to help people with her job.

Airman Langley aspires to be a chief master sergeant and wants to get a bachelor's degree in human resources.

The staff-select enjoys spending time with her husband.

"Senior Airman Kimberly Langley is a recent retrainee into personnel, and just arrived in the squadron last month," said Senior Master Sgt. Charlotte Branum, 437 MSS first sergeant. "We placed her in Customer Service and she is doing a great job! Extremely friendly and professional; she is the ideal person for this position. Already active in the squadron, she has been helping out quite a bit with the squadron Christmas party."

duty lunch hour in December.

**Registration:** Registration for all on-base colleges will run through today at the Base Education Center. For more information, call 963-4575 or 963-7201.

**Hunter Safety:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Combat Arms Section

will provide a free Hunter's Safety Course at 9 a.m. Jan. 17 in Bldg. 690. For more information or to sign up, call Tech. Sgt. Mark Keck or Tech. Sgt. Henry Dollason at 963-5292.

**Fitness Center Hours:** The new hours of operation effective immediately are from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m. Mon-

days through Fridays, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. holidays. For details and updated fitness class schedules, call 963-3347.

**New York National Guard:** The 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A2X1, 1C0X2, 1C3X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 3C1X1, 3C3X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4D0X1, 4N0X1, 4P0X1, 4T0X1, and 6C0X1, as well as full-time active duty positions in the following AFSCs: 2A5X1 and 2E271. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Weasley Ryerson, at [Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil](mailto:Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil), DSN 344-2456 or 1-800-524-5070.

**Overpricing:** The Zero Overpricing Program's goal is to eliminate overpricing incidents where the Air Force pays more for an item than it's worth. To report an instance where an item's price isn't fair and reasonable, contact the Wing Zero Overpricing monitor at 963-5099.

## Pedestrians have responsibilities too

As emphasis on fitness increases, more people are out walking and running around the base.

Consequently, vehicle and pedestrian traffic around the Fitness Center and Medical clinic is increasing proportionally. This could become a significant safety hazard and Team Charleston should work together to prevent a mishap.

Consider these facts published by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration:

- Pedestrians compose 11 percent of all traffic fatalities
- A pedestrian is killed or injured every seven to eight minutes
- Most deaths occur in areas where the speed limit is 25 to 35 mph
- 32 percent of pedestrian crashes occur at intersections
- 30 percent of crashes occur because the pedes-

trian improperly crossed the road

- 13 percent of crashes occur because the pedestrian failed to yield

- 13 percent result from pedestrians running or darting into the road

- 8 percent result from the drivers' inability to see the pedestrian

When it comes to walking and running in traffic situations, everyone must take responsibility for safety. Drivers are required to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. However, pedestrians must not step into the crosswalk if a vehicle is too close. Additionally, even the safest of vehicle operators can become distracted or make a mistake. Pedestrians must learn to communicate with drivers. Make eye contact and wait for an indication the vehicle operator is going to stop. Remember, a crosswalk alone cannot save a life.

## FEATURE

### Fire disrupts lives

# Team Charleston steps up to take heat off

Photo and story by  
Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amy Perry  
437 AW Public Affairs

As the smoke detector started blaring at 6:07 a.m. Nov. 20 in their third floor apartment building in Charleston, two 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmasters dragged themselves out of bed; one headed to the balcony, the other toward the alarm to take the batteries out.

"I walked out onto the balcony and wondered why it was so hot," said Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Josh Robinson. "I looked down and realized there was a fire."

While a fire turned these two airmen's lives upside down, Team Charleston made it easier for them by helping the airmen get back on their feet.

"Josh came running in and yelled for me and said there was a fire," said Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Doug Hollingsworth, who was starting to take the batteries out. "I quickly got dressed and ran out."

The airmen ran out, forgetting their keys and wallets, and stood outside in the parking lot watching the fire grow.

"It started getting cold, and I only had shorts on," said Airman Robinson. "We went over to a friend's house to get some clothes, and to borrow a cell phone to call the squadron."

At 7:30 a.m., when 16 AS members started trickling into work, the airmen were able to get a hold of a supervisor and the 16 AS loadmaster superintendent.

"My supervisor and superintendent showed up and offered any help they could," said Airman Robinson. "After the fire died out, we were able to go and collect anything that wasn't destroyed. We both got lucky and found our records."

Within a few hours, the airmen were able to move into another apartment, bringing the items they collected from the



**Airmen First Class Doug Hollingsworth and Josh Robinson, 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmasters, sort through donations at the 16 AS squadron building. Team Charleston members donated a variety of furniture, clothes, linens, cookware and other items the airmen needed after a fire destroyed most of their possessions at their apartment Nov 20.**

apartment, mostly dishes, said Airman Hollingsworth.

The American Red Cross was at the apartment providing assistance, continued Airman Hollingsworth, and gave out addresses where the tenants could receive free clothing. They also received a \$250 gift card for necessities.

Meanwhile, back at the squadron, the 16 AS brand-new first sergeant was working up a storm.

"When I found out about the accident, I immediately started making phone calls," said Master Sgt. Ted Gorman, 16 AS first sergeant. "I called the Family Support Center, Air Force Aid and several other organizations. What was really amazing is the FSC had two queen-sized mattress sets donated by the base exchange, and we were able to bring the mattresses to the airmen by

1:30 p.m. the day of the fire."

But that wasn't the only help the airmen received.

"It wasn't a realization the base was going to help," said Airman Hollingsworth. "It was just there, a mass flood (of donated stuff) was just there."

Team Charleston members donated all sorts of items to help out the airmen: stereos, cookware, dressers, computers, linens, towels and clothes.

"I couldn't believe it; it was just unreal," said Airman Robinson. "I expected a little help from the squadron, but (for the base to help) wasn't expected. We were able to replace the stuff we lost and then some."

The fire was so hot it melted Airman Robinson's vehicle and did enough damage to Airman Hollingsworth's vehicle that it had to be repaired.

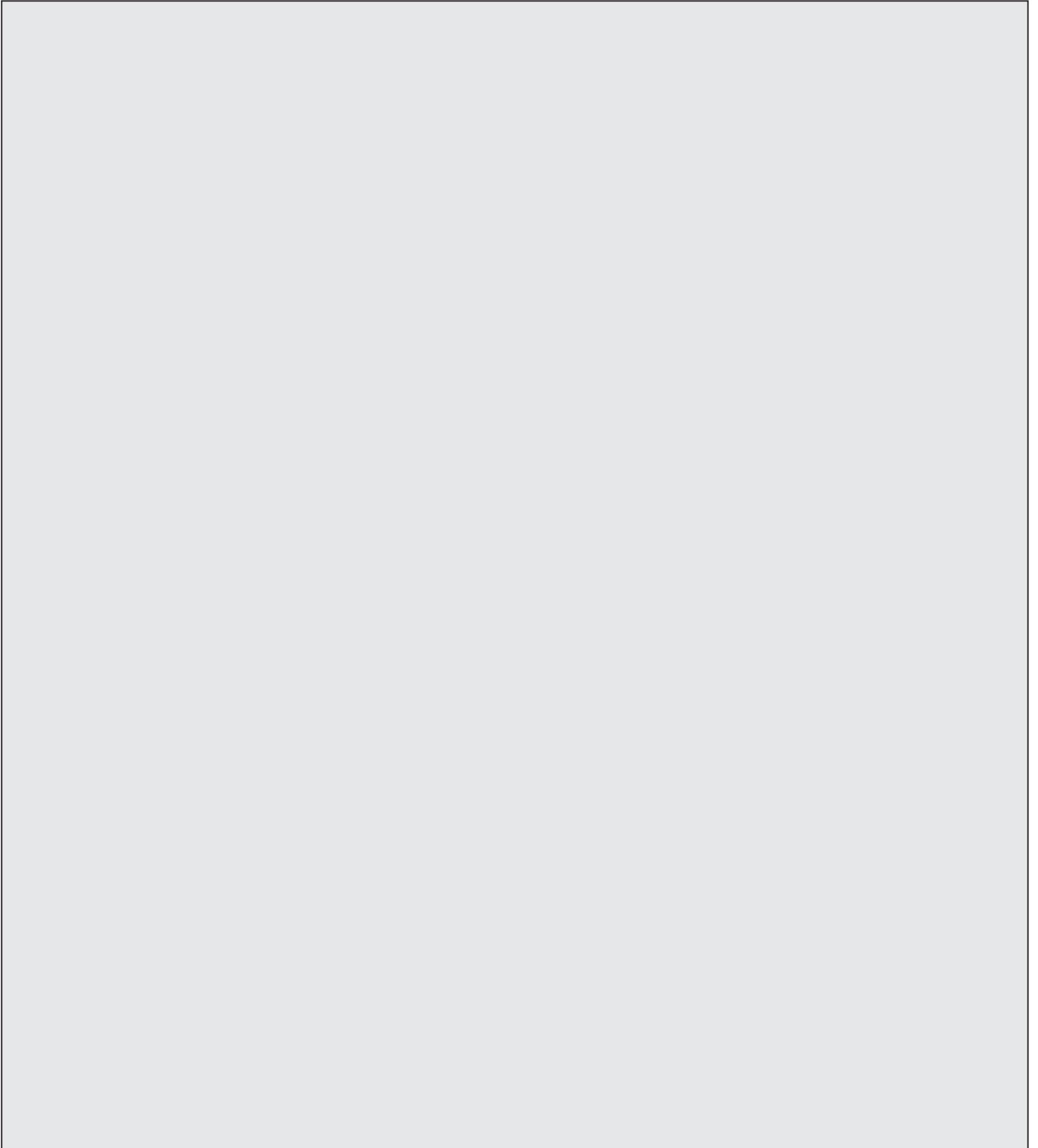
"What was most amazing was two to three people were willing to give up their second or third car so we could always have a vehicle to drive," said Airman Hollingsworth.

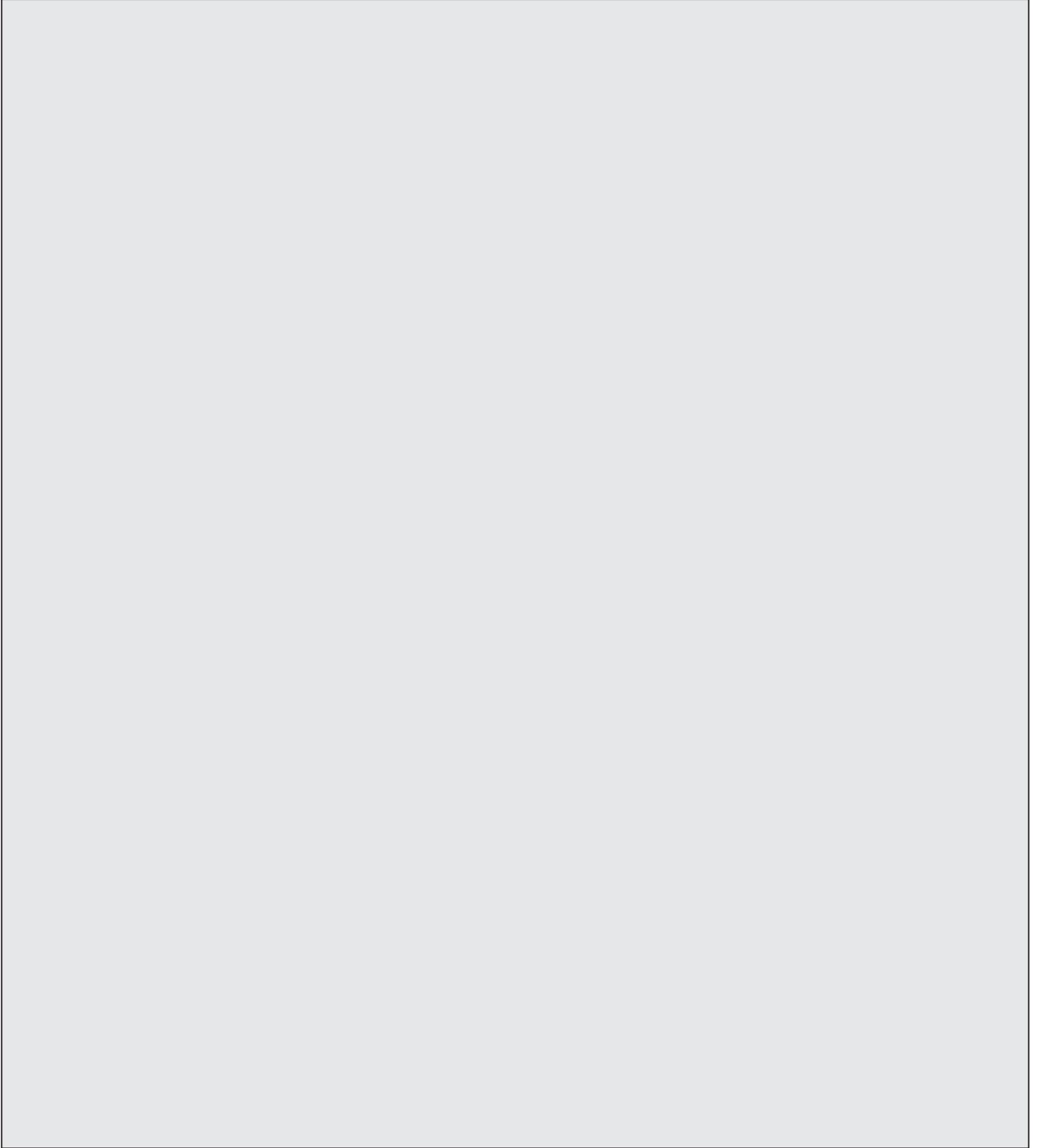
The generosity has not gone unnoticed by the airmen.

"We were amazed then, and we're still amazed now," said Airman Robinson. "If we weren't in the job we're in now, I don't know if we would have gotten the help. We are fortunate we are in the Air Force, and people are taking care of us."

"I told folks (in the squadron) the other day, (if a person was in) another organization or major corporation, and had dire circumstances, they would be left to fend for themselves," said Lt. Col. Gary Goldstone, 16 AS commander. "The outpour of support was beyond what anyone could have asked for. That's a testament of Team Charleston."

"When someone talks about an Air Force team or family, these two airmen will have no question what that means," continued Colonel Goldstone.





# Holiday movie schedule

**Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.**

**Love Actually – Hugh Grant**

Love is causing chaos everywhere. Lives and loves collide, mingle and finally climax on Christmas Eve with romantic, poignant and funny consequences for all. **(R) 125 minutes**

**Dec. 27, 2 p.m.**

**Looney Tunes: Back in Action – Brendan Fraser**

In this mixture of live action and animation, Bobby will team with Bugs Bunny, Daffy, Tweety and Taz as they leave the Warner Brothers backlot in Hollywood for exotic locales, such as Africa and Las Vegas, where they search for Bobby's father and the mystical blue diamond. **(PG) 90 minutes**

**Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m.**

**Radio – Cuba Gooding Jr.**

Based on a Sports Illustrated article, Radio tells the true story of a white football coach at a South Carolina school who befriends a mentally challenged African-American man. Through his friendship, both the school and the team are changed. **(PG) 105 minutes**

**Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m.**

**The Missing – Tommy Lee Jones**

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century wilderness of the southwestern United States, a woman

named Maggie struggles to raise her two daughters on her own. When one of them is kidnapped by a psychopath who has been murdering young teenage girls, Maggie must turn to her father, Samuel, who she had a falling out with years earlier, for help in tracking her down before it is too late. **(R) 130 minutes**

**Jan. 3, 2 p.m.**

**Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat – Mike Myers**

Sally and her brother, Conrad, are left at home on a rainy day and are rowdily entertained by a mysterious man-size cat. The problem is their mom has left strict instructions that the house remain spotless. **(PG) 82 minutes**

**Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.**

**Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World – Russell Crowe**

During the Napoleonic Wars, Lucky Jack Audrey captains the crew of the H.M.S. Surprise. When the ship is suddenly attacked by a superior enemy, it is badly damaged and much of its crew injured. In a bold and dangerous move, Audrey decides to set sail in a high stakes chase across two oceans to intercept and capture their foe. It's a mission that will decide the fate of a nation or destroy Lucky Jack and his crew. **(PG-13) 139 minutes**

## Chapel schedule



**107 Arthur Drive**  
**Office:** Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**Phone:** 963-2536.

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

**Catholic Services:** *Saturday* - 4:15 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. Daily Mass is canceled until April 2004.

**Protestant Services:** *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service. *Wednesday* - noon Protestant Bible Study.

**For information on other faith groups, call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.**

## Movie schedule

**Admission:** 99 cents for adults and children.

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

**Movie schedules are provided by AAFES.**

**Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.**



**Today, 7:30 p.m.**

**"Elf" – Will Ferrell**

Buddy, a human raised in the North Pole to be an elf, wreaks havoc in the elf community due to his size. Buddy heads to New York City to track down his father and find his place in the world. It's up to Buddy and his simple elf ways to win over his family, realize his destiny and ultimately, save Christmas for New York and the world. **(PG) 99 minutes**

**Saturday, 2 p.m.**

**"Brother Bear" – Joaquin Phoenix**

Kenai, a young Native American's older brother, is killed by a bear. During the young man's attempt to avenge his brother's death by killing the bear, the Great Spirits transform the young man into the thing he detests the most, a bear. **(G) 85 minutes**

**Saturday, 7:30 p.m.**

**Matrix Revolutions – Keanu Reeves**

The rebels' long quest for freedom culminates in a final explosive battle. As the Machine Army wages devastation on Zion, its citizens mount an aggressive defense. They attempt to starve off the relentless swarm of sentinels long enough for Neo to harness the full extent of his powers and end the war. **(R) 130 minutes**

## WELLNESS TIP

**Breast Cancer: You can reduce your risk!**

More than 200,000 women and 1,300 men are diagnosed annually with breast cancer\*

**To reduce your risk of breast cancer:**

- Cut down on high-fat food, maintain ideal weight
- Eat at least 5 fruit and vegetable servings each day
- Consider daily multivitamin, mineral supplements
  - Avoid or restrict alcohol, avoid tobacco
  - Get regular, brisk exercise
- Consult health care providers for more options

\*American Cancer Society statistics



Graphic by Sean Erbe

## SPORTS & FITNESS

# Fitness program set to begin at Charleston

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Shaloma McGovern  
437 AW Public Affairs

The new Air Force-wide fitness program for Charleston AFB military members will begin to be enforced Jan. 1.

The specifics of the fitness test include a 1.5 mile run, push ups and sit-ups, based on age and gender, and waist circumference measurement based on sex to be conducted from January through June.

In addition, plans for a new testing site are underway near the fitness center.

Overcrowding at McCombs Way and the fitness center parking lot is evidence that Charleston has made working out a daily routine. All airmen are expected to work out three times a week and actively prepare for this change.

"Everyone has been preparing for this new fitness test," said Jason Ham, Health and Wellness Center and Air Mobility Command exercise physiologist. "It will not matter if you took the ergometry test in November, everyone will be expected to test with their unit in the new year since everyone starts with a clean slate."

"We've designed our program to accommo-

date 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week schedules for more than 800 personnel," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Renee Zimmerman, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron section commander. "Currently, our squadron is actively participating in squadron PT sessions Mondays through Sundays at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. every day. This program is important and we want to ensure our squadron is prepared and familiar with the new standards. A great way to approach the new year is with a new focus and a new attitude toward health and fitness!"

The wing and group commanders will be tested in the first two weeks in January followed by the unit fitness representatives. Each squadron has been designated a specific time in which it will conduct the fitness test. These times have been coordinated with the Health and Wellness Center through the unit fitness specialists.

"I want to make very clear my focus is not on passing a fitness test once a year," said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff. "We are changing the culture of the Air Force. This is about our preparedness to deploy and fight. It is about instilling an expectation that makes fitness a daily standard an essential part of your service."

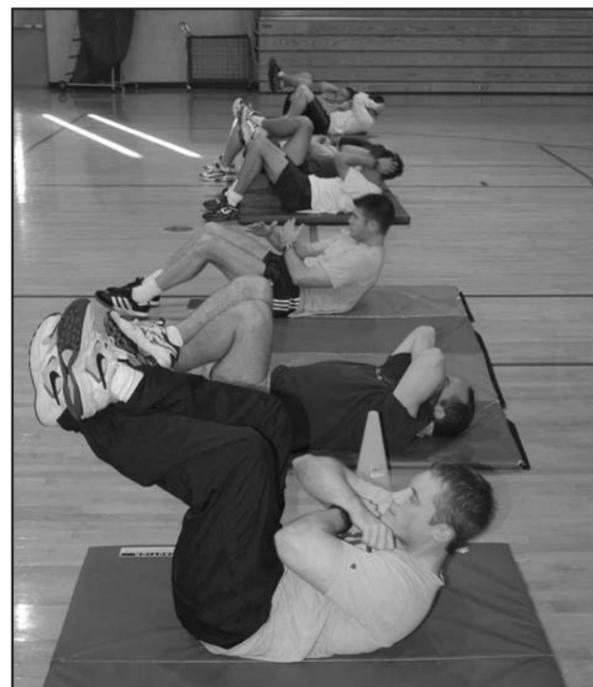


Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jason Bailey

Members of the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing staff and 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron participate in a circuit training exercise Dec. 12. Squadrons have exercised three times a week in preparation for the new fitness standards.

## Guru's picks

# Gridiron Guru rules, wins by a landslide

By the Gridiron Guru  
"Landslide" prognosticator

In what was the best display of pure football genius this year, and perhaps even in the history of the Swami Cup, yours truly, the Gridiron Guru, the all knowing self proclaimed king of football, totally blew away the rest of the field with a spectacular record of 15-1! As stated in a recent article, I decided to stop throwing a few games each week and unleash my terror on the rest of the amateur pigskin prognosticators out there! With only one week to go, the race for the Swami Cup is still up for grabs, and promises to go right down to the wire.

This week's Stink-Out-Loud award goes to the Giants who took a terrible beat-down from the Saints on Sunday night! Saints receiver Joe Horn was so confident he would score, he had a cell phone hidden in

the goal post padding, and placed a call to his mother after catching the second of his four touchdown passes. Although not good for the game of football overall, the Guru gives him props and style points for doing one better than Terrell Owens and his sharpie pen display earlier in the year.

In the spirit of Christmas, the Guru is not going to list a Hall Of Shame winner this week, but if I did it would have been Jeffrey "Admiral" Stockdale with the week's worst mark of 9-7. This will be the last article this year, so be sure to read the first one of the new year where I announce the overall Swami Cup winner, and publish excerpts from our one-on-one interview, and make Super Bowl predictions. Before I unveil my stone-cold, steel-pipe locks I would like to wish all of Team Charleston and their families a happy holidays.

## Gridiron Guru's Week 17 picks

### Saturday, Dec. 27

Buffalo @ ***New England***  
Seattle @ ***San Francisco***  
***Philadelphia*** @ Washington

### Monday, Dec. 28

Chicago @ ***Kansas City***  
Cleveland @ ***Cincinnati***  
Dallas @ ***New Orleans***  
***Indianapolis*** @ Houston

Jacksonville @ ***Atlanta***  
N.Y. Jets @ ***Miami***  
***St. Louis*** @ Detroit  
Tampa Bay @ ***Tennessee***  
***Carolina*** @ N.Y. Giants  
Minnesota @ ***Arizona***  
Denver @ ***Green Bay***  
Oakland @ ***San Diego***  
**Tiebreaker game**  
Pittsburgh @ ***Baltimore***

Tiebreaker game total points: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guru's Monday night points: **34**

The Gridiron Guru's picks are in bold and italics.  
Send your picks to [swami@charleston.af.mil](mailto:swami@charleston.af.mil) only.  
Include your name, phone number and any comments in the e-mail.  
Picks can no longer be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office.  
\*\*Picks must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 26, 4 p.m.\*\*

